

PH0011436

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

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: District of Columbia	
COUNTY:	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER 91.9.11.0013	DATE 9/10/71

**1. NAME**

COMMON:  
**Church of the Epiphany**

AND/OR HISTORIC:

**2. LOCATION**

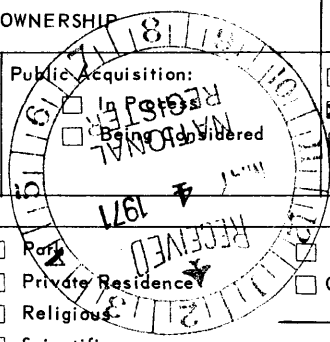
STREET AND NUMBER:  
**1317 G Street, N.W.**

CITY OR TOWN:  
**Washington**

STATE <b>District of Columbia</b>	CODE <b>11</b>	COUNTY: <b>District of Columbia</b>	CODE <b>001</b>
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**3. CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) <input type="checkbox"/> Comments



**4. OWNER OF PROPERTY**

OWNER'S NAME:  
**Rector, Wardens, Vestry of the Church of the Epiphany, Inc.**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
**1317 G Street, N.W.**

CITY OR TOWN:  
**Washington**

STATE: <b>District of Columbia</b>	CODE <b>11</b>
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**5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

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

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

CITY OR TOWN:  
**Washington**

STATE: <b>District of Columbia</b>	CODE <b>11</b>
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**6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

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

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

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:  
**National Capital Planning Commission**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
**1325 G Street, N.W.**

CITY OR TOWN:  
**Washington**

STATE: <b>District of Columbia</b>	CODE <b>11</b>
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SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE:  
COUNTY:  
ENTRY NUMBER  
DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

91.9.11.0013 9/10/71

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Church of the Epiphany, an unpretentious Gothic Revival style structure, is located at 1317 G Street, N.W. The main entrance of the church faces south on G Street. The church plus an addition to the rear containing the parish hall, offices, cafeteria and other facilities is 200' deep, and 115' wide at its broadest point. The church as originally built in 1843-4 was said to be 60 feet deep and 25 feet wide. The building is of brick faced with stone; the addition to the rear is brick painted to match the stone. The exterior of the present church is largely the result of the remodeling in 1922; the interior is the result of remodeling in the 1950's and 60's.

The south facade of Epiphany contains the square tower with belfry which projects 20 feet out from the nave and is approximately 25 feet wide. The entrance is enframed by a cluster of buttresses which rise to the same height as the church roof; above this rises the square tower with a buttress motif at each corner, the buttresses terminate several feet above the crenelated top of the tower. The belfry, contained in the tower, is defined by eight open lancet windows with simple tracery, two to a side. At street level, the entrance to the narthex is a large two leaf pointed door which is framed by a compound arch. Above the arch there is a delicate, decorative blind arcade which supports the large south lancet window of stained glass with slender mullions and simple tracery, framed by a stone compound pointed arch. The narthex itself is four bays deep, with two short lancet windows over an entrance door on both east and west sides, plus two narrow lancet windows.

The nave is defined on the south facade by two polygonal towers which culminate in stone finials on both the east and west corners on the building. On both sides of the tower on the south facade of the nave is a rose window enframed by a three sided opening. The nave is four bays deep with three buttresses separating the bays. The first bay contains a door above which is a triangular stained glass lancet window with a sexfoil surrounded by cusped tracery; the remaining windows contain similar tracery. The transept has identical fenestration and is one bay wide and three deep; the bays are again separated by buttresses. In the center of the east and west arm of the transept is a stained glass rose window containing a rondel with six sexfoils around the perimeter. Clerestory lighting is provided through wooden dormer windows located on the steeply pitched grey slate roof of the nave, three to a side, four of which illuminate the nave, and two the transept. Each dormer has wooden mullions separating two lancet windows above which is a bull's eye.

The interior of the church is in the form of a latin cross with a long nave, short transepts and a recessed chancel. The nave has a center and two side aisles. One of the most attractive interior features of the church is the dark stained open ceiling of hammer beams with arcaded pendant posts. The ceiling together with the dark pews provides a striking contrast to the cream colored plaster walls.

The chancel is separated from the nave and transept by a large pointed arch with the inscription in red lettering: "Blessing and Honor Glory and Power be unto the Lamb For Ever." An open-work rood screen separates the transept from the chancel.

(Continued on Form 10-300a)



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**6. SIGNIFICANCE**

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

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

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) original section 1843-44

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal	<input type="checkbox"/> Education	<input type="checkbox"/> Political	<input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning
<input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> Engineering	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)
<input type="checkbox"/> Historic	<input type="checkbox"/> Industry	<input type="checkbox"/> Science	<u>Civil War Hospital</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> Invention	<input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture	<u>Notable early</u>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian	<u>Parishioners</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> Art	<input type="checkbox"/> Literature	<input type="checkbox"/> Theater	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Communications	<input type="checkbox"/> Music		_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Conservation			_____

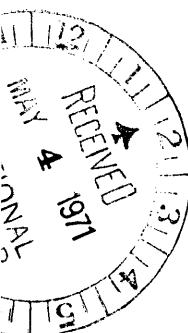
STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Joint Committee on Landmarks has designated the Church of the Epiphany a Category II Landmark which contributes significantly to the cultural heritage and visual beauty of the District of Columbia. The simple Gothic Revival Church, the oldest part of which dates from 1844, was originally designed by John W. Harkness. Although the church has undergone many alterations, most notably in 1857, 1874, 1890 and 1922, as well as numerous interior changes, the resulting church has both interior and exterior architectural merit which makes it worthy of preservation. When first constructed 125 years ago, Epiphany was a neighborhood church in a residential area. Among its early parishioners were President Buchanan, Jefferson Davis, Secretary of War Edwin M. Stanton, Chief Justice <sup>Morison</sup> Waite, Ex-Secretary of the Treasury John Sherman, Lord Ashburton, Lord Napier, Sir Edwin Stanton, Justice Field, and Secretary of State Bayard. Today virtually none of its members reside within the parish boundaries, but Epiphany continues to serve the community as a downtown church whose communicants include government, military and diplomatic personnel, as well as commercial workers and shoppers from the surrounding area.

