

2-26-74

Form 10-300  
(Rev. 6-72)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

1110003125

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

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

|                                  |
|----------------------------------|
| STATE:<br><b>INDIANA</b>         |
| COUNTY:<br><b>MARION</b>         |
| FOR NPS USE ONLY                 |
| ENTRY DATE<br><b>JUL 10 1973</b> |

#### 1. NAME

COMMON:  
**Christ Church Cathedral**

AND/OR HISTORIC:  
**Christ Church**

#### 2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:  
**131 Monument Circle**

CITY OR TOWN:  
**Indianapolis**

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT:  
**Indiana Eleventh District**

STATE: **Indiana**      CODE: **18**      COUNTY: **Marion**      CODE: **097**

#### 3. CLASSIFICATION

| CATEGORY<br>(Check One)   | OWNERSHIP  | STATUS  | ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC  |
|---|--|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> District <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building<br><input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure<br><input type="checkbox"/> Object | <input type="checkbox"/> Public<br><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private<br><input type="checkbox"/> Both                                    | Public Acquisition:<br><input type="checkbox"/> In Process<br><input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered   | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied<br><input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied<br><input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress |
| PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)  |  |   |   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural<br><input type="checkbox"/> Commercial<br><input type="checkbox"/> Educational<br><input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment                        | <input type="checkbox"/> Government<br><input type="checkbox"/> Industrial<br><input type="checkbox"/> Military<br><input type="checkbox"/> Museum | <input type="checkbox"/> Park<br><input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence<br><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Religious<br><input type="checkbox"/> Scientific | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation<br><input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)   |

#### 4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:  
**Christ Protestant Episcopal Church of Indianapolis**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
**131 Monument Circle**

CITY OR TOWN:  
**Indianapolis**

STATE: **Indiana**      CODE: **18**

#### 5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:  
**Marion County Recorder's Office**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
**City-County Building, 200 East Washington Street**

CITY OR TOWN:  
**Indianapolis**

STATE: **Indiana**      CODE: **18**

#### 6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:  
**Historic American Building Survey National Park Service**

DATE OF SURVEY:  
 Federal     State     County     Local

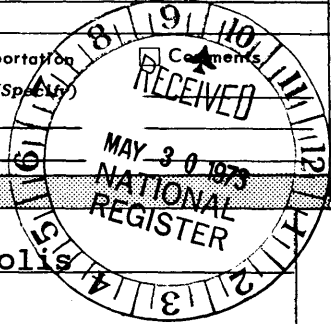
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:  
**Above and Library of Congress**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
**Capitol Hill**

