

FORM B - BUILDING

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
294 WASHINGTON STREET, BOSTON, MA 02108

AREA

FORM NO.

28/132-2

PHOTO: (3x3" or 3x5", black & white)
staple to left side of form

Photo number _____

SKETCH MAP

Show property's location in relation
to nearest cross streets and/or
geographical features. Indicate
all buildings between inventoried
property and nearest intersection.
Indicate north.

guttered by fire, rebuilt in 1979-80;
roof replaced and solar panels in-
stalled.

Recorded by Carla Benka/Greer Hardwicke

Organization Brookline Historical Com.

Date March, 1985

Town Brookline MRA

15 and 27 St. Paul Street

Address 104 Aspinwall Ave.

Historic Name St. Paul's Church, Cha-
pel (now Parish Hall), and Parish
House

Use: Present Church, Parish Hall, n
Parish House

Original Church, Chapel and Par-
ish House

DESCRIPTION:

Date Church-1851-2; Parish Hall-1858
Parish House- 1895

Source Bigelow, A Sketch of the
History of St. Paul's Church

Style Gothic

Architect Church and Parish Hall-
Richard Upjohn; Parish House-Julius

Exterior wall fabric Schweinfurth
Roxbury Puddingston

Outbuildings _____

Major alterations (with dates) original
chapel enlarged in 1880 by Peabody
and Stearns; porch added; 1895-porch

added to chapel; 1944-small chapel
added to sanctuary; 1976-church

Moved _____ Date _____

Approx. acreage 30,677 sq.ft.

Setting In prominent location at the
intersection of Aspinwall ave. and
St. Paul St in residential area

of mostly two and multi-family units
Boston South Quadrangle

(Staple additional sheets here) UTM Reference:
19/325460/4690180
Map #: 2

ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE (Describe important architectural features and evaluate in terms of other buildings within the community.)

St. Paul's Church was designed by Richard Upjohn in the Gothic style. It has been called one of the earliest and perhaps the most important of the first generation of picturesque village churches in the Boston area (Tucci). Its asymmetrical arrangement with the tower on the northwest side and the entrance on the south is typical of the ecclesiastical movement in the Episcopal church of which Upjohn was a leading proponent. This revivalist movement emphasized functional rather than artistic principle in architecture and supported the idea of purifying the Church by restoring its medieval traditions.

Constructed of Roxbury puddingstone laid in blocks of irregular shape and size,

HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE (Explain the role owners played in local or state history and how the building relates to the development of the community.)

The congregation of St. Paul's Episcopal Church was founded in 1849 by William and Augustus Aspinwall (Augustus gave the land on which the church was originally built) and Harrison Fay (a major financial backer of the congregation). Their efforts "brought together a remarkable group of men - socially prominent leaders in professional or business life with high integrity and a rare sense of stewardship in the use of wealth." Services were first held in the town hall in Brookline Village and in October, 1849 the Parish was legally incorporated and the name of St. Paul's Church in Brookline was adopted. In May 1850, the corporation accepted the offer of Mr. Aspinwall of a building lot and Fay and Aspinwall proceeded to "obtain from Richard Upjohn, architect of Trinity Church in New York City, plans for a Gothic church of the same style." The cornerstone was laid on July 1851, and by December 1852 the building was completed and paid for. It was consecrated December 23, 1852. In 1858 a committee was appointed to collect subscriptions for a chapel; Mr. Aspinwall again donated the land and the chapel (now parish hall) was built from Upjohn's plans. Peabody and Stearns's plans enlarged the chapel in 1880, lengthening it to make room for the Sunday school. A porch was also added. (Peabody and Stearns also designed the rectory in 1886 - see 130 Aspinwall Avenue.) Expansion took place once again in 1892 at which time the Rector submitted plans for a building and cloister to accommodate a boys' choir, a quartet choir having gone out of fashion in the Episcopal service. Ground was broken in 1895 for the construction of a parish house at the cost of just over \$16,600. Julius A. Schweinfurth designed the building which was joined to the church by a simple stone connection. In the parish house were "the infant classroom" which led into the chapel; a room for the Ladies' Guild; the Rector's study.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES (name of publication, author, date and publisher)

