

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

AUG 19 2016

696

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions.

1. Name of Property

Historic name: St. Thomas Memorial Church

Other names/site number: St. Thomas Memorial Episcopal Church

Name of related multiple property listing:

N/A

(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing)

2. Location

Street & number: 378 Delaware Avenue

City or town: Oakmont Borough State: PA County: Allegheny

Not For Publication: N/A Vicinity: N/A

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,


I hereby certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60.

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:

national statewide local

Applicable National Register Criteria:

A B C D

	August 15, 2016
Signature of certifying official/Title:	Date
<u>PA Historical and Museum Commission</u>	
State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government	

In my opinion, the property <input type="checkbox"/> meets <input type="checkbox"/> does not meet the National Register criteria.	
Signature of commenting official:	Date
Title: State or Federal agency/bureau Or Tribal Government	

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4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register
- determined eligible for the National Register
- determined not eligible for the National Register
- removed from the National Register
- other (explain:)

Joe Edson H. Beall
Signature of the Keeper

10.4.16
Date of Action

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply.)

- Private:
- Public – Local
- Public – State
- Public – Federal

Category of Property

(Check only one box.)

- Building(s)
- District
- Site
- Structure
- Object

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Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>3</u>	<u>0</u>	buildings
<u> </u>	<u> </u>	sites
<u> </u>	<u> </u>	structures
<u> </u>	<u> </u>	objects
<u>3</u>	<u>0</u>	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

- Religion/Religious Facility
- Religion/Church-Related Residence
-
-
-
-

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

- Religion/Religious Facility
- Religion/Church-Related Residence
-
-
-

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

- Late 19th and 20th Century Revivals/
- Late Gothic Revival
-
-

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Materials: (enter categories from instructions.)

STONE/Limestone; STONE/Slate; BRICK; ASPHALT; STUCCO; CONCRETE

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance and condition of the property. Describe contributing and noncontributing resources if applicable. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, type, style, method of construction, setting, size, and significant features. Indicate whether the property has historic integrity.)

Summary Paragraph

Located five blocks east of the Allegheny River on the southwest corner of 4th Street and Delaware Avenue in the borough of Oakmont, St. Thomas Memorial Church consists of three contributing buildings: the 1905-1907, rectangular, limestone, Late Gothic Revival-style church; the 1897, square, 2-story, limestone and brick, Late Gothic Revival-style Parish House¹ with 1958, square, brick and concrete, Modernist Education Wing attached to its south (rear) elevation; and the 1899, square, 3-story, brick atop limestone Rectory, which features elements of the Late Gothic Revival style, with 1960, one-story, brick garage and deck addition on its south (rear) elevation. Located on a sloping lot in a dense residential neighborhood, the property, like the other resources in the neighborhood, has a modest setback. The resources on the property are arranged in a U-shape with the Parish House forming the base of the U at the south of the lot and the Rectory and Church forming the legs of the U on the west and east sides of the lot, respectively. Lawns and concrete sidewalks connect the resources to each other within the U and to the street. Also, within the U is a monument to Bishop Bowman that was added to the property in 1908; because it is not substantial in size and scale, it is considered an uncounted landscape feature. Overall, the property retains integrity.

Setting and Grounds of the Property

St. Thomas Memorial Church is located east of and uphill from the Allegheny River in a dense residential area featuring brick-paved streets and consisting of mostly late 19th to early 20th century houses with modest setbacks. Some later houses also are interspersed through the neighborhood but they feature similar setbacks. The central business district for Oakmont is located to the west of this property along Allegheny River Boulevard and several industrial properties sit west of that and closer to the Allegheny Riverfront.

On the north and east sides of the property are sidewalks separated from the brick streets by a thin strip of grass; for the most part, the sidewalks are separated from the Church complex by lawns and foundation plantings. The Church's front elevation faces north to Delaware Avenue and its east elevation extends south along Fourth Street to the east, nearly the entire length of the

¹ Although physically connected to the Church, the Parish House is counted separately because it was functionally separate from the Church and built earlier than the Church; the Church was not intended to be an addition to the Parish House.

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property; the Church rests on concrete footers with a stone foundation. Adjoining the Church is the Parish House, also facing north and accessed by a horseshoe drive, which provides access to the porte cochere on the Church's west elevation. Directly to the west of the Parish House is the Rectory (renamed Thomas House in 1984) with a north entrance facing Delaware Avenue. A brick and concrete deck is attached to the south elevation of the Rectory. On the west side of the property is the Rectory's driveway that leads to a small shed and the children's play area behind it. Attached to the south elevation of the Parish House is the Education Wing (built by Tony Stillman) that extends to the south property line. From Fourth Street near the south property line, a sidewalk leads to the 1958 Education Wing. A sidewalk along Delaware Avenue connects the Church, Parish House, and Rectory to each other and to Fourth Street. The entire property slopes down Delaware Avenue on the north side of the property to the west boundary; the land is terraced in front with a level rear yard. Within the Parish House lawn is the monument dedicated to Bishop Samuel Bowman, which was moved to the property in 1908. In 1950 a new set of landscaping blueprints was prepared by Oakmont resident and Pittsburgh landscape architect, Ezra C. Stiles, for all of the buildings on the property, and new plantings were installed. New landscaping plans were developed in May 1987 for the Rectory, its concrete patio, and its driveway.

The Church

Exterior Description

The Late Gothic Revival-style St. Thomas Memorial Church is a rectangular building oriented parallel to 4th Street to its east. The masonry building sits on a stone foundation and features exterior limestone walls 18" thick. In 1997, wrap-around drains were installed around the foundation to improve water run-off. At the northeast corner of the church is a 3-story rectangular belltower with a crenellated parapet. Over the years, minor repairs, for example to fix a leak, have been made to the tower's roof. Attached to the tower's northeast corner is a narrow rounded turret, also with a crenellated parapet. The doors, windows, and buttresses are trimmed with sandstone. The steeply-pitched slate roof features gable-end parapets and overhanging eaves. In 1967 loose slates on the roof and some snow retainers were repaired after winter storm damage. The copper gutters were patched and new downspouts were installed in 1968 and in 1986. "Rotten" timbers in the main roof above the organ pipes were replaced in 1973. A Diocese Property Management Survey noted the original 1906-1907 roof was examined for slate repairs in 1974. The saddle and valley on the east elevation roof were also replaced. In 1997, improved drainage for the roof was installed.

Main (North) Façade of the Church

The main, north façade of the Church (photo 1) features a square belltower with attached round turret at its northeast corner. The main entrance is in this tower and consists of a compound Gothic arch with red wooden doors (Photo 3) and a stained glass transom; to the left of the door is a small lancet window. The cornerstone to the right of the front doors (Photo 2) reads, "St. Thomas Memorial erected Anno Domini MCMVI." In 1997, an iron railing was added to the front left of the Church's north entrance. The North façade also has a buttressed gable parapet with a large stained glass window and five lancet stained glass windows directly below. A sixth lancet window completes the north façade and is situated between a buttress and the building's northwest corner.

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South Elevation

The south elevation features a polygonal apse (Photo 4). On each of its three sides is one divided Gothic arched window. On either side of the apse is a buttress that resembles a chimney. To the east of the extension is the flat-roofed one story sacristy that consists of 3 bays of Gothic arched windows (Photo 5). In 1978 repairs were made to the sacristy's tar roof. In 1981 the sacristy's roof was tarred again.

East Elevation

The east elevation of the Church (Photo 6) has seven bays. The northernmost bay consists of the east elevation of the belltower which has one lancet window on the first floor with paired lancet windows above. Above the paired lancet windows is the clock face—this face was taken apart and cleaned by members of the Clock Society in 1983—and above that is a pair of Gothic arched vents. The turret features small lancet windows lighting the stairway to the bell. A buttress is located at the tower's southeast corner. To the south of the tower are five divided Gothic arched windows separated by buttresses. South of these windows is a rectangular gable roofed extension that features a centered single divided Gothic-arched window.

West Elevation

The west elevation (Photo 7) has four bays. Its gabled stone porte cochere, located on its north end, features Gothic arched openings. Two foot thick stone walls and a single cross beam provide support to the roof of the porte cochere. Large, red, arched double doors lead up to the portal into the Church's nave. In 1997, improved drainage for the porte cochere's roof was installed. In addition, due to squirrel damage, all four of the porte cochere's rafters had begun to bow, so they had to be "sistered" with additional rafters to increase strength. Further, a new exterior ceiling, sympathetic to the original, was installed in 2005. The rest of the elevation consists of divided Gothic arched windows. One bay is covered by the passageway from the church to the Parish House.

Alterations to Windows

In 1996-1997 repairs were made to four of the Church's stained glass windows. Then in 2000 a stained glass restoration project focused on sealing windows with cracks and installing protective Lexan panels over all stained glass and leaded glass windows.

Interior Description

The Belltower

The belltower has a 3-foot wide wooden circular stair on a 6-inch single post. Its first landing opens to the room with the bell pull. The clock's cables are protected in a floor-to-ceiling wooden enclosure in the northwest corner. The wooden floor is of tongue-and-groove pine. Two central lancet windows on the east wall are clear and pink stained glass. The clock's pendulum swings in the ceiling's center within a protective wooden covering. Further up the stairs are three ascending lancet windows with 6-inch clear glass to provide natural light.

The second landing leads to the tower clock room, where there are only electric lights lighting this square space. The ca. 1874 Boston-built E. Howard Clock Company Tower Clock #2 (Photo 22) stands 5-feet tall, 4-feet wide, and 6-feet long. It is the only remaining specimen on

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the East coast. The Tower Clock #2 is attached to three 6-foot exterior dials (and a bell) from the north and east walls by extension rods. The same floor to ceiling wooden covering safely keeps the Clock's cables intact in the northwest corner.

The next floor houses the church bell that weighs approximately 2,500 pounds. The bell was made by A. Fulton's Son & Company in Pittsburgh in 1874, and was transferred from the original location of St. Thomas Church to the Delaware Avenue and Fourth Street site during construction of this Church. It is 4-feet in diameter and 4 ½-feet from top to clapper and is nestled on a square wooden frame, which is raised on two 6-inch x 8-inch x 6-foot beams. The Belltower's two pairs of louvered windows are covered on the inside with ½-inch wire mesh. An original 18-foot hand-made ladder is available for repairs, which is similar to another one on the floor below.

Going up the last flight of stairs to the roof are three more lancet windows, the first is placed on the north side of the stairwell and two side-by-side lancet windows are directly above. The entire climb up the tower is 82 steps. At the ground floor the inner walls up to the second landing level are plastered; those below leading to the crypt are roughly plastered. Below ground there are no windows in the stairwell.

The Sanctuary

Inside the front entrance is an octagonal-shaped receiving room, which has a hammer-beam ceiling (Photo 19) and a door to the left that leads up to the clock tower. A stained glass lancet window (Photo 28) is in the east wall opposite arched double wooden doors that lead into the Church.

Inside the Church, the nave is divided by two sets of 21 wooden pews (Photos 23 and 30). The pews were repaired in 1998. The walls of the nave have hardwood paneling reaching up four feet to the window ledges. On the north wall is a large stained glass window set high in the wall which depicts images of the vine from John 15:1-2 (Photo 20). (Jesus declares He is the vine.) It also has five lancet stained glass windows directly below, which are behind the marble Baptismal font (Photo 21). A matching sixth lancet stained glass window is located in the portal to the porte cochere. The five bays of Gothic arched tracery windows on the east and four bays on the west elevations are separated by wall piers that visually support the roof trusses. The 19-foot high natural wood ceiling from the narthex to the high altar features decorative hammer-beam trusses (Photo 27). In 1981, ceiling fans were installed in the ceiling to improve air circulation. To the west of the narthex, arched interior wooden double doors lead down steps to the exterior set of larger arched double doors of the porte cochere. The Church floor in the nave is covered by black and red tile; whereas, from the sanctuary to the high altar white, gray, yellow, and black marble tiles fill the sacred spaces. In 1965, the floor tiles were repaired.

The chancel (Photo 26), which is reached by two risers made of Cipollino-verde marble, features nine-foot high carved hardwood paneling from the walls of the marble steps to the sides of the high altar. This paneling contains a locked tabernacle, which holds the blessed sacraments, and has a carved lamb motif on its wooden door; it also contains 2 inset shelves (near the high altar) to hold the offertory plates and Communion silver. Also in the chancel is a beautiful, 4-foot x 6-

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foot dark-stained oak free-standing altar (Photo 25) that was constructed and contributed in 1968 by parishioner Anthony Mestek and placed in the center front of the raised platform. It provided increased access by clergy during Communion. In addition, behind the choir pews and a carved wood railing, the apse features the reredos, designed in the Late Gothic Revival style with pinnacle finials and a central hooded, lit finial encircling the cross. The octagonal, sculptured quarter-sawn oak pulpit features six carved figures of the Lord's disciples (Photo 24), as well as a Bishop's chair (Photo 29).

The east transept houses the organ pipes and the west transept serves as a small hallway (Photo 31) connecting to the clergy vesting room and sacristy to the south. The walls and ceiling of the clergy vesting room, sacristy, and hall between the Church and Parish Hall feature dark-stained hardwood. In 1995 replacement wooden floors were installed in the clergy vesting room and sacristy and in 1997-1998 the floors of the small hall and clergy vesting room were carpeted and the sacristy floor was covered in vinyl tile. An exterior door from the hall also leads to a handicapped ramp (2007) to the horseshoe driveway on the north elevation, and an interior ramp on the west connects to the Parish House.

The Parish House

Exterior Description

The Late Gothic Revival-style Parish House is a square building located at the south of the property between the church and the Rectory. The masonry building sits on a stone foundation and features exterior limestone walls on the main façade and brick on the other elevations. An original chimney is located on the east side of the roof; the roof was originally slate, but that was replaced by asphalt in 1981. The 1958 1-story brick and concrete Education Wing is attached to its south elevation and sits on a raised basement. Windows were replaced in the Parish House over time in the 1960s through 2000s. Soffits, fascia, gutters, and downspouts, as well as single-pane windows, were replaced in 1995. In 2011 double-pane windows were installed in the second floor.

Main (North) Façade

The north façade (Photo 8) consists of a central, square, one bay hipped-roof projection that contains the building's entrance within a Gothic arched opening (Photo 9); on either side of the opening is a small one-over-one window with a stone lintel and sill. The entrance door was replaced in 1967. In addition, the top step to the door was made larger and extended further out into the driveway and a glass panel in the door was added. Above the entrance, separating the first and second floors, is a panel that reads "St. Thomas Parish House" (Photo 10) and above this panel are paired one-over-one Gothic-arched windows with stone sills. The roof features a hipped roof dormer with one one-over-one window in a square opening. The east and west elevations of the extension each contain a single one-over-one window with a Gothic-arched transom and stone sill on the first floor and a one-over-one window with a stone lintel and sill at the second floor. To either side of the extension are three symmetrical bays. The first floor bays contain one-over-one windows with Gothic-arched transoms and stone sills and the second floor bays contain one-over-one windows with stone lintels and sills. A handicap entrance ramp was added to the east elevation and north facade in 2007; new multi-tab fiberglass shingle roofing was also installed.

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South Façade

The first floor of the south elevation of the Parish House (Photo 5) is hidden by the 1958 Education Wing. This one-story, Modernist addition with blonde brick and slate veneers sits on a concrete foundation and has two bays on the west, three on the east, and one on the south façade on both the basement and first floor levels. Its flat roof is covered with asphalt. A two-story stair tower covers the western side of the Parish House's south elevation. Above the Wing, east of this tower are two bays of windows. The Gothic arched transoms of the Parish House's original first floor windows remain visible above the Education Wing, and one-over-one windows with concrete lintels and sills are located on the second floor.

East Façade

The first floor of the Parish House's east elevation is covered by the connection to the Church. Above this connection are three symmetrical bays of one-over-one windows with concrete lintels and sills.

West Façade

The first floor of the west elevation of the Parish House (Photo 11) is partially covered by the 2014 connector to the Rectory and features one one-over-one window with Gothic arched transom and stone sill at the southernmost bay. As part of the installation of the connector, the northernmost window on the west wall was converted to a doorway to the Rectory, which left the framed opening and Gothic arched transom in place. On the second floor are three bays of one-over-one windows with stone lintels and sills.

Interior Description

First Floor

The first floor of the Parish House was used by the parish and community for all social activities and adult educational programs. The entrance opens into a small foyer (Photo 33) which features the stairway to the second floor. The stairway railing is supported by turned balusters and features carved wooden newel posts at each landing. The foyer has plaster walls above 4-foot tall dark stained vertical wood wainscoting.

The foyer opens into a large, single, multi-purpose room (Photos 32, 35, and 38) with closet and storage space on its east wall. Like the foyer, the room has plaster walls above 4-foot tall dark stained vertical wood wainscoting. The walls have a 1-foot wide wallpaper border that encircles the room two feet below the ceiling. The room also has a picture rail about halfway between the wainscoting and the ceiling. The original maple floor has been well maintained. The ceiling, which is supported by round metal columns, consists of thin strips of tongue-and-groove, darkly stained hardwood; the hardwood also encases the ceiling beams. Natural light illuminates the large room throughout much of the day. In 1972, according to church records, the ceiling had to be "jacked-up and fastened" before the "sagging ceiling of the old part of the Parish House" was repaired in 1973. Eight of the original solid brass Gothic gas chandeliers that had hung in the Church were restored, wired for electricity, and hung in the Parish House in ca. 1999 to provide evening light. This floor was renovated and the small, original free-standing stage was removed on the east wall in the late 1990s. This was to provide needed storage space and cover up pipes leading to the second floor; as a result, two arched window caps were enclosed within the storage

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closet. The renovated wall consists of drywall above wainscoting and contains three sets of double doors. In the northwest corner of this floor is the connector to the Rectory. Two doors provide exits for the 2014 Connector. This Connector (Photo 36) includes a wheelchair lift (Photo 37) for those accessing the Parish House and Rectory.

Second Floor

The second floor consists of the Greater YMCA of Pittsburgh Strawberry Patch Child Care Center which contains a preschool room that takes up the entire western half of the floor, two toddler rooms (one in the northeast corner and one abutting the preschool room's south wall), an infant room (south of the northeast corner's toddler room), the director's office (south of the infant room), a kitchen (north of the southernmost toddler room), and bathrooms (west of the toddler room in the northeast corner). The kitchen is separated from the preschool room by a small hallway. The second floor kitchen and guild room were dismantled during 1957-1958, and moved to the first floor of the Parish House.

The Education Wing

The Education Wing has two stairwells (one on the northwest corner and one on the east side). The double doors on the first floor of the Parish House lead to the Education Wing's first floor (photo 34), which has a small open room between the St. Anne's Guild Room on the west and the kitchen on the east. Beyond the central open room is a bathroom. And beyond it on the south elevation are the nursery and toddler rooms. Finishes consist of tile floors, plaster walls, and plaster ceiling.

Downstairs in the basement are rooms that serve various functions: the choir room and, to its south, the youth activity room along the west wall; the finance office and, to its south, the music storage room along the east wall; and the rented office at the southeast corner of the building. Between the office and youth activity room are men's and women's bathrooms. The door to the crypt directly underneath the Parish House is generally locked. Finishes consist of tile floors, plaster walls, and plaster ceiling.

A fire caused by a faulty ballast in the east-facing stairwell in the Education Wing in 1995 damaged the floors, walls, and ceilings in the adjacent rooms; restoration of the smoke stained rooms took place immediately thereafter.

The Rectory

Exterior Description

The Rectory is a rectangular, three-story, brick atop limestone building that features elements of the Late Gothic Revival style in its Gothic arched windows, as well as elements of the Tudor Revival style with its half-timbered dormers and crossgables. A wrap-around porch was built on the east and north elevations—between the two exterior doors—but it was destroyed by fire in the early 1900s. The building has an unfinished basement and includes two chimneys. Over time the use of the Rectory changed from housing for clergy to, more recently, serving as a ministry to provide temporary housing for families in need. By 1998 the Rectory closed its doors to reopen as a home for the new Assistant Rector. In 1974 old window sashes were rebuilt. The windows on the third floor were replaced. Windows in 11 rooms were replaced

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with insulated, thermo-pane windows. In 1984, the Rectory's two chimneys were lowered and capped, leaving their openings clear. In 2007 a new roof—it replaced an earlier asphalt shingle roof which replaced the original slate in 1974—was added to part of the Rectory. In the same year a concrete ramp (for handicapped access) was added with a platform with brick edging leading from the east façade to the north front door. A railing also was added to match that of the existing porch.

Main (North) Façade

The first floor of the north façade (Photos 12-13) has a central, recessed entrance flanked by a single-light window with transom to the east and a projecting hipped roof bay with a single-light window and transom to the west. In 1985 the exterior double doors were removed and the frame was restored. The front double doors originally had 4 parallel-stacked rectangular windows on the top portion of each door; a slightly arched, stained glass transom remains above the door opening. The entry flooring was replaced with a new slate floor and, in the 1990s, double doors were replaced with a single wooden front door with an arched lancet window. There are four bays of one-over-one windows with concrete lintels and sills on the second floor. The centered small rectangular stained glass window was added in 2012; it features a dove with an olive branch (Photo 41). The third floor has a half-timbered cross-gable to the west and a half-timbered gabled dormer to the east. The cross-gable features paired one-over-one windows in Gothic-arched openings and the dormer features paired one-over-one square windows. In 1961-1962, the front concrete porch was added.

South Elevation

The second floor of the south elevation (Photos 17-18) has a single one-over-one window with concrete lintel and sill on its east side and a door (installed in 1986) to its west. There is also a vinyl-covered gabled dormer in the center of the roof. A wooden fire escape leads from the dormer—the dormer's original window was replaced with a new door and frame to provide safe access to the new fire escape in 1986—to the second-floor door and down to the ground. In 1986, a door that had been located in the area behind the fire escape was removed and its opening was filled with masonry. In 1961-1962 the back porch of the Rectory, which consisted of two front column supports, a single central door with a rectangular transom above, and a south-facing roof was removed. This area was converted to the Connector in 2014.

The one-story addition (Photo 15) behind the Rectory faces the driveway and west side of the property. The small, windowless, brick, rectangular shed sits on a concrete foundation and its roof serves as a deck easily accessed from the west exit of the Education Wing and the Rectory's first floor southern exit. It was originally designed as a two-car garage in 1960 by John Pekruhn, architect. Later, the opening was changed to a single door for use as a storage shed.

East Elevation

The first floor has three bays of one-over-one windows with concrete lintels and sills and one former door opening that was removed in 1986 and covered with wood panels in a diamond pattern; on the landing between the first and second floor is a stained glass window with a stone sill and concrete lintel. The second floor has two one-over-one windows with concrete lintels and sills. A cross-gable at the roof contains Gothic-arched half-timbering and includes paired

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one-over-one Gothic arched stained glass windows (Photo 16). These windows match those in the hallway to the Church, clergy vesting room, and sacristy. The third floor has a skylight (installed in 1986) also on the east-facing roof.

West Elevation

The first floor of the west elevation (Photo 14) has a large bow with two one-over-one windows with stone lintels and sills towards the rear. At the basement-level of the bow is a single-light window with a stone lintel and sill. On the south-facing side of this bow is a one-over-one window with a stone lintel and sill. Flanking the bow on either side are one-over-one windows with stone lintels and sills. There are four bays on the second floor featuring one-over-one windows with concrete lintels and sills. Perpendicular to the southernmost bay is another one-over-one window with a concrete lintel and sill. At the roof is a cross-gable with arched half-timbering that contains one-over-one windows in Gothic-arched openings.

Interior Description

First Floor

On the northeast side of the first floor is the secretary's office with a large plate-glass window. Matching it on the northwest side is the rector's office (Photo 39), also with a centered plate-glass window. Between the two is the building's entry hall. South of the secretary's office is the stairwell to the second and third floors, south of which are two bathrooms and a closet. To the south of the rector's office is the chapel (Photo 42). To the south of it, along the building's south wall is a large eat-in kitchen (Photo 43) that extends from the east wall to the west wall. The finishes on this floor include dark-stained hardwood flooring, drywall walls, and plaster ceilings, along with painted wood baseboards and window and door trim. The rector's office also features a fireplace with a tile firebox, as well as a decorative mantel. In 1982, renovations were made to accommodate the new rector. These included the creation of a powder room, living room, den, formal dining room, and large eat-in kitchen. In 1986, several renovations were made to the first floor: a first floor powder room on the east wall was removed and a new stair landing was installed leading to the basement; the existing wooden stairs and railings were restored; pocket doors in the front two rooms were removed and replaced with single doors; the fireplace, mantel, and surround were removed in the northwest room and were replaced by those from an adjacent room.

Second Floor

On the north side of the second floor is a meeting room (Photo 40) that extends from the east wall to the west wall. To the south of it against the west wall is a guest room (Photo 44); east of the guest room are the stairs. South of the guest room is a handicapped-accessible bathroom and south of the stairs is a closet for HVAC, and an office. Finishes on the second floor include dark-stained hardwood flooring, drywall walls, and plaster ceilings, along with painted wood baseboards and window and door trim. The guest room also features a fireplace with a tile firebox, as well as a decorative mantel. This existing mantel and surround was restored in 1986.

Third Floor

The third floor includes a kitchen in the northwest corner, with a living room south of it (Photo 45) and a bath south of that. To the east of these rooms is a hallway and a bedroom in the

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northeast corner, stairs to its south, a closet for HVAC south of the stairs, and a bedroom south of that. Finishes on the third floor include dark-stained hardwood flooring, drywall walls, and plaster ceilings, along with painted wood baseboards and window and door trim.

During an exceptionally frigid December weekend in 2010, when no one was in the Rectory, a pipe burst on the third floor, which sent water cascading down to the basement for three days. As a result, the building's interior had to be renovated. Architect, Jeff Kline, in 2012 proposed removal of the damaged interior walls on all floors and the creation of the current floor plan. The entire renovation project was completed in 2013.

Bishop Bowman Monument

On the front lawn of the Parish House is the Bishop Bowman Monument, an uncounted landscape feature, which was added to the property in May 1908. On Aug. 3, 1861, a landslide destroyed a railroad bridge just outside of New Kensington, PA (northeast of Oakmont). As a result, all of the train passengers, including Bishop Samuel Bowman, had to walk several miles to the next station. The Allegheny Valley Railroad Company marked the site of the train accident in 1893 with a monument to honor the Episcopal Assistant Bishop, the Reverend Doctor Samuel Bowman, who died, presumably of a heart attack, while leading the other passengers to safety.² The Bishop Bowman Monument was dedicated for preservation at the request of the Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Pittsburgh in October, 1893. Then, later, when a right-of-way was needed to add a second track; officials of the railroad company decided to place it in the nearest Episcopal churchyard.

