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United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

JUL 17 1990

JAN 17 1990

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

NATIONAL REGISTER

Ala. Historical Commission

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms* (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

historic name Trinity Episcopal Church
other names/site number _____

2. Location

street & number 1900 Dauphin Street N/A Not for publication
city, town Mobile N/A vicinity
state Alabama code AL county Mobile code 097 zip code 36605

3. Classification

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	Number of Resources within Property	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	Contributing	Noncontributing
<input type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input type="checkbox"/> district	<u>1</u>	<u>0</u> buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site	_____	_____ sites
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure	_____	_____ structures
	<input type="checkbox"/> object	<u>1</u>	<u>0</u> objects
			<u>0</u> Total

Name of related multiple property listing:
N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, 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. See continuation sheet.

[Signature] 7-10-90
Signature of certifying official Date
Alabama Historical Commission (State Historic Preservation Office)
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet.

Signature of commenting or other official Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

entered in the National Register.
 See continuation sheet.

determined eligible for the National Register. See continuation sheet.

determined not eligible for the National Register.

removed from the National Register.

other, (explain:) _____

Entered in the National Register

[Signature] 8/20/90

[Signature] Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)
Religion/religious structure

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)
Religion/religious structure

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(enter categories from instructions)

Gothic Revival

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation Brick

walls Brick

roof Slate

other Stone

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

Trinity Episcopal Church rests on the north side of Dauphin Street in mid-town Mobile. Though Dauphin Street is a major east-west corridor through the city, it is mostly residential in character in the mid-town area. The church is just two blocks west of the Dauphinway Historic District and is surrounded by modest early 20th century houses with informally landscaped yards. The church includes an annex and attached offices, but no cemetery on the grounds.

Trinity Episcopal Church itself consists of a rectangular nave with chancel, side aisles, sacristy, and a tower at the southwest corner. It is a two story brick building with a basement raised eighteen brick courses above ground and a stone water table. The facade is divided into three divisions with the tower on the west, central bay and side aisle on the east. The central bay is divided into three parts by stepped, applied buttresses, forming the central door and a window on either side. The facade wall is embellished by bands of quatrefoils, one band between the portal level and the windows above and another band at the junction of the tower and its spire. The rose window in the center of the facade (1895) has plate tracery made up of cusped, glazed, stained glass. The east elevation consists of six bays formed by seven stepped, applied buttresses at the side aisle level. There are seven bays in the clerestory above the side aisle roof. At the clerestory the windows are separated by wall panels of tile and slate set in a fishscale or imbricated pattern. The church windows have bluntly pointed frames with trefoil headed cusped windows and a quatrefoil in the spandrel between. The west elevation is treated exactly the same except for the tower at the southwest corner and the sacristy at the west rear. Over all is a gable roof front with half gables over the side aisles and octagonal steeple over the western tower. The tower is three stories, square with an octagonal spire above. The first level has a single trefoil cusped long window. The second level has a single three sided small window with cusped tracery within. The third level has a long, slender central window flanked on either side by a blind niche. A band of quatrefoils is above. The spire features lucarnes with gablets and a cross on top.

The church is entered through a vestibule and double leaf doors. The interior plan consists of a central nave with side aisles. Original pews are present. The aisles are delineated by wooden columns with Gothic arches and flanking trefoils. Metal lanterns are suspended between each column in the arches. The nave is covered by a high vaulted ceiling with scissors trusswork. Each truss features a trefoil to each side and a Star of David above. The clerestory is dimly lit by stained glass windows. The chancel is marked by a molded Gothic arch. The chancel rail is marble and there is a stained glass window above. At the south end of the building, over the entrance, an original slave gallery is supported on wooden columns and features a lancet balustrade.

See continuation sheet

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Continuation Sheet**

Section number 7 Page 1

Integrity

When originally built in 1853, Trinity Episcopal Church lacked the spire and rose window. The former was added in 1884 and the latter in 1895, during the fiftieth anniversary. After the church was moved in 1946, the congregation added a chapel and annex just west of the main building in 1962. There have been no significant changes to the exterior of the church other than the replacement of the spire after Hurricane Frederick in 1979. Overall interior integrity is excellent, the only change of note being carpeted floors.

Though the church was moved some three miles from its original location in 1946, the operation was carried out with the utmost sensitivity. Mobile architect C.L. Hutchisson, Jr. supervised the job. All original interior and exterior elements were retained and repositioned exactly on the new location. In addition, the new location, like the old, was a residential area, preserving the neighborhood character of the building.

8. Statement of Significance

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

nationally statewide locally

Applicable National Register Criteria A B C D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) A B C D E F G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)
Architecture

Period of Significance
1853-1895

Significant Dates
1853

1884
1895

Cultural Affiliation
N/A

Significant Person
N/A

Architect/Builder
Wills, Frank and Dudley, James and Co.