Tucci, Douglass Sgand, Built in Boston, New York Graphic Society, 1978

Bigelow, Robert Payne, A Sketch of St. Paul's Church in Brookline, 1949

Brookline Chronicle- vol. 6, p. 2, June 7, 1879

vol. 10, p. 324, October 13, 1883

vol. 23, p. 1, February 8, 1896

Vol. 27, p. 3, October 6, 1900; p. 3, December 1, 1900

vol. 29, p. 12, December 27, 1902

Vol. 31, p. 9, December 24, 1904

File on St. Paul's Church, Brookline Public Library

Pierson, William H., American Buildings and Their Architects, Doubleday and Co., 1978

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
Office of the Secretary, Boston

Community: Brookline	Form No: 28/132-2
Property Name: St. Paul's Church	

Indicate each item on inventory form which is being continued below.

Architectural Significance

the building features such Gothic elements as tripartite arches, trefoil windows, stone tracery, and steeply pitched roof. Window openings are framed by simple colonnettes and hood moldings; the west end of the church has two balancing single light traceried windows; above in the point of the gable is a hooded oculus with tracery. The window in the east end is typically the largest in the building, while at the opposite end is a tower topped by a broached spire. Corbel tabling and pilasters are seen at the belfry level which has simple decorated tracery in its pointed arch openings.

Fire gutted the interior of the church and destroyed all but two of the stain glass windows. The sanctuary has been rebuilt with little exterior changes except for the solar panels which have been placed on the south side of the roof. to collect, distribute, and store warm air in the church.

The chapel, now parish hall, was also designed by Upjohn and enlarged by Peabody and Stearns in 1880. It too was built of Roxbury puddingstone and retains its original polychromatic, striped slate roof. Lancet arch windows complement those of the sanctuary. The entry porch was a later addition. The parish house was built between the chapel and sanctuary and connects to the latter by means of a simple enclosed walkway with diamond pane trefoil windows and slate roof. Its original doors were replaced in 1936 by a pair designed by architect and parishioner, J. Lovell Little.

Historical Significance

and retiring room; and choir room with wardrobes. (This configuration was changed in the 1920s at which time the partition between the choir room and infant classroom was removed and then then chapel (now Parish Hall) was provided with a stage. All this work was performed to accomodate the increasing activities of the congregation.)

St. Paul's Church is the oldest religious structure in Brookline, having been built when only three other churches existed (Harvard Congregational, First Parish, and Baptist, all since demolished.) and when Brookline's population of 2500 lived among scattered residences and marked gardens. It has been the parish of such established and distinguished families as the Aspinwalls, Littels, former president of Harvard University Augustus Lowell and his sister Amy; Henry Chase, Desmond Fitzgerald, and J. Lovell Little and it is the only ecclesiastical work of Richard Upjohn in Brookline. The history of its buildings reflect the social, economic, and liturgical changes of the times and the ability of the congregation to respond to them.

St. Paul's Church derives its primary significance by meeting criterion C as a fine example of a picturesque village church and the work of Richard Upjohn and Julius Schweinfurth. It also meets NR criterion A, reflecting the influence of the ecclesiological movement of the mid 19th century.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only

received 9-4-85

date entered

Continuation sheet

Item number

Page

Multiple Resource Area
Thematic GroupName Brookline MRA
State MASSACHUSETTS

Nomination/Type of Review

Date/Signature

71. Saint Paul's Church, Chapel,
and Parish HouseEntered in the ^{for}
National Register Keeper

Attest

Delores Byers 10/17/85

72. Saint Paul's Rectory

Entered in the
National Register^{for} Keeper

Attest

Delores Byers 10/17/85

73. Sargent's Pond

Entered in the
National Register^{for} Keeper

Attest

Delores Byers 10/17/85

74. Second Unitarian Church

Entered in the
National Register^{for} Keeper

Attest

Delores Byers 10/17/85

75. Spurr, Eliphalet, House

Entered in the
National Register^{for} Keeper

Attest

Delores Byers 10/17/85

76. Standish, James H., House

Entered in the
National Register^{for} Keeper

Attest

Delores Byers 10/17/8577. Strathmore Road Historic
DistrictEntered in the
National Register^{for} Keeper

Attest

Delores Byers 10/17/85

78. Toussaint, Winand, House

Entered in the
National Register^{for} Keeper

Attest

Delores Byers 10/17/85

79. Town Stable

Entered in the
National Register^{for} Keeper

Attest

Delores Byers 10/17/8580. Tuckerman, William F.,
HouseEntered in the
National Register^{for} Keeper

Attest

Delores Byers 10/17/85

85003312

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Saint Paul's Church, Chapel, and Parish House
(Brookline MRA)
Norfolk County
MASSACHUSETTS

Working No. SEP 4 1985
Fed. Reg. Date: 2/3/87
Date Due: 10/3/85 - 10/19/85
Action: ☒ ACCEPT 10-17-85
☐ RETURN
☐ REJECT
Entered in the National Register
Federal Agency: _____

- ☐ resubmission
☐ nomination by person or local government
☐ owner objection
☐ appeal

Substantive Review: ☐ sample ☐ request ☐ appeal ☐ NR decision

Reviewer's comments:

Recom./Criteria _____
Reviewer _____
Discipline _____
Date _____
_____ see continuation sheet

Nomination returned for: _____ technical corrections cited below
_____ substantive reasons discussed below

1. Name

2. Location

3. Classification

Category	Ownership Public Acquisition	Status Accessible	Present Use
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4. Owner of Property

5. Location of Legal Description

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

Has this property been determined eligible? ☐ yes ☐ no

7. Description

Condition

- | | |
|------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| ☐ excellent | ☐ deteriorated |
| ☐ good | ☐ ruins |
| ☐ fair | ☐ unexposed |

Check one

- ☐ unaltered
☐ altered

Check one

- ☐ original site
☐ moved date _____

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

- ☐ summary paragraph
☐ completeness
☐ clarity
☐ alterations/integrity
☐ dates
☐ boundary selection

8. Significance

Period Areas of Significance—Check and justify below

Specific dates

Builder/Architect

Statement of Significance (*in one paragraph*)

- ☐ summary paragraph
- ☐ completeness
- ☐ clarity
- ☐ applicable criteria
- ☐ justification of areas checked
- ☐ relating significance to the resource
- ☐ context
- ☐ relationship of integrity to significance
- ☐ justification of exception
- ☐ other

9. Major Bibliographical References

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property _____

Quadrangle name _____

UTM References _____

Verbal boundary description and justification _____

11. Form Prepared By

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

_____ national _____ state _____ local

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

title

date

13. Other

- ☐ Maps
- ☐ Photographs
- ☐ Other

Questions concerning this nomination may be directed to _____

Signed _____ Date _____ Phone: _____



St. Paul's Church

Brookline MRA

Parish House Addition

(1895) East Facade



St Paul's Church Complex
15 & 27 St. Paul St
104 Aspinwall Ave
March 1985

Brookline (Ma) MRA



Avenue

St. Pauls Church

Old Aspinwall House

ST. PAUL'S
Episcopal Church

Richard Upjohn,
Arch.

Late 19th photo

Brookline MRA





St Paul's Church

Brookline (Ma) MRA

2-85



EPISCOPAL CHURCH, BROOKLINE, MASSACHUSETTS.

St. Paul's Episcopal Church. Corner of St. Paul Street and Aspinwall Avenue. Built in 1851.

The accompanying sketch conveys a correct idea of the pretty Episcopalian church in Brookline, situated about half a mile from the village, in a secluded and pastoral spot. It is considered a fine specimen of Gothic architecture, and was designed by Mr. Upjohn, the celebrated architect of Trinity Church, New York. The material of which it is constructed is coarse rubble granite. It is constructed with a view to form a part of a larger church, should such be required, or continue by itself, for which it is sufficiently finished. It was commenced in the spring of 1851, and was completed in the following year, at a cost of about \$25,000. The Gothic

St. Paul's Episcopal
Church.

(Mid 19th drawing)

Brookline MA





Parish House Addition

1895. St. Pauls Facad
(West Facade)

St. Pauls Church

Brookline MRA

St. Paul's Church & Rectory
104 Aspinwall / 130 Aspinwall
Brookline (Map 28 / 132-1 & 2)
Town of Brookline Map Jan '81
Scale 1/2" = 200 ft.