Assessment of Integrity

The St. Thomas Memorial Church retains integrity. The property is an excellent example of the Late Gothic Revival style, retains its principal qualities of design and workmanship and continues to convey its past identity as a church and local landmark. Comparison of current photos to a 1925 postcard view of the property (Figure 1) shows that the property has seen few changes to the primary elevations. In addition, a 1925 interior view of the Church (Figure 2) shows that the interior of that building has seen few changes, as well.

Location: The property retains integrity in regard to location. Its location is unchanged since construction began.

Design: The property retains integrity in regard to design. It retains its form, balanced proportions, fenestration patterns, general plan, method of construction, and Late Gothic Revival design and ornamentation. The exterior remains mostly unchanged from the time of construction and the ornate interior of the Church and Parish House continue to convey their original design. While an addition was made to the Parish House in 1958, it is a relatively small-scale addition to the rear and does not completely block the Parish House's south elevation. Furthermore, the addition of a garage to the rear of the Rectory is small-scale and does not greatly change its

² Spencer, Oscar L., *One Hundredth Anniversary Saint Thomas' Memorial Church*, Oakmont, PA. (No publisher. Oakmont, PA: 1974), 18.

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appearance. While the Rectory has experienced changes in terms of the function of spaces, the design has not been impacted.

Materials: The property's integrity of materials has been compromised to a slight degree. Windows in the Parish House and Rectory have been replaced, but the new windows are relatively sympathetic and the openings have not been changed. The most significant alteration was the replacement of original walls within the Rectory with drywall after the building flooded due to burst pipes.

Workmanship: The property retains integrity in regard to workmanship. The ornamentation, designed as a balanced whole, remains today. On the exterior this ornamentation includes the massive bell tower, stained glass arched windows, exterior stonework and brickwork, half-timbering on the Rectory, and "St. Thomas Parish House" inscribed in stone above the main entrance to the Parish House. On the interior this ornamentation includes wood and tile flooring, wood trim, plaster walls and ceilings, and wood wainscoting.

Feeling: The building retains integrity in regard to feeling. It continues to exhibit the feeling of a grand Late Gothic Revival-style church of the early 20th century.

Setting: The building retains integrity in regard to setting. The lot retains its original proportions, topography, and location. The roads remain in the same location, as they were when the building was completed. In addition, the area surrounding the church remains residential.

Association: The building retains integrity in regard to association. The St. Thomas Memorial Church retains its association as a Late Gothic Revival church in Oakmont.

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8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A. Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B. Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C. Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D. Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

- A. Owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes
- B. Removed from its original location
- C. A birthplace or grave
- D. A cemetery
- E. A reconstructed building, object, or structure
- F. A commemorative property
- G. Less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Architecture

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Period of Significance

1897-1907

Significant Dates

1897
1907

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Trimble, Robert Maurice
Milligan and Dible
Braithwaite, William
C.F. Reed and Brothers

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Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance, applicable criteria, justification for the period of significance, and any applicable criteria considerations.)

The St. Thomas Memorial Church, which consists of the 1905-1907 Church designed by Robert Maurice Trimble, the 1897 Parish House designed by William Braithwaite, and the 1899 Rectory designed by C.F. Reed and Brothers meets National Register Criterion C for Architecture as a significant example of Late Gothic Revival style architecture in Oakmont. The property also meets Criteria Consideration A as a religious property that derives its primary significance from architecture. Its scale, unified Late Gothic Revival-style features and finishes (across the Church, Parish House, and Rectory), grandeur, and craftsmanship make it a significant resource in the community. The period of significance begins with construction of the Parish House in 1897 and ends with completion of the Church in 1907.

Narrative Statement of Significance (Provide at least **one** paragraph for each area of significance.)

Summary History

Borough of Oakmont

The towns of Verona and Oakmont, which are adjacent to one another, began as agrarian communities; Oakmont especially was known for its mature stands of white oaks. When the Allegheny Valley Railroad Company came to the two towns in 1853-1856, it wrought industrial and societal changes in the two towns and led to the development of commercial and industrial enterprises which provided employment and services to the inhabitants. These enterprises continued to grow after the railroad came. Originally the second ward of Verona, Oakmont had 1,550 residents in 1870.³ Incorporation for both towns followed in the 1870s and 1880s, Verona in 1871 and Oakmont in 1889.

“Between 1890 and 1920, the new town of Oakmont began to grow steadily, fostered by new industries, services, and facilities.⁴” During this period Oakmont changed from an agrarian area to a semi-industrialized and semi-residential borough, and, as a result, the 1864 Hulton family-owned Allegheny River ferry was replaced by the Hulton Bridge in 1908. “There was a desire on the part of the residents of the new Borough to preserve the area as a high grade residential community. Many large homes and small estates were located within the limits of the new Borough. Vital streets, especially those near the Allegheny River, were paved as early as 1905, which improved transportation to the new high school (1911) and second, grade school (1925).⁵”

By 2014, the time of its 125th Anniversary, Oakmont had grown to 7,888 residents, and had more than 170 community businesses. “The Town is distinguished by an eclectic collection of independently owned shops, boutiques and eateries. Gas lit street lamps and red brick pavement

³ <http://old.post-gazette.com/downloads/profile-oakmont.htm>. Accessed December 30, 2015.

⁴ Foote, Edward B. and Vince Gagetta, *Beginning at a Black Oak – A Centennial History of Oakmont 1889-1989*. (Pittsburgh: Wolfson Publishing, 1989), 22.

⁵ Spencer, 13.

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on the boulevard through the center of town add a measure of charm.⁶” The borough continues to be known for its oaks and other deciduous trees within its wooded and hilly 1.5 square mile terrain.

St. Thomas Memorial Church Congregation

The Episcopal Diocese of Pittsburgh was divided in 1865 and the southwestern part was identified as the Episcopal Diocese of Pittsburgh. Several years later in the fall of 1873 eight faithful friends met weekly in the parlor of Mr. and Mrs. Jacob W. Paul’s Oakmont home; the group became known as the Episcopal Society. (The Paul’s home was located between Washington and California Avenues comprising 2/3s of the entire 400 block between Third and Fourth Streets, as shown in figure 3.).⁷ By March 4, 1874, during a special visit by the new bishop, Jacob Paul envisioned the idea of establishing a new parish. The first Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Pittsburgh, Bishop John B. Kerfoot, endorsed the idea and a vote from the Diocesan Convention approved the new parish. The Court of Allegheny County granted a Charter of Incorporation to “Saint Thomas Parish of Verona” on June 9, 1874, to seven Charter Members, including Felix Brunot, Thomas King, William Metcalf, Jacob Paul, Richard Jones, Asaph Rowand, and J.B.D. Meeds. The church was named after the Saint Thomas Church in Whitmarsh, Montgomery County, PA.

Six lots were privately donated for the new St. Thomas Church building, which was to be built on “C” Street (current Delaware Avenue) and Second Street; the first service was held on September 27, 1874.⁸ In 1881 Jacob Paul purchased and deeded a house and lot on “C” Street and Second Street as a rectory for St. Thomas Church. He also purchased the Baptist Church property across “C” Street in 1886, which was larger. Jacob Paul’s daughter, Margaret, married Henry W. Armstrong who also would become instrumental in the Church’s permanent establishment.⁹ Church services were held in the building at “C” Street and 2nd Street, which became known as The Chapel, until 1900;¹⁰ its seating capacity was 270.¹¹ Since Oakmont’s incorporation as a Borough in 1889, St. Thomas Church was no longer located within Verona; its identity remained with Oakmont. From 1900 to 1907 the congregation worshipped in the building across “C” Street;¹² it is currently known as Riverview Community Action Corporation. Until September 19, 2014, the original church building was in use by St. Paul’s Baptist Church, but while it was undergoing repairs, it burnt to the ground.

⁶ <http://oakmontborough.com/background.cfm>. Accessed December 30, 2015.

⁷ http://images.library.pitt.edu/cgi-bin/i/image/image-idx?rgn1=maps_st:op2=And:rgn2=ic... G.M. Hopkins Company Maps, Plate 36, Oakmont 1915-01-01. Accessed December 30, 2015.

⁸ Spencer 4.

⁹ Foote 17.

¹⁰ Zentgraf, Cheryl. *The Church Buildings of Oakmont*. (Oakmont, PA: No publisher, Dec., 2014). On file Oakmont Historical Society, 41.

¹¹ Spencer 11-12.

¹² Zentgraf 41.

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The congregation had grown so much between 1892 and 1895 that committees formed to consider a new site and the required finances.¹³ By March 25, 1896, \$10,990 had been raised, and in May 1897 Mr. and Mrs. Harry W. Armstrong donated land at the corner of C Street and Fourth Street.¹⁴ (The Armstrong's large stone home was on Isabella Street, between Washington and Delaware Avenues.)¹⁵ The new property deed was conveyed to the Rector, Wardens, and Vestrymen of St. Thomas' Parish in September of that year. Other donations and sales provided additional land for the church at that location.¹⁶ During the initial planning for the new church property, a Parish House was also identified as a need. A contract for a new Parish House, designed by William Braithwaite, was granted and signed on Nov. 22, 1897, for \$8,357.85.¹⁷ It soon served both the parish's congregation and the Oakmont community. In 1899 C.F. Reed and Brothers constructed the Rectory.

The sale of the original Church building paid for the new church organ, which cost \$3,800, in 1905. The church members met on May 1, 1905, and approved the construction of a stone church. In that same year young Pittsburgh architect, Robert Maurice Trimble, was selected to design architectural plans; they were accepted on July 27, 1905. Milligan and Dible acted as contractors and builders for a fee of \$48,000, which also included the cost of pews. Bishop Cortland Whitehead laid the cornerstone of the Church on Nov. 11, 1905.

It was determined that the bell, made by Pittsburgh's A. Fulton's Son & Co. in 1874 for the original Church, was to be transferred to the new church; this also took place in 1906. The clock weights were cast, shaped, and installed under the guidance of Mr. Thomas Westerman.¹⁸ Soon thereafter on April 19, 1906, Mrs. Susan Fries Paul, co-leader behind the building of the new church, suddenly died. During the next Vestry meeting on April 20th her husband, Senior Warden, J.W. Paul, asked if the new church could be built in his wife's memory through an endowed fund. His request was approved and the parish's corporate name was changed from "St. Thomas' Church of Verona" to St. Thomas' Memorial Church of Oakmont.¹⁹

On February 3, 1907, the new church was ready to hold weekly services, and its consecration was held on October 27, 1907, by Bishop Whitehead. In 1908 when the right-of-way was widened to create 2 tracks in neighboring New Kensington, the railroad officials asked the nearest Episcopal Church to house the Bishop Bowman Monument, and it was placed in the Church's yard on May 2 of that year.²⁰ Fourth Street was paved in 1931 and some trees were planted on the new Church property. Oakmont celebrated its 50th anniversary a little later, on

¹³ Spencer 18.

¹⁴ Deed DBV 981 / 161-162. Allegheny County Real Estate Department, Pittsburgh, PA, Deed Department. Personal searches for deeds for St. Thomas Episcopal Church, Oakmont, PA, Nov. 6, 2015.

¹⁵ Foote 17.

¹⁶ Various deeds from Allegheny County Real Estate Department, Pittsburgh, PA, Deed Department.

¹⁷ Rollinson, Cynthia. *A Timeline of St. Thomas' Memorial Episcopal Church, Oakmont, PA – 1874-2007*. (No publisher, Oakmont, PA: 2007). On file, 6.

¹⁸ Spencer 11.

¹⁹ Rollinson 6.

²⁰ Spencer 22.

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March 4, 1939.²¹ The size of St. Thomas Memorial Church's congregation has fluctuated over time; currently it averages 500 parishioners.

Architects and Builders

Robert M. Trimble (1871–1943) of Allegheny City was the son of businessman John H. Trimble (1841–1908), the founder of the family's construction business. Robert graduated from Allegheny High School in 1887, and entered the Western University of Pennsylvania in 1888. He worked for his father's construction business until 1892, when he became a draftsman for Frederick J. Osterling. In 1898, he opened his own architectural office. Locally, he designed commercial buildings; residences; and institutional buildings, such as high schools, churches, and hospitals. He also produced institutional buildings in other states including Alabama, Kentucky, North Carolina, and Tennessee. His work was not limited to the United States, however. For example, he served on the Committee on Design of President Hoover's Housing Conference, designing several United States foreign consulates in Shanghai, China, and Calcutta, India, for example. Trimble also contributed articles, including autobiographical articles in 1936 and 1938, to *The Charette*, the journal of the Pittsburgh Architectural Club.²²

William Braithwaite (1846-1926) was born in Glasgow, Scotland, and moved in 1851 to Pittsburgh with his mother and sisters. Until 1860 he attended schools in Maryland and New Jersey, and then returned to Allegheny County. William Braithwaite fought in the Civil War as Private, Company B, 193rd PA Volunteer Infantry,²³ and returned to Oakmont to learn carpentry at the J. Patterson Company until 1882. In 1873 he married Sarah W. Hulton, the daughter of James and Susana Hulton. William built his own home in 1879 and began to contract on his own.

Joseph Schell Reed's (1823-1912) family settled in Oakmont after 1880. He was the proprietor of Reed's Lumber Mill and his three sons worked for the family business, C.F. Reed and Brothers. The builders consisted of Charles Featherstone Reed (1862-1935), who became the proprietor; Robert Bruce Reed, Sr. (1860-1937) who was born in Carbon Township, Huntingdon County, PA, and who moved to 732 Allegheny River Boulevard in Oakmont in 1900; and Jacob Reed (1866-1955) who was born in Tyrone Township, Blair County, PA, and who had a home at 311 Washington Avenue in Oakmont. All of the Reed men had large families and were very involved in Oakmont activities. Copies saved of their advertisements in the *Weekly Review* from 1889 and 1890²⁴ highlighted manufacturing and dealing in lumber, sash, doors, mouldings, lath, and shingles. Another ad ran, "25 Years an advertiser in the Periscope, Phone Oak-59, Oakmont, PA."²⁵ A third ad stated, "Houses built, on easy terms."²⁶ The railroad's expansion and the

²¹ Spencer 27.

²² Tannler, Albert M., Archives of Pittsburgh History & Landmarks Foundation. On file.

²³ <http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~tandnmca/civilwar/civilwar2b.html> Civil War Veterans Tombstone Inscriptions Allegheny County Pennsylvania. "Braithwaite, William, Cemetery – Oakmont Verona." Tom and Nancy McAdams, May 13, 2000. Accessed December 30, 2015.

²⁴ *The Weekly Review* Volume III, No. 7 (Verona, PA: no publisher, March 16, 1889), 19; and Volume VI, No. 2, (August 1890: 17.) On file – Oakmont Public Library.

²⁵ McGuigan, Colleen, *Meeds and Reed Families of Oakmont, PA*. (Oakmont, PA: No publisher. Sept., 2013), 36. On file – Oakmont Historical Society.

²⁶ McGuigan, 39.

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mill's location on Allegheny and Pennsylvania Avenues adjacent to the railroad and the Allegheny River, provided much opportunity to build homes in the growing residential community; many of these homes are present today.

Architectural Significance

The Late Gothic Revival Style

The Gothic Revival style consists of several phases, including the Early Gothic Revival from about 1830-1860, the High Victorian Gothic from about 1860-1890, and the Late Gothic Revival from about 1890-1930.²⁷

The Early Gothic Revival style is described by noted architectural historian, Cyril. M. Harris as:

“A movement originating in the 18th century and culminating in the 19th century, flourishing throughout Europe and the United States, aimed at reviving the spirit and forms of Gothic forms; applied to country cottages, churches, some public buildings, and castle-like structures. Gothic Revival buildings are usually characterized by ashlar masonry, ...brick work, or wood walls, often extending into the gables without interruption; Gothic motifs such as battlements, decorative brackets, finials, foils, foliated ornaments, hood moldings, label moldings, pinnacles, pointed arches, towers, a symmetrical facade; steeply pitched gables often decorated with ornate gingerbread bargeboards; projecting eaves; decorative slate or shingle patterns on the roof; occasionally, a flat roof with crenelated and castellated parapets; ornamental chimney stacks and chimney pots; windows extending into the gables; often, an elaborately paneled front door set into a lancet arch; occasionally bordered with side lights.”²⁸

The High Victorian Gothic, on the other hand, is generally “... Polychrome, or at least bichrome,”²⁹ an effect that can be created by the use of different types of stone within the walls or window arches, alternating stone and brickwork, or use of columns of a different stone than the rest of the building. In addition, “... the details – moldings, tracery, carved ornament – are heavier and fatter...,”³⁰ giving a coarser appearance than the Early Gothic Revival style. Woodwork generally takes the form of framing, not decoration and the rooflines tend to be more complex than those of the Early Gothic Revival. Finally, where the Early Gothic Revival tended to emulate English Gothic forms, the High Victorian Gothic looked to other parts of Europe.³¹ The style is most often seen on religious and educational buildings.³²

²⁷ Vater, David J., “Calvary Episcopal Church,” *National Register Historic Places Registration Form*, On file at PA SHPO, Harrisburg, 8/7; Blumenson, John J.G., *Identifying American Architecture: A Pictorial Guide to Styles and Terms, 1600-1945*, second edition (New York: Altamira, 1981), 31-33; Whiffen, Marcus, *American Architecture Since 1780: A Guide to the Styles*, (Cambridge, MA: The M.I.T. Press, 1969), 53.

²⁸ Harris, Cyril M., *Dictionary of Architecture & Construction*, Third Edition (New York: McGraw-Hill, 2000), 432.

²⁹ Whiffen, 89.

³⁰ Ibid.

³¹ Ibid.

³² Gordon, Stephen C., *How to Complete the Ohio Historic Inventory*, (Columbus, Ohio: Ohio Historical Society, 1992), 88.

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The Late Gothic Revival style strived to more accurately reflect its Medieval precedents³³ and can be seen as a reaction to the High Victorian Gothic:

“Late Gothic Revival buildings are quieter and ‘smoother’ in design than those of the High Victorian Gothic. Silhouettes are simpler, polychromy is rare ... and top-heavy effects and calculated clashes of scale are no longer employed. ... Although there may be some mixing of English and French Gothic motifs, the character of any single building is generally quite definitely either English or French. Late Gothic Revival churches are substantially built of masonry – stone when it was practicable...; tracery is of stone, and many churches are vaulted...; the craftsmanship is generally superior, and the detail is more varied...”³⁴

This style was most often applied to religious buildings, educational buildings (as the Collegiate Gothic on college campuses) and commercial buildings.³⁵ In sum, the style is characterized by a more accurate reflection of Medieval precedents, particularly English and French; by masonry, generally stone, construction, by less “over-the-top” decoration, and by generally higher craftsmanship.

St. Thomas Memorial Church

The Late Gothic Revival-style Church was a jewel in the growing late 19th and early 20th century small town of Oakmont. On the exterior, its buildings, particularly the Church and Parish House feature hallmarks of the style including masonry stone construction (on only the main façade for the Parish House, though); symmetry; reference to medieval forms as seen in the crenellated parapet of the belltower and attached turret. The exterior also features a high degree of craftsmanship that can be seen in the elaborate front door, which is a compound Gothic arch with wooden red doors within recessed stone arches; the windows, including the main stained glass window on the north façade, the tracery windows, the stained glass lunettes, the other Gothic-arched windows, and lancet windows; the steeply pitched slate roof with over-hanging eaves; and chimney stacks. The high degree of craftsmanship extends to the interior with the wood wainscoting seen in the Church and Parish House, the Church’s elaborate hammer-beam ceiling and tile and marble flooring, the Church’s well-executed high altar, and the high-quality wood flooring and ceilings seen in the Parish House.

R.M. Trimble, a Presbyterian and the architect for the Church building, wrote, “The Ideal Church is the one in which Truth, Beauty, and Goodness reign, and it should be also planned and designed as to embody all of these attributes. The Gothic style appeals to the average observer as the style most suitable for the church structure, as it is the more often used in modern work as well as in better known Medieval Churches; ... The Ideal Church then is the one which provides a beautiful and dignified structure for the worship of God and for the study of His Word. The modern church is not only a religious institution but is also an educational and social one...”³⁶

³³ Gordon, 105.

³⁴ Whiffle, 173.

³⁵ Gordon, 105.

³⁶ Robert Maurice Trimble, “The Ideal Church --- Presbyterian Viewpoint,” *The Presbyterian Banner*, (David M’Kinney & Co. Pittsburgh, PA: March 5, 1925), 17.

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In this church building, Trimble had achieved his goal of a beautiful and dignified structure, as evidenced by the fact that the conclusion of his article features a picture of St. Thomas Memorial Church. Indeed, the creation of the church did not go unnoticed at the time. It was noted by the local architecture community which included it in the Fourth Exhibition of the Pittsburgh Architectural Club. The November 1907 exhibit included photographs and a perspective drawing by Trimble.³⁷

The Rectory, although not as decorative as the Church and Parish House still references medieval precedents on its exterior with its half-timbered dormers and cross-gables, Gothic-arched windows, and stained glass. Its steep gable roofs and chimneys, as well as its stone first floor, also are in keeping with the style. Although the interior is simpler in finishes, it does feature high-quality wood flooring, as well as decorative mantels for the fireplaces. Taken together all of the property's resources present a unified composition that stands out in Oakmont.

Oakmont's Late 19th Century and Early 20th Century Architecture

The late 19th century "...desire on the part of the residents of the new borough to preserve the area as a high grade residential community" led to the construction of "many large homes and small estates ...within...[its] limits."³⁸ Because of this, the Borough showcases good examples of Late Victorian residential and institutional architecture, including well-executed examples of the Queen Anne style, such as the 1897 Dr. Kerr House at 438 Fourth Street (NR listed 2003) (Figure 4); the Italianate style; and the Richardsonian Romanesque style, such as the Richardsonian Romanesque Oakmont United Methodist Church at 419 Maryland Avenue (Figure 5). Aside from Late Victorian styles, there are well-executed examples of later revival styles, including Colonial Revival, such as the house at 314 8th Street (figure 6); and Tudor Revival. The town also features good examples of Bungalow/Craftsman buildings, such as those along Delaware Avenue near its intersection with 8th Street (Figure 7).

Comparisons

Residential architecture in Oakmont features many vernacular buildings that make use of Gothic Revival-style detailing. These residences generally are simple five-bay forms with cross-gabled roofs.³⁹ The 1872 residence at Maryland Avenue and 5th Street (Figure 8) is a better-executed example of the style. It is constructed of brick and its steeply sloped gable roof features a steep central cross gable flanked by two gable-roofed dormers. Unlike the St. Thomas Memorial Church, it is an earlier example of the style, more in keeping with the High Victorian Gothic. In addition, as a residence, it is of a much smaller scale than the St. Thomas Memorial Church and it lacks the accompanying buildings that create a balanced and uniform architectural expression that harkens back to medieval forms, as seen at the St. Thomas Memorial Church.

The First United Presbyterian Church at 415 Pennsylvania Avenue (Figure 9), at the intersection with 5th Street, was built in 1905 in the Late Gothic Revival style. It is made of red brick and

³⁷ *Fourth Exhibition to be Held in the Carnegie Institute Galleries*. Exhibition Catalog. Pittsburgh: The Pittsburgh Architectural Club, 1907.

³⁸ Spencer, 13.

³⁹ Betterly, Ph.D., Richard D., "Oakmont Historic District," Pennsylvania Historic Resource Survey Form, on file at PA SHPO in Harrisburg.

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features a square bell tower with a crenelated parapet at its southeast corner. It also features arched stained glass windows, and a rounded north-facing apse. Although this building is of the same time period and style as the St. Thomas Memorial Church, it is constructed entirely of brick, whereas the St. Thomas Memorial Church building, Parish House façade, and Rectory first floor are all stone (which is generally the material of choice for buildings of this style). In addition, the First United Presbyterian Church does not exhibit the same high degree of craftsmanship seen at the St. Thomas Memorial Church. Furthermore, it is only one building so it lacks the accompanying buildings that create a balanced and uniform architectural expression that harkens back to medieval forms, as seen at the St. Thomas Memorial Church.

The only other churches with Gothic ornamentation in Oakmont are the churches at College Avenue and View Street (Figure 10) and at 2nd Street and Delaware Avenue (no longer extant; Figure 11), both of which are Carpenter Gothic, an Early Gothic Revival style characterized by wood construction.⁴⁰

Comparison to Other Works by Robert Maurice Trimble

The North Side Unitarian Church (Figure 12), currently known as the Allegheny Unitarian Universalist Church, stands at 416 West North Avenue on Pittsburgh's North Side and is a contributing resource within the Mexican War Streets Historic District (National Register listed 1975). Designed by Trimble in 1910⁴¹ in the Late Gothic Revival style, the church features random ashlar quarry-faced stone walls and a slate roof. The building includes large cross gables, which surround a squat corner tower with octagonal spire. The gable ends are decorated with half-timbering. Like the St. Thomas Memorial Church, the North Side Unitarian Church responds well to its urban site and is a well-executed expression of the range of Gothic Revival styles; however, it is considerably smaller than St. Thomas and, unlike St. Thomas, it is a stand-alone building without a campus.

The Ben Avon Presbyterian Church (Figure 13), currently known as the Community Presbyterian Church of Ben Avon, stands at 7501 Church Avenue (the corner of Church Avenue and Perrysville Avenue) in Ben Avon Borough, Allegheny County. Designed by Trimble in 1912, in the Late Gothic Revival style, this church features Ohio grey stone walls and includes a large, square entry tower attached to the front-facing gable of the sanctuary. To the south is a connected Sunday school/administrative wing (a later addition), which is three stories due to the slope of the site. Trimble designed the lowest level of the original building to house a gymnasium/social hall.⁴² From the front, the building appears relatively modest in scale and is similar in scale to its 2-1/2 story residential neighbors. Overall, the church is similar in size and massing to St. Thomas Memorial Church; however, while located on a park-like site, Ben Avon

⁴⁰ Whiffen, 53.

⁴¹ <http://alleghenyuu.org/wp/about/history/>. Accessed August 2, 2016.

⁴² "Ben Avon Soon to Have Two Fine, New Churches," *The Pittsburgh Press*, July 16, 1911, Summer Resort Section, Page 6.

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Presbyterian (as a single building which is more linear in design) does not command the same presence as the multi-building complex at St. Thomas.

Conclusion

The St. Thomas Memorial Church is a significant example of Late Gothic Revival style architecture in Oakmont. Based on its stone construction, accurate reflection of medieval forms, and high-quality ornamentation which presents a balanced whole that includes the Church, Parish House, and Rectory, it clearly embodies the character-defining features of Late Gothic Revival style architecture and, in the context of the Gothic Revival architecture of Oakmont, it stands out.

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9. Major Bibliographical References

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Allegheny County Survey Zone Form, Code 003-81, Pittsburgh: Pittsburgh History & Landmarks Foundation, 1981. Archived files – Oakmont Carnegie Library.

<http://alleghenyuu.org/wp/about/history/>. Accessed August 2, 2016.

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St. Thomas Memorial Church
Name of Property

Allegheny County, PA
County and State

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St. Thomas Memorial Church
Name of Property

Allegheny County, PA
County and State

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1910 U.S. Federal Census. Information on W. Milligan of 6th Street, Oakmont, PA, researched
by C. Zengraf, Nov. 28, 2015.

1920 Industrial Directory of Pennsylvania, Vol. 3.

1920 U.S. Federal Census. Information on M. Dible of 1st Street, Verona, PA researched
by C. Zengraf, Nov. 28, 2015.

1930 U.S. Federal Census. Information on W. Milligan (aged 80) of 531 Sixth Street,
Oakmont, PA, and on M. Dible (aged 55) of 730 First Street, Verona, PA researched
by C. Zengraf, Nov. 28, 2015.

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____
- recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # _____

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
 - Other State agency
 - Federal agency
 - Local government
 - University
 - Other
- Name of repository: _____

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): N/A

St. Thomas Memorial Church
Name of Property

Allegheny County, PA
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreege of Property 0.5 acres

Use either the UTM system or latitude/longitude coordinates

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates (decimal degrees)

Datum if other than WGS84: _____

- | | |
|------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. Latitude: 40.517106 | Longitude: -79.841075 |
| 2. Latitude: | Longitude: |
| 3. Latitude: | Longitude: |
| 4. Latitude: | Longitude: |

Or

UTM References

Datum (indicated on USGS map):

NAD 1927 or NAD 1983

- | | | |
|----------|----------|-----------|
| 1. Zone: | Easting: | Northing: |
| 2. Zone: | Easting: | Northing: |
| 3. Zone: | Easting: | Northing: |
| 4. Zone: | Easting: | Northing: |

Verbal Boundary Description:

The entire property of St. Thomas Memorial Church is located within the corner lot of Delaware Avenue and Fourth Street, which is listed as two tax parcels - Oakmont Tax Parcel 36-F-49/36-F-49-0-1 and 36-F-47. On file at Allegheny County Courthouse, Pittsburgh.

Boundary Justification:

The boundary includes all resources historically associated with St. Thomas Memorial Church.

St. Thomas Memorial Church
Name of Property

Allegheny County, PA
County and State

11. Form Prepared By

name/title: Mary Craighead, St. Thomas Church's Consulting Administrator
organization: St. Thomas Memorial Episcopal Church
street & number: 378 Delaware Avenue
city or town: Oakmont state: PA zip code: 15139
e-mail: stthomasoakmont@verizon.net
telephone: (412) 828-9680
date: May 21, 2015

Additional Documentation: The following 4 sets of documents are attached as Section 12. Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Map:** A USGS map and G.M. Hopkins Company Map, 1915, Plate 36 of Washington Plan 30-122 (The 400 block of Delaware Ave. and Forth St., Oakmont, PA and beyond.)
- **Sketch (Site) Map**
- **Floor Plans**
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO, TPO, or FPO for any additional items.)

Photographs

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels (minimum), 3000x2000 preferred, at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map. Each photograph must be numbered and that number must correspond to the photograph number on the photo log. For simplicity, the name of the photographer, photo date, etc. may be listed once on the photograph log and doesn't need to be labeled on every photograph.

Photo Log

Name of Property: St. Thomas Memorial Church

City or Vicinity: Oakmont Borough

County: Allegheny County

State: Pennsylvania

Photographer: Lew Dexter

Date Photographed: April 1, 2015

St. Thomas Memorial Church
Name of Property

Allegheny County, PA
County and State

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera:

Photograph 1 of 45: View of Northwest Elevation of Church facing Southeast.

Photograph 2 of 45: View of North Elevation of Church Showing Cornerstone and Date facing South.

Photograph 3 of 45: View of North Elevation of Church facing South.

Photograph 4 of 45: View of South Elevation of Church facing Northeast.

Photograph 5 of 45: View of South Elevation of Church, Parish House, and Education Wing facing Northwest.

Photograph 6 of 45: View of East Elevation of Church facing Southwest.

Photograph 7 of 45: View of West Elevation of Church Showing Porte Cochere facing Southeast.

Photograph 8 of 45: View of North Elevation of Parish House facing South.

Photograph 9 of 45: View of North Elevation of Parish House Showing Entrance facing Southeast.

Photograph 10 of 45: View of North Elevation of Parish House Showing Entrance facing Southwest.

Photograph 11 of 45: View of West Elevation of Parish House and Education Wing facing Northeast.

Photograph 12 of 45: View of North Elevation of Rectory facing South.

Photograph 13 of 45: View of North Elevation of Rectory facing Southwest.

Photograph 14 of 45: View of West Elevation of Rectory facing Southeast.

Photograph 15 of 45: View of West Elevation of Rectory facing Northeast.

Photograph 16 of 45: View of East Elevation of Rectory Showing Second and Third Floors facing West.

Photograph 17 of 45: View of South Elevation of Rectory facing North.

St. Thomas Memorial Church
Name of Property

Allegheny County, PA
County and State

Photograph 18 of 45: View of South Elevation of Rectory and Connector facing North.

Photograph 19 of 45: View of Church Narthex Showing Hammer-beam Ceiling facing South.

Photograph 20 of 45: View of Church's Stained Glass Window facing North.

Photograph 21 of 45: View of Church's Five Lancet Stained Glass Windows facing North.

Photograph 22 of 45: View of N E. Howard Clock Co. 1874 Tower Clock #2 facing Northwest.

Photograph 23 of 45: View from Apse to Narthex facing North.

Photograph 24 of 45: View from Pulpit and Choir to High Altar facing South.

Photograph 25 of 45: View of Nave to High Altar facing Southwest.

Photograph 26 of 45: View of High Altar and Three Tracery Windows facing South.

Photograph 27 of 45: View of Church's Hammer-beam Ceiling facing South.

Photograph 28 of 45: View of Church Window in Clock Tower facing East.

Photograph 29 of 45: View of Bishop's Chair in Front of Organ Room facing East.

Photograph 30 of 45: View of Stained Glass Windows and Buttresses facing Northwest.

Photograph 31 of 45: View of Church Hall, Acolyte Storage, and Door to Ramp facing Northwest.

Photograph 32 of 45: View of First Floor of Parish House facing North.

Photograph 33 of 45: View of First Floor Stairwell in Parish House facing East.

Photograph 34 of 45: View of First Floor of Education Addition Showing St. Anne's Guild Room facing South.

Photograph 35 of 45: View of First Floor of Parish House Showing Wall and Storage facing Southeast.

Photograph 36 of 45: View of Connector from Parish House First Floor to Rectory facing Northeast.

St. Thomas Memorial Church
Name of Property

Allegheny County, PA
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Photograph 37 of 45: View of Connector from Parish House First Floor to Rectory Showing Wheel-Chair Lift facing South.

Photograph 38 of 45: View of Parish House First Floor facing Northwest.

Photograph 39 of 45: View of First Floor Rector's Office in the Rectory facing Northeast.

Photograph 40 of 45: View of Second Floor Meeting Room in the Rectory facing Northwest.

Photograph 41 of 45: View of Second Floor Stained Glass Window in the Rectory facing North.

Photograph 42 of 45: View of First Floor Chapel in the Rectory facing West.

Photograph 43 of 45: View of First Floor Kitchen in the Rectory facing West.

Photograph 44 of 45: View of Second Floor Guest Suite in the Rectory facing Northwest.

Photograph 45 of 45: View of Third Floor Living Room in the Rectory facing West.

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 460 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 100 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Office of Planning and Performance Management, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

St. Thomas Memorial Church
Name of Property
Allegheny County, PA
County and State
N/A
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number Figures Page 1



Figure 1: 1925 Postcard Showing St. Thomas Memorial Church.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

St. Thomas Memorial Church

Name of Property
Allegheny County, PA

County and State
N/A

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number Figures Page 2

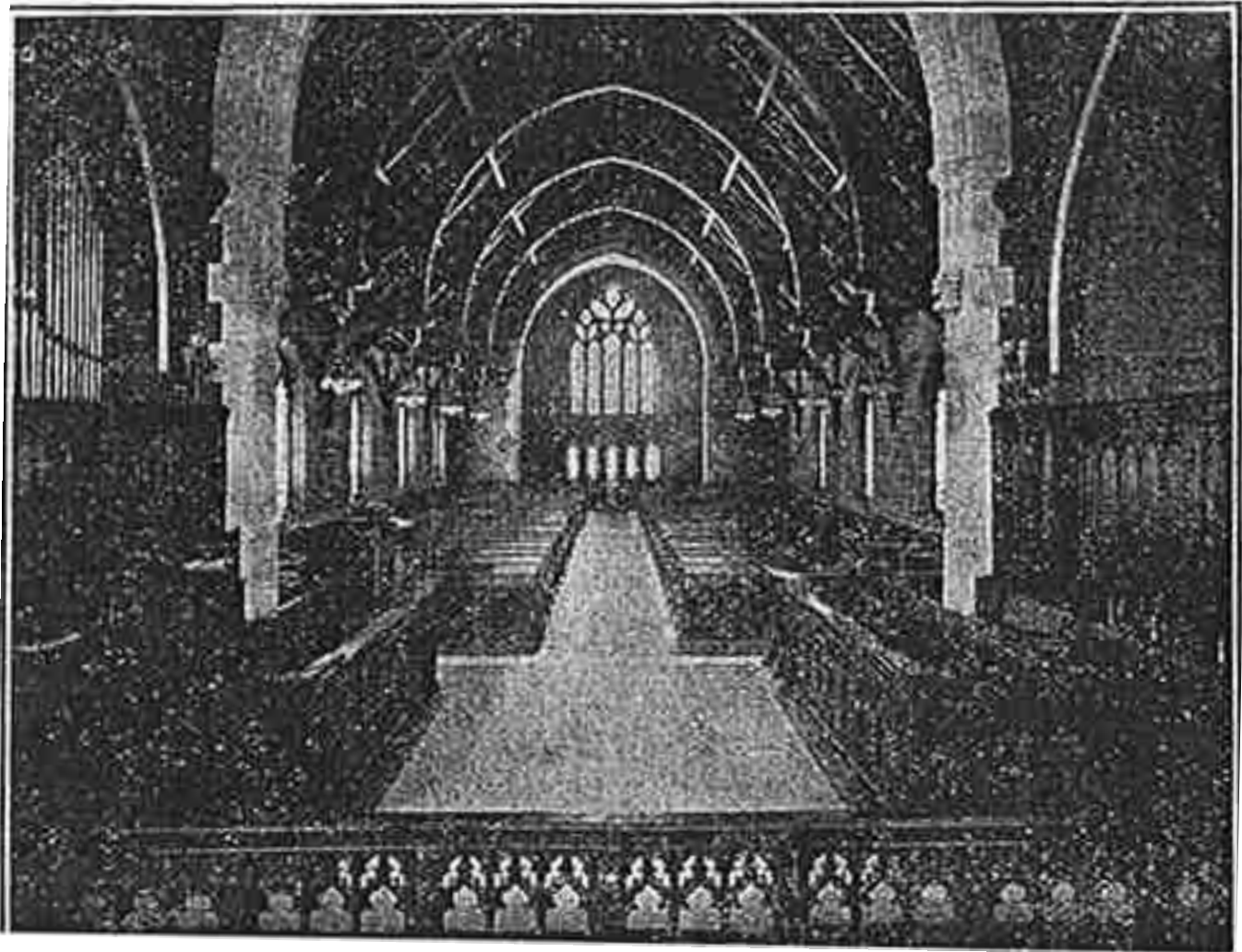


Figure 2: 1925 Interior Photograph of St. Thomas Memorial Church (from Robert Maurice Trimble, "The Ideal Church—Presbyterian Viewpoint," *The Presbyterian Banner*. Pittsburgh, PA: David M'Kinney and Co., March 5, 1925, page 17.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

St. Thomas Memorial Church
Name of Property
Allegheny County, PA
County and State
N/A
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number Figures Page 3

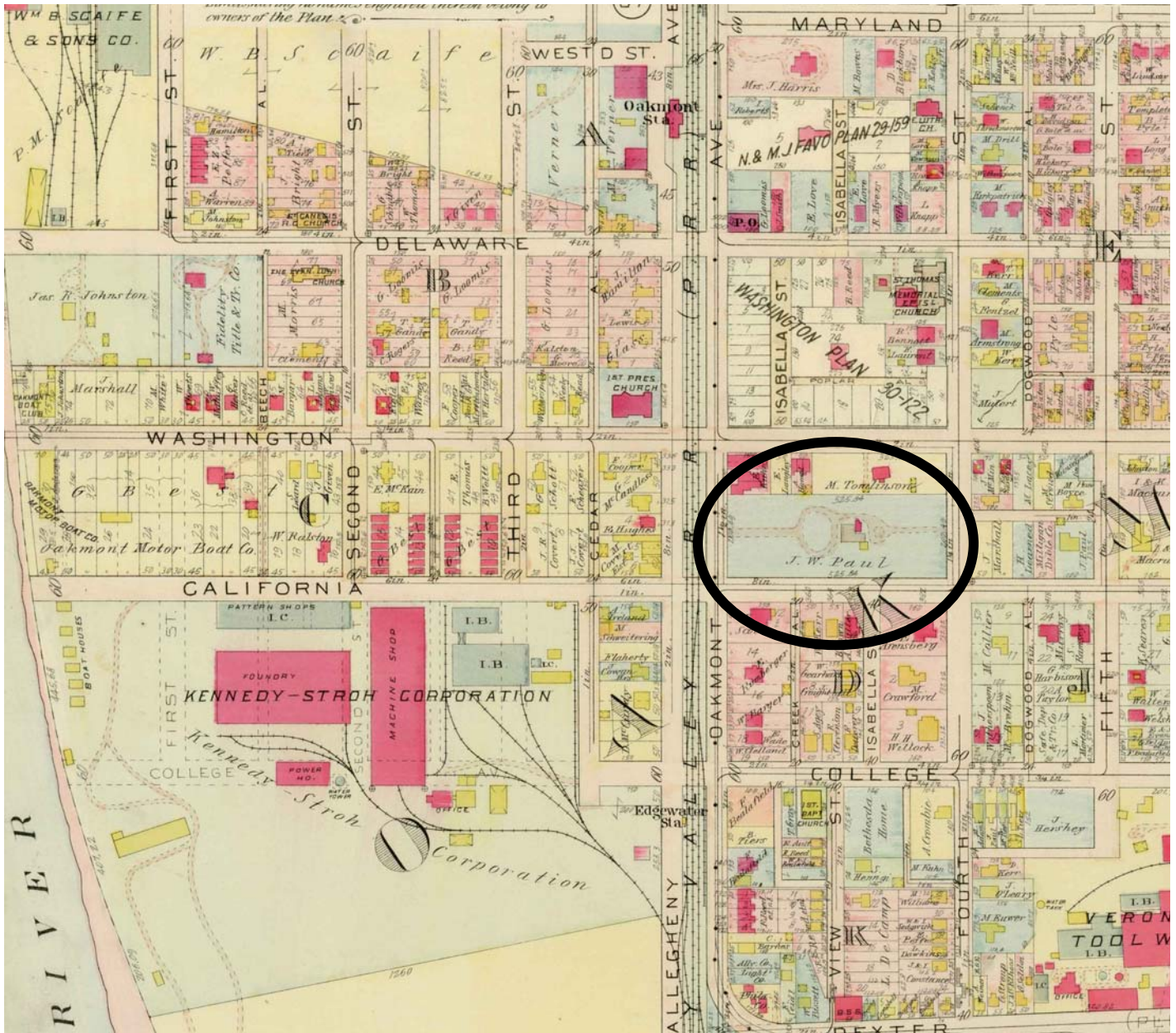


Figure 3: 1915 G.M. Hopkins Map Showing the Location of the Paul Residence (Circled).

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

St. Thomas Memorial Church

Name of Property
Allegheny County, PA

County and State
N/A

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number Figures Page 4

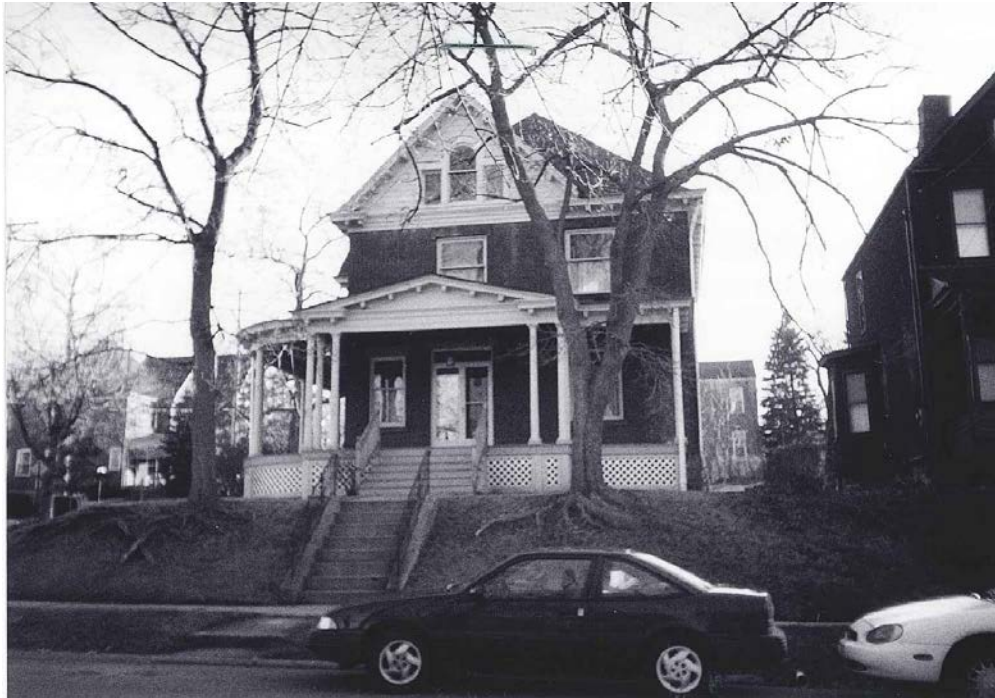


Figure 4: 1897 Dr. Kerr House at 438 Fourth Street (from PA SHPO files).

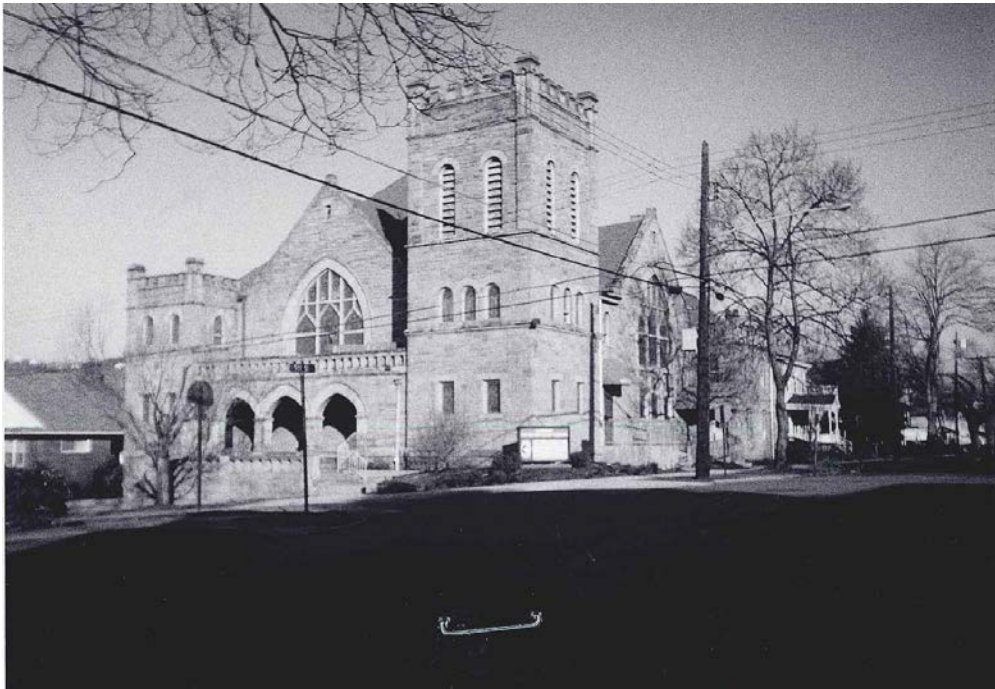


Figure 5: Richardsonian Romanesque Oakmont United Methodist Church at 419 Maryland Avenue (from PA SHPO files).

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

St. Thomas Memorial Church
Name of Property
Allegheny County, PA
County and State
N/A
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number Figures Page 5



Figure 6: Colonial Revival style house at 314 8th Street (from PA SHPO files).



Figure 7: Craftsman/Bungalow homes along Delaware Avenue near its Intersection with 8th Street (from PA SHPO files).

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

St. Thomas Memorial Church
Name of Property
Allegheny County, PA
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N/A
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number Figures Page 6



Figure 8: Gothic Revival style house at Maryland Avenue and 5th Street (from PA SHPO files).



Figure 9: Late Gothic Revival style First United Presbyterian Church at 415 Pennsylvania Avenue (Google StreetView).

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

St. Thomas Memorial Church
Name of Property
Allegheny County, PA
County and State
N/A
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number Figures Page 7



Figure 10: Carpenter Gothic First Baptist Church at College Avenue and View Street (PA SHPO Files).



Figure 11: Carpenter Gothic St. Paul's Baptist Church at Second Street and Delaware Avenue (PA SHPO Files).

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

St. Thomas Memorial Church

Name of Property

Allegheny County, PA

County and State

N/A

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number Figures Page 8



Figure 12: 1910 North Side Unitarian Church, 416 North West Avenue, Pittsburgh

(<http://alleghenyuu.org/wp/about/history/>. Accessed August 2, 2016).

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

St. Thomas Memorial Church

Name of Property
Allegheny County, PA

County and State
N/A

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number Figures Page 9



Figure 13: 1912 Ben Avon Presbyterian Church, 7501 Church Avenue (corner of Church Avenue and Perrysville Avenue, Ben Avon Borough, Allegheny County).

St. Thomas Memorial Church
Allegheny County, PA

Isabella Street

Delaware Avenue

4th Street

Rectory


Parish House


Education Wing

Church

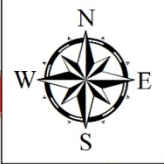
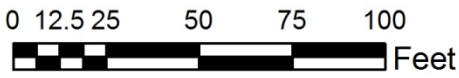
Legend

 Driveway

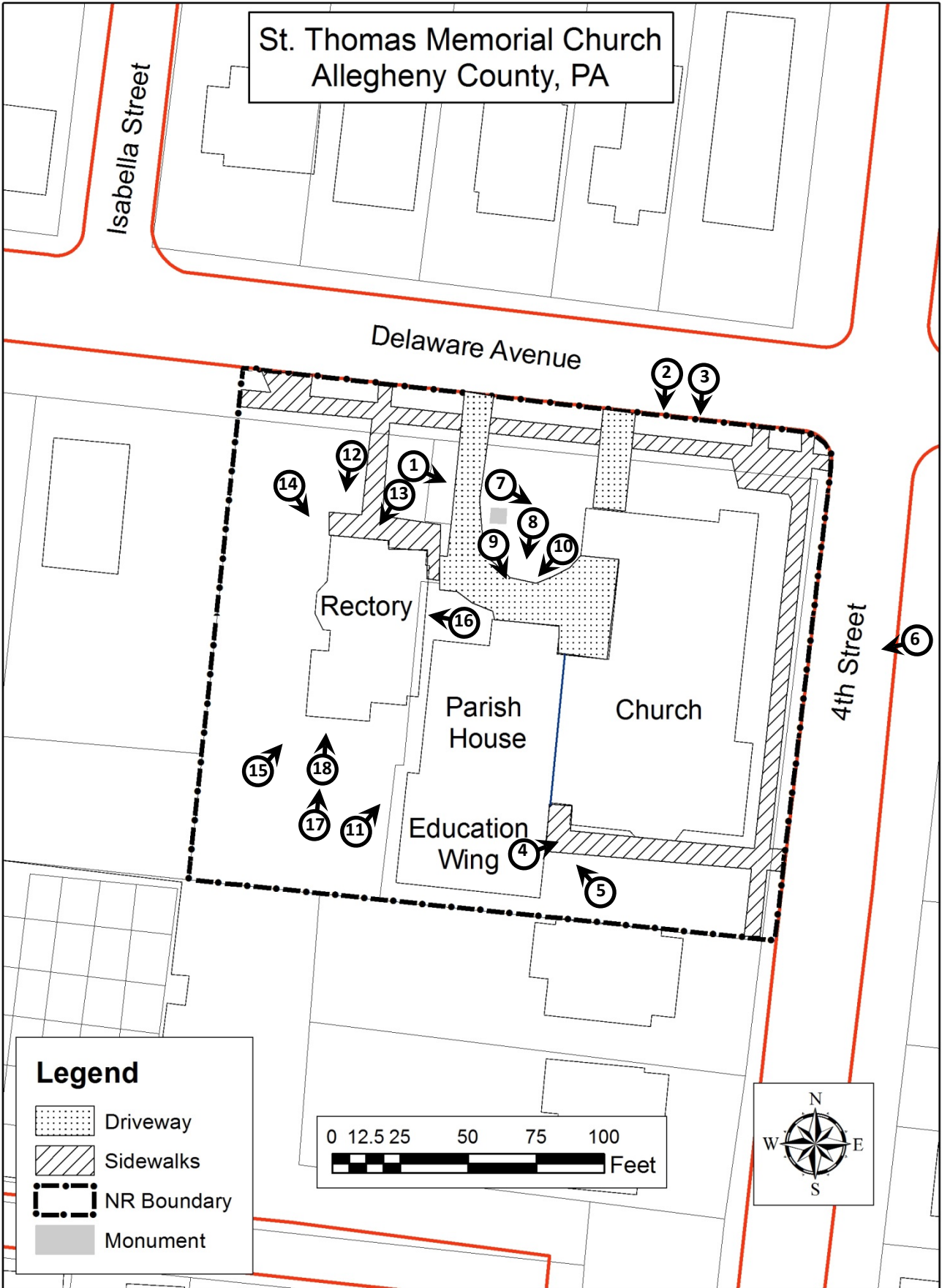
 Sidewalks

 NR Boundary

 Monument



St. Thomas Memorial Church
Allegheny County, PA



Isabella Street

Delaware Avenue

4th Street

Rectory

Parish House

Church

Education Wing

Legend



Driveway



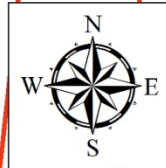
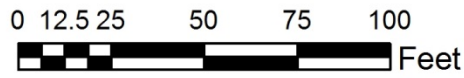
Sidewalks



NR Boundary



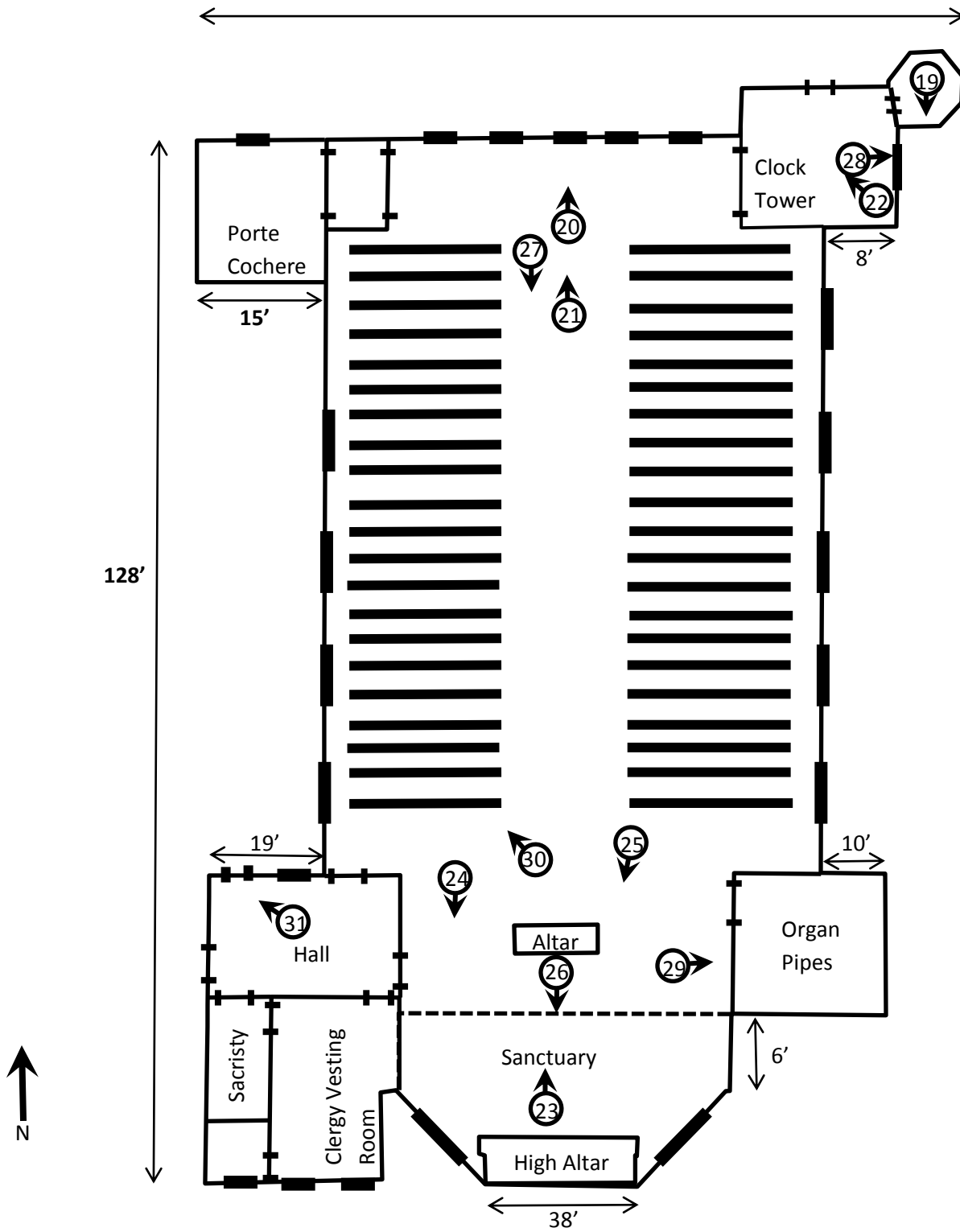
Monument



St. Thomas Memorial Church
Allegheny County, PA

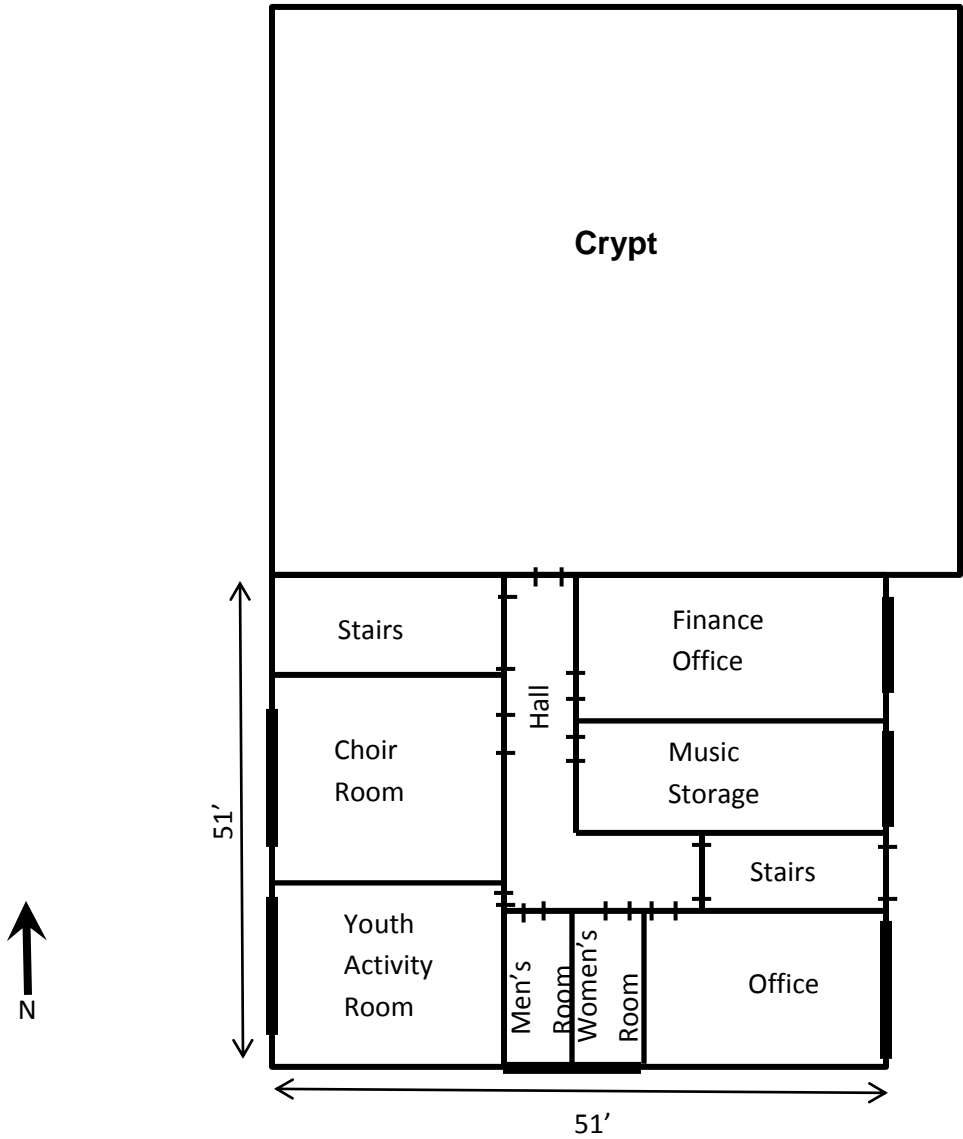
Church Floor Plan

79'



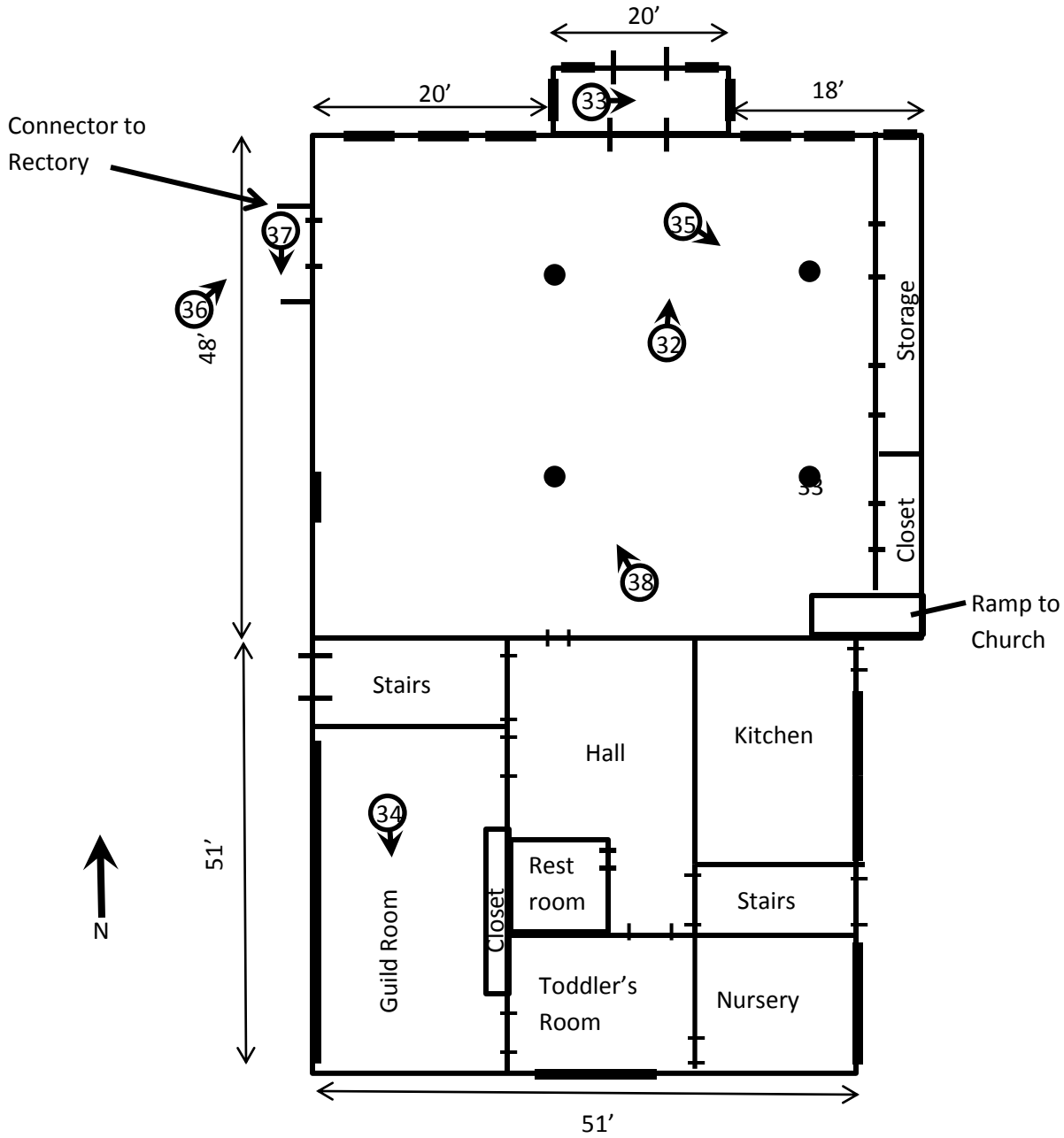
**St. Thomas Memorial Church
Allegheny County, PA**