CITY OR TOWN:  
**Washington, D.C.**

STATE: \_\_\_\_\_      CODE: **08**

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



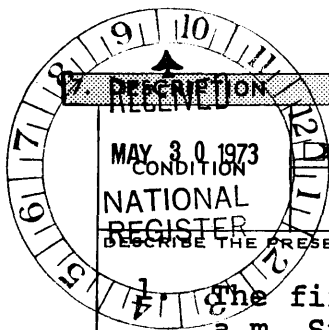
STATE: \_\_\_\_\_

COUNTY: \_\_\_\_\_

ENTRY NUMBER: \_\_\_\_\_

DATE: **JUL 10 1973**

FOR NPS USE ONLY



|   |                                    |                                |   |                                |                                    |
|---|------------------------------------|--------------------------------|---|--------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| (Check One)                                   |                                    |                                |   |                                |                                    |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Excellent | <input type="checkbox"/> Good      | <input type="checkbox"/> Fair  | <input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated             | <input type="checkbox"/> Ruins | <input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed |
| (Check One)                                   |                                    |                                | (Check One)                                       |                                |                                    |
| <input 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 first services held in Christ Church began at 10:30 a.m. Sunday, November 18, 1838. The original building was 29 by 43 feet of wood in Gothic style, with a gallery and portico; the stairs to the gallery rising from the portico; which seated, in sixty pews, three hundred persons and fifty in the gallery. See attached print and plans: (Exhibit A & B)
2. The present church cornerstone was laid on the site of the prior church on June 24, 1857 and occupied for services October 24, 1858. William Tinsley was the architect, and the style is Gothic Cathedral, cruciform in plan, with the sanctuary in the east end. The main facade faces west and that, as well as both transept ends have three tall, narrow, lance-like windows. In each of the three gables above, three windows are a bullseye with the trefoil cusping. The tower on the southwest corner is capped by a graceful octagonal spire. (not added for ten years). The exterior is of rough limestone with more finished buttresses and coins. The nave is of exquisite proportions and well lighted by tall, Gothic windows. The peaked roof is supported by gracefully interlaced curved trusses supported on the lower ends on stone corbels and tied together by sturdy beams. The ceiling was originally painted light blue. There was no middle aisle and central pews entered from the sides. Above the altar were two panels with words taken from "Sanctus."

|                   |                  |
|-------------------|------------------|
| With the Angels   | Holy, Holy, Holy |
| and               | Lord             |
| Archangles        | God of Hosts     |
| And all the       | Heaven and Earth |
| Company of Heaven | Are Full         |
| We Laud           | Of Thy Glory     |
| and               | Glory be to Thee |
| Magnify           | O Lord           |
| Thy Glorious Name | Most High        |

There were places for twenty in the choir which formed for the entry in an old-world-looking sacristy, illuminated with leaded glass windows to the north of the chancel.

3. W and J. Lamb, Architects, New York, and Vonnegut and Bohn of Indianapolis, as supervising architects completed the lichgate, deepened chancel, and the Parish House on the west end of the Church. The middle aisle was added along with complete redecoration of the interior. Only minor changes have been made subsequent to 1900.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**SIGNIFICANCE**

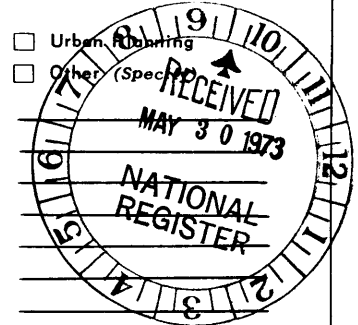
PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- Pre-Columbian |  16th Century |  18th Century |  20th Century  
 15th Century |  17th Century |  19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) 1857

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- |  |   |   |
|--|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal              | <input type="checkbox"/> Education              | <input type="checkbox"/> Political                      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric             | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Historic     | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry               | <input type="checkbox"/> Science                        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture             | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention              | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture                      |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian            |
| <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

- I The parish of Christ Church, in the town of Indianapolis, Township of Center, County of Marion, was organized on July 13, 1837, and on May 7, 1938, built one of five churches to be located on the Circle.
- II The first service was held on Sunday morning, the 18th of November, 1838.
- III The present church being designed by William Tinsley, architect, who had previously won recognition for his plan for Northwestern Christian University, Indianapolis, Indiana, the Center Hall at Wabash College, Crawfordsville, Indiana, and Ascension Hall of Kenyon College at Gambier, Ohio. Christ Church, at Indianapolis, is considered his finest ecclesiastical building in America.
- IV The cornerstone for the present church was laid on the 24th day of June, 1857, and the final cost of the church being approximately Thirty-two Thousand Seven Hundred Fifty Dollars.
- V Other churches previously located on the Circle were the First Presbyterian Church, the Wesley Chapel of the Methodist, Second Presbyterian, and the Plymouth Congregational Church. The Methodist left in 1869, First Presbyterian in 1866, Second Presbyterian in the fall of 1867, and the Congregational in 1884, leaving Christ Church as the only continuously active church located on the Circle in Downtown Indianapolis.
- Christ Church has been a continuous and active member of the Indianapolis community during its entire existence and has been the place of worship for many of the prominent citizens of Indianapolis. It is now designated as the Cathedral for Episcopal Diocese of Indianapolis. The Parish has spanned the era of a pioneer town to a booming industrial metropolis. With minor modifications, remains as it was originally built in 1857.
- VI The Cathedral is open seven days a week to the public, and funds are available for its maintenance and display as a historical site.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

See Continuation Sheet

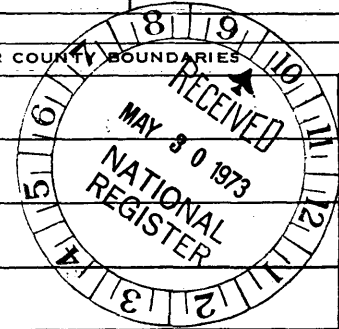
10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

| LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES<br>DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY |                         |                         | O<br>R | LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES<br>DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY<br>OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES |                         |  |
|--|-------------------------|-------------------------|--------|---|-------------------------|--|
| CORNER   | LATITUDE                | LONGITUDE               |        | LATITUDE  | LONGITUDE               |  |
|  | Degrees Minutes Seconds | Degrees Minutes Seconds |        | Degrees Minutes Seconds   | Degrees Minutes Seconds |  |
| NW   | ° ' "                   | ° ' "                   |        | 39 ° 46 ' 09 "  | 86 ° 09 ' 28 "          |  |
| NE   | ° ' "                   | ° ' "                   |        |   |                         |  |
| SE   | ° ' "                   | ° ' "                   |        |   |                         |  |
| SW   | ° ' "                   | ° ' "                   |        |   |                         |  |

UTM  
16/572165/  
4402260  
CD

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 0.25 acres

| LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES |      |        |      |
|--|------|--------|------|
| STATE:   | CODE | COUNTY | CODE |
|  |      |        |      |
|  |      |        |      |
|  |      |        |      |
|  |      |        |      |



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: **Jerry M. Burton, Attorney at Law**

ORGANIZATION: **Johnson & Weaver** DATE: **MAY 17, 1973**

STREET AND NUMBER: **600 Union Federal Building**

CITY OR TOWN: **Indianapolis** STATE: **Indiana** CODE: **18**

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

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: *Joseph D. Poland*  
 Title: Indiana State Liaison Officer  
 Date: May 24, 1973

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

*Robert M. Utley*  
 Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation  
 Date: 7/10/73

ATTEST:  
*S. Bradford*  
 Acting Keeper of The National Register  
 Date: July 6, 1973

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

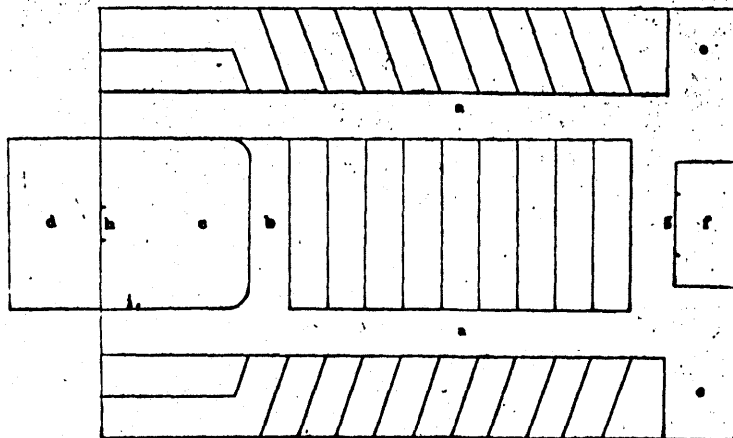
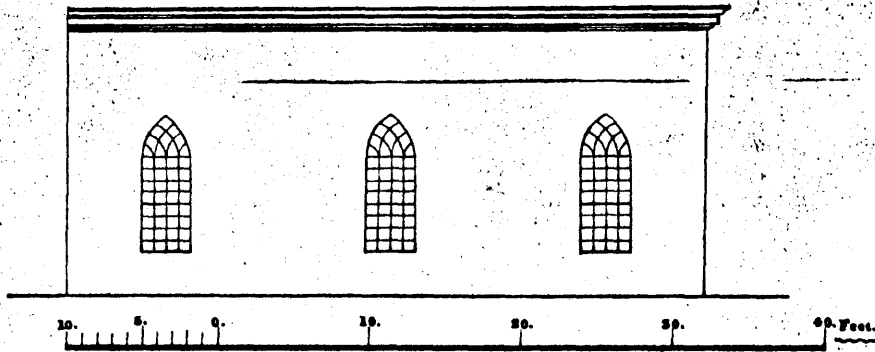
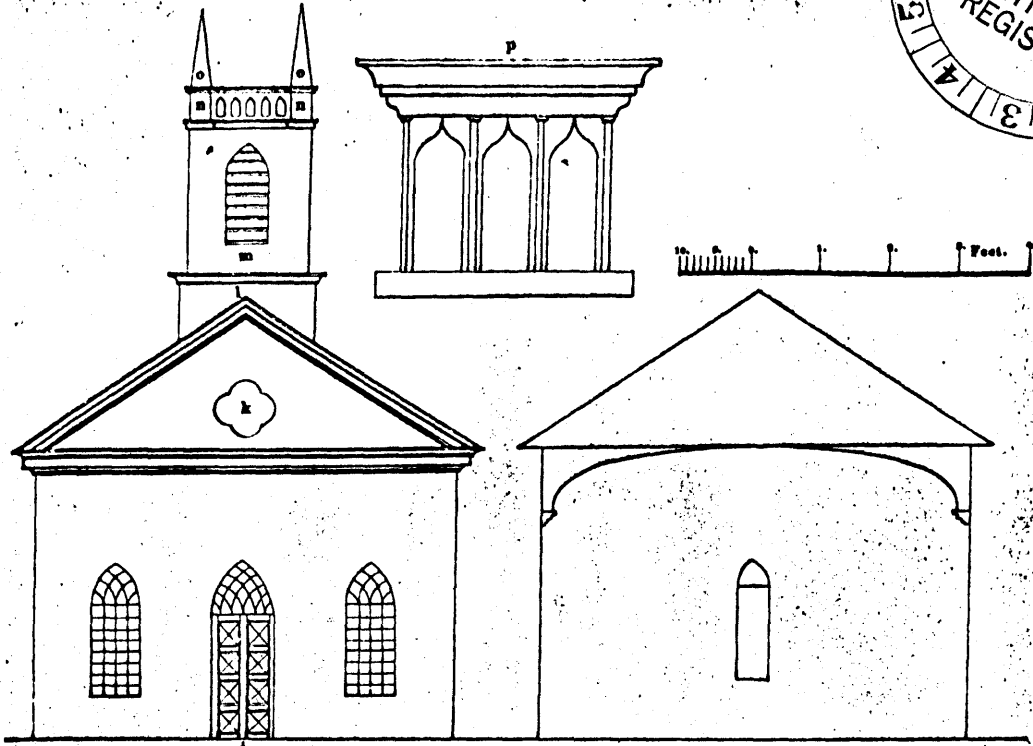
|                         |                    |
|-------------------------|--------------------|
| STATE<br><b>INDIANA</b> |                    |
| COUNTY<br><b>COUNTY</b> |                    |
| FOR NPS USE ONLY        |                    |
| ENTRY NUMBER            | DATE               |
|                         | <b>JUL 10 1973</b> |

(Number all entries)

- (1) Indiana Journal (Indianapolis) Nov. 17, 1878, p. 3, Col. 4
- (1) Little Church on the Circle, pp. 52, 53, 1957, Eli Lilly, Publ. Christ Protestant Episcopal Church
- (2) Indianapolis Daily Journal, June 24, 1857, p.2, Cols. 2-4
- (2) Little Church on the Circle, p. 132, 133, and 134, Supra
- (3) Little Church on the Circle, p. 259, Supra
- (I) W. R. Holloway, Indianapolis, A Historical and Statistical Sketch of the Railroad City (Indianapolis Journal Print, 1870, p. 203)
- (II) Indiana Journal (Indianapolis) Nov. 17, 1838, p. 3, Col. 4
- (III) Little Church on the Circle, p. 108, 120, 121, Supra
- (IV) Little Church on the Circle, p. 127, Supra
- (V) Little Church on the Circle, p. 25, Supra