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

Criterion C: Architecture

Trinity Episcopal Church is significant as the finest Gothic Revival Church in the City of Mobile and one of the best high-style examples in the state. It is further significant for its associations with nationally known architects Frank Wills and Henry Dudley of New York. When constructed in 1853, the church was a solid expression of the "ecclesiological movement" then popular in America. Adherents of this movement championed the Gothic over the Classical, in the belief that the former represented true Christian architecture. Two other Episcopal Churches in Alabama were designed by Wills and Dudley; St. John's in Montgomery and Nativity in Huntsville. Mobile's other Gothic Revival Churches were less formal and typically of frame construction. Only a few survive, such as St. Paul's Chapel in Spring Hill.

Mobile's first Episcopal Parish centered around Christ Church on St. Emanuel Street, built in 1833. As the city grew it was clear that another parish would be required. Thus, in May of 1846, Trinity Parish was organized. Services were initially held in a small room on Hamilton Street and subsequently in buildings rented for the purpose.

By the early 1850s Trinity Parish was the largest in Alabama with more than five hundred members. As befitted its growing wealth and status, the parish erected a permanent building in 1853. Designed by Frank Wills and Henry Dudley of New York, the new church was located downtown on the corner of Jackson and St. Anthony Streets. Though a residential location then, the commercial district was not far away. Architecturally the church was a formal brick example of the Gothic Revival. The interior was suitably medieval as well with narrow, aisled naves lit by clerestory windows.

Trinity Parish established the first free school in Mobile, taught by young women of the congregation. The parish also worked to place orphans in foster homes. This peaceful routine was interrupted by the Civil War and Federal occupation of Mobile. Because of Bishop Richard H. Wilmer's defiance of Union authority, all of Mobile's Episcopal Churches were closed in 1865. They reopened not long after, by order of President Andrew Johnson.

During the post Civil War years the congregation added on to their church several times. Most significantly, a spire was added in 1884. As Mobile grew the population shifted west. By 1930 this process was so advanced that the Church bought a parcel on Dauphin Street, some three miles west of the old location and more convenient to the expanding suburbs.

See continuation sheet

9. Major Bibliographical References

Robert Gamble. The Alabama Catalog. University of Alabama Press. 1987.

Elizabeth Gould. From Fort to Port. University of Alabama Press. 1988.

Trinity and You. Church History. Privately printed by Trinity Episcopal Church, Mobile, Alabama.

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 # _____

See continuation sheet

Primary location of additional data:

- State historic preservation office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Specify repository:

Mobile Historic Development Commission

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of property 1.1

UTM References

A

1	6	3	9	6	0	0	0	3	3	9	5	1	8	0
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 Zone Easting Northing

C

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B

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 Zone Easting Northing

D

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See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

The boundaries conform to the present legal dimensions of the lot.

See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

name/title John Sledge/Architectural Historian; Steven Kay/AHC Reviewer
 organization Mobile Historic Development Commission date January 16, 1990
 street & number P.O. Box 1827 telephone 205-438-7281
 city or town Mobile state Alabama zip code 36633

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The church ediface was physically removed to the new location in 1946. Supervised by Mobile architect C.L. Hutchisson, Jr., the building was moved brick by brick and the original ceiling and truss members were reset. By the autumn of 1946 the job was complete. The parish continues its service to the community from this location.

Criteria Consideration A

National Register Criteria Consideration A applies to Trinity Episcopal Church because it is an outstanding example of the Gothic Revival Style of architecture. It represents Mobile's most formal example of the style, the others typically being frame.

Criteria Consideration B

National Register Criteria Consideration B applies to this property since it has been moved from its original location within the last fifty years. The architectural importance of Trinity Episcopal Church is of such a magnitude as to override any concern. Since the church is being nominated for its outstanding architectural significance, the location is of secondary concern. Nevertheless, the present location is residential, like the original location, and the move did not affect the architectural integrity of the building.

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Verbal Boundary Description

To reach the point of beginning, begin at the intersection of the N line of Dauphin Street and the W line of Carlen Avenue, thence move west 370 feet to the point of beginning. From this point proceed west along the N line of Dauphin Street 180 feet to a point, thence N 258.3 feet to a point, thence E 180 feet to a point and thence S 258.8 feet to the point of beginning. Said property lies in the City of Mobile, Mobile County, Alabama.

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Section number photo-
graphs Page 1

1. Trinity Episcopal Church
2. Mobile, Mobile County, Alabama
3. John Sledge, photographer
4. December 7, 1989
5. MHDC Negative File--MB #175

- | Photo # | Description (Frame #) |
|---------|--|
| 1. | Facade, Camera facing N (1) |
| 2. | General, Camera facing NW (10) |
| 3. | General, Camera facing NE (8) |
| 4. | Rear, Camera facing S (13) |
| 5. | Interior, Camera facing N, Nave (26) |
| 6. | Nave, Camera facing S toward entrance (23) |
| 7. | Gallery detail, Camera facing S (24) |
| 8. | Arch detail, Camera facing E (28) |