Parish House and Education Wing Basement Floor Plan



St. Thomas Memorial Church
Allegheny County, PA

Parish House and Education Wing First Floor Floor Plan

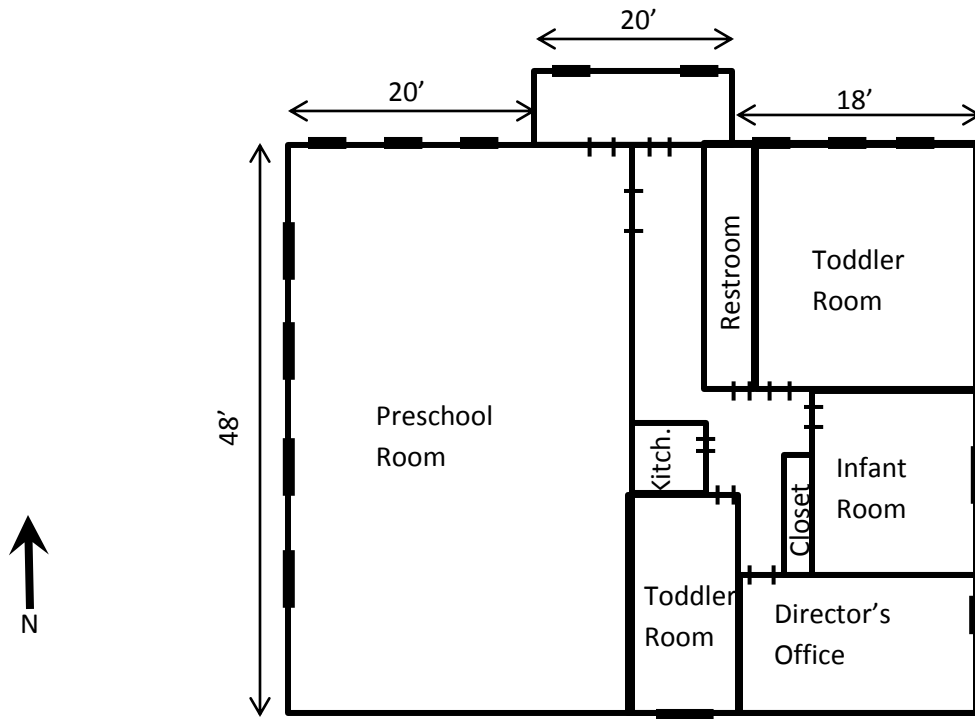


Legend

- Column

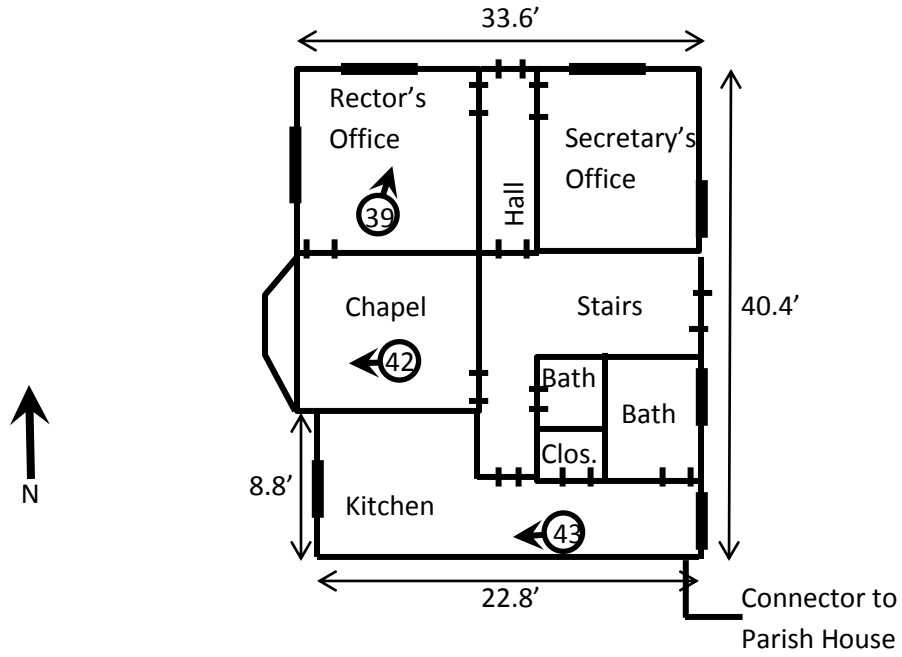
St. Thomas Memorial Church
Allegheny County, PA

Parish House Second Floor Floor Plan



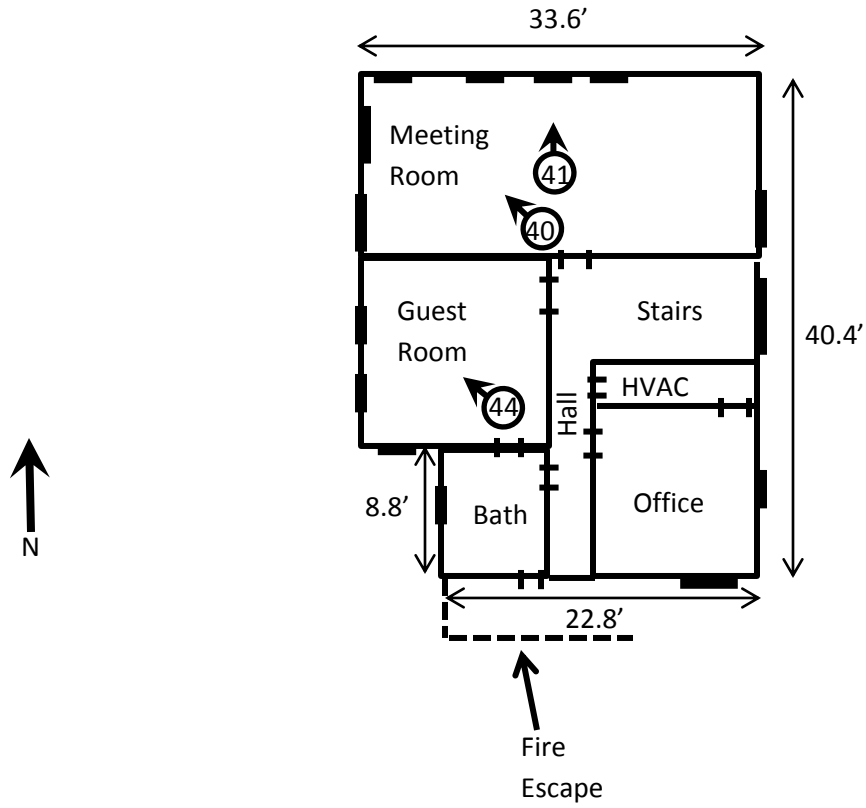
**St. Thomas Memorial Church
Allegheny County, PA**

Rectory First Floor Floor Plan



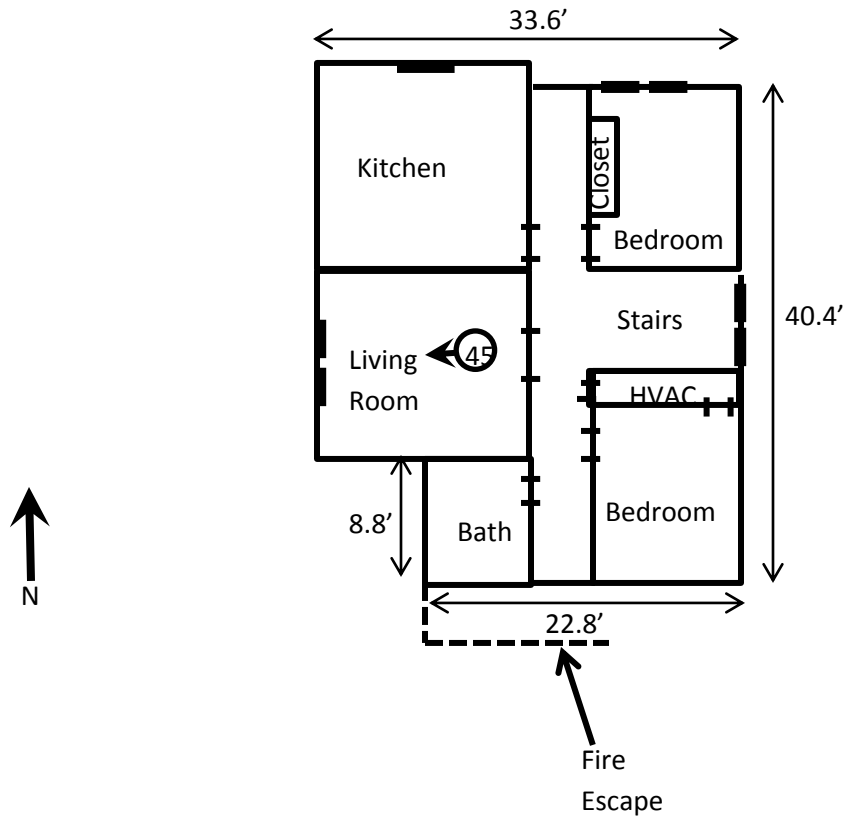
St. Thomas Memorial Church
Allegheny County, PA

Rectory Second Floor Floor Plan



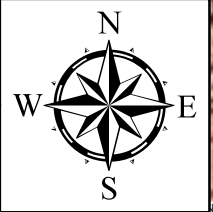
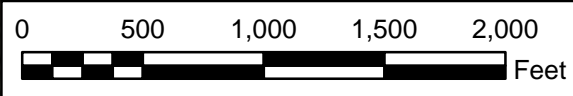
St. Thomas Memorial Church
Allegheny County, PA

Rectory Third Floor Floor Plan

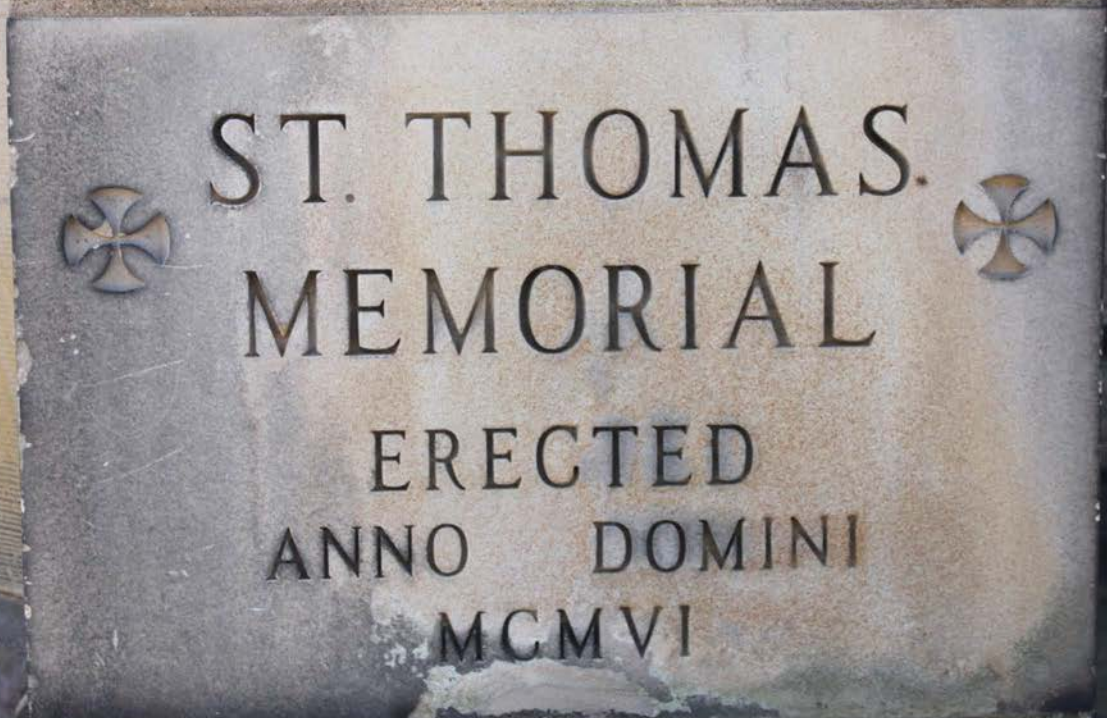


**St. Thomas Memorial Church
Allegheny County, PA**

Latitude: 40.517106
Longitude: -79.841075
NAD 1983







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THOMAS BAIN



ST THOMAS PARISH HOUSE







































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and the many sacrifices of the
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Memorial
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REGISTRATION























UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY St. Thomas Memorial Church
NAME:

MULTIPLE
NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: PENNSYLVANIA, Allegheny

DATE RECEIVED: 8/19/16 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 9/19/16
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 10/04/16 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 10/04/16
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 16000696

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

APPEAL: N DATA PROBLEM: N LANDSCAPE: N LESS THAN 50 YEARS: N
OTHER: N PDIL: N PERIOD: N PROGRAM UNAPPROVED: N
REQUEST: N SAMPLE: N SLR DRAFT: N NATIONAL: N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

ACCEPT RETURN REJECT 10.4.16 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

Entered in
The National Register
of
Historic Places

RECOM./CRITERIA _____

REVIEWER _____ DISCIPLINE _____

TELEPHONE _____ DATE _____

DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y/N see attached SLR Y/N

If a nomination is returned to the nominating authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the NPS.



Pennsylvania
Historical & Museum
Commission

RECEIVED 2280

AUG 19 2016

Nat. Register of Historic Places
National Park Service

August 18, 2016

J. Paul Loether, Deputy Keeper and Chief
National Register and National Historic Landmark Programs
National Register of Historic Places
U.S. Department of the Interior
National Park Service
1201 "I" (Eye) Street, NW, 8th floor
Washington D.C. 20005

Re: NR nomination discs

Dear Mr. Loether:

The following nomination forms are being submitted electronically per the "Guidance on How to Submit a Nomination to the National Register of Historic Places on Disk Summary (5/06/2013)":

St. Thomas Memorial Church, Allegheny County, PA
Harmony Mennonite Meetinghouse and Cemetery, Butler County, PA

The enclosed discs contain the true and correct copy of the nominations for St. Thomas Memorial Church and Harmony Mennonite Meetinghouse and Cemetery. The proposed action is listing in the National Register.

If you have any questions regarding the nominations please contact Keith Heinrich at 717-783-9919.

Sincerely,

Keith T. Heinrich
National Register and Survey

Historic Preservation Services
Commonwealth Keystone Building
400 North Street
Harrisburg, PA 17120-0093
www.phmc.state.pa.us
The Commonwealth's Official History Agency