The first organizational meeting of this Protestant Episcopal Church was held at the residence of Mrs. Sarah Easton on January 6, 1842. That day was the Feast of the Epiphany, and the estimated thirty members attending agreed to form a new congregation known as the "Church of the Epiphany." Initially the members rented Apollo Hall on E Street for Sunday services. During the remainder of the week, the hall was used for theatrical purposes. Although Miss Louisa Harrison offered that year to donate ground on G Street as a site for the church, some of the vestry considered the site "too far uptown." However, after an unsuccessful attempt to buy a lot at the corner of 12th and E Sts, the parish accepted Miss Harrison's offer.

The cornerstone of the church was laid on August 14, 1843. Designed by John W. Harkness, architect and builder, it was consecrated on July 14, 1844, by Bishop Whittingham. The first Epiphany rector was Rev. John French, D.D., who was a city missionary and chaplain to Congress. In 1856, he was replaced by Reverend Charles Hall from South Carolina. In 1862, Epiphany was requisitioned for use as a hospital for Union soldiers. The congregation was temporarily forced to meet at the Foundry Methodist Church (now destroyed) at 14th and G Streets. In the 1890's Dr. McKim set up an endowment fund "sufficiently large to enable the vestry to resist the temptation to move uptown." This endowment assures Epiphany's continuation as one of the few permanent downtown churches.

(Continued on Form 10-300a)



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Church of the Epiphany pamphlets and publications and church documents.

Proctor, John Clagett, Washington Past and Present, New York, Lewis Historical Publishing Co. 1930.

Rider, F. Rider's Washington, A Guide for Travelers, New York, Macmillan Company, 1924.

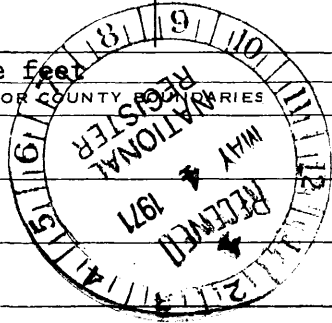
**10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY				O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES			
CORNER	LATITUDE				LONGITUDE			
	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds		
NW	°	'	"	°	'	"		
NE	°	'	"	°	'	"		
SE	°	'	"	°	'	"		
SW	°	'	"	°	'	"		
				38	53	56 N	77 ° 01 ' 50 W	

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 24,437 square feet

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

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



12/10/73 220/4007273 SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**11 FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME AND TITLE: Suzanne Ganschietz, Architectural Historian and Nancy C. Taylor, Landmarks Historian

ORGANIZATION: National Capital Planning Commission DATE: April 13, 1971

STREET AND NUMBER: 1325 G Street, N.W.

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

**12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION**

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

National  State  Local

Name: [Signature]

Title: Deputy Mayor Commissioner

Date: APR 30 1971

**NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION**

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

[Signature]  
Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date: SEP 10 1971

ATTEST:

[Signature]  
Keeper of The National Register

Date: AUG 17 1971

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

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	
COUNTY	
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76.9.11.0013	9/10/71

(Number all entries)

7. Description - Church of the Epiphany

On either side of this large arch there are recessed arched niches containing on the west side the baptismal font and on the east the organ pipes. A small chapel is contained in the west transept. A second story gallery is located in both transepts as well as in the south end of the church.

The church contains some distinguished stained glass windows as well as a handsome altar and reredos. Of particular interest is the 1891 altar window depicting the Epiphany by Henry Halliday, a noted English stained glass designer.

The recent construction of an office building just a few feet west of the church caused structural damage in 1968 which has now been corrected.

8. Significance - Church of the Epiphany

No photographs of the building as originally constructed have been found, but an early account describes it as:

very plain, the front being of brick with granite trimmings and little turns at each side of the front, a large window opening from the choir, and no transepts and tower, as at present. The vestry room was behind the pulpit platform and there was no recess chancel. The organ built by Erban, was on the south gallery.

Under Dr. Hall's leadership in 1857, the church was enlarged to double its original size, and the transepts, chancel and tower were erected.

In 1874, the church was remodeled again. The foundations were strengthened, the walls buttressed and the old flat roof replaced by a lofty gabled one. In 1890, under the charge of Rev. Randolph McKim, a new vestibule was built, a baptistry, pulpit and rood screen were installed and the Epiphany window was placed above the altar. The architect in charge of the improvements was Edward Neville-Stent.

In 1922, as a memorial to the late Dr. McKim, the south gallery was enlarged, the interior refurbished, a memorial tower added, and the whole exterior faced with cement and painted. A 15 bell set of chimes was installed in the new tower. The architect for the above remodeling was J.H. Brooke.

The interior of the church has been redecorated several times since 1922; of note are the alterations made in 1950 by architect John W. Stenhouse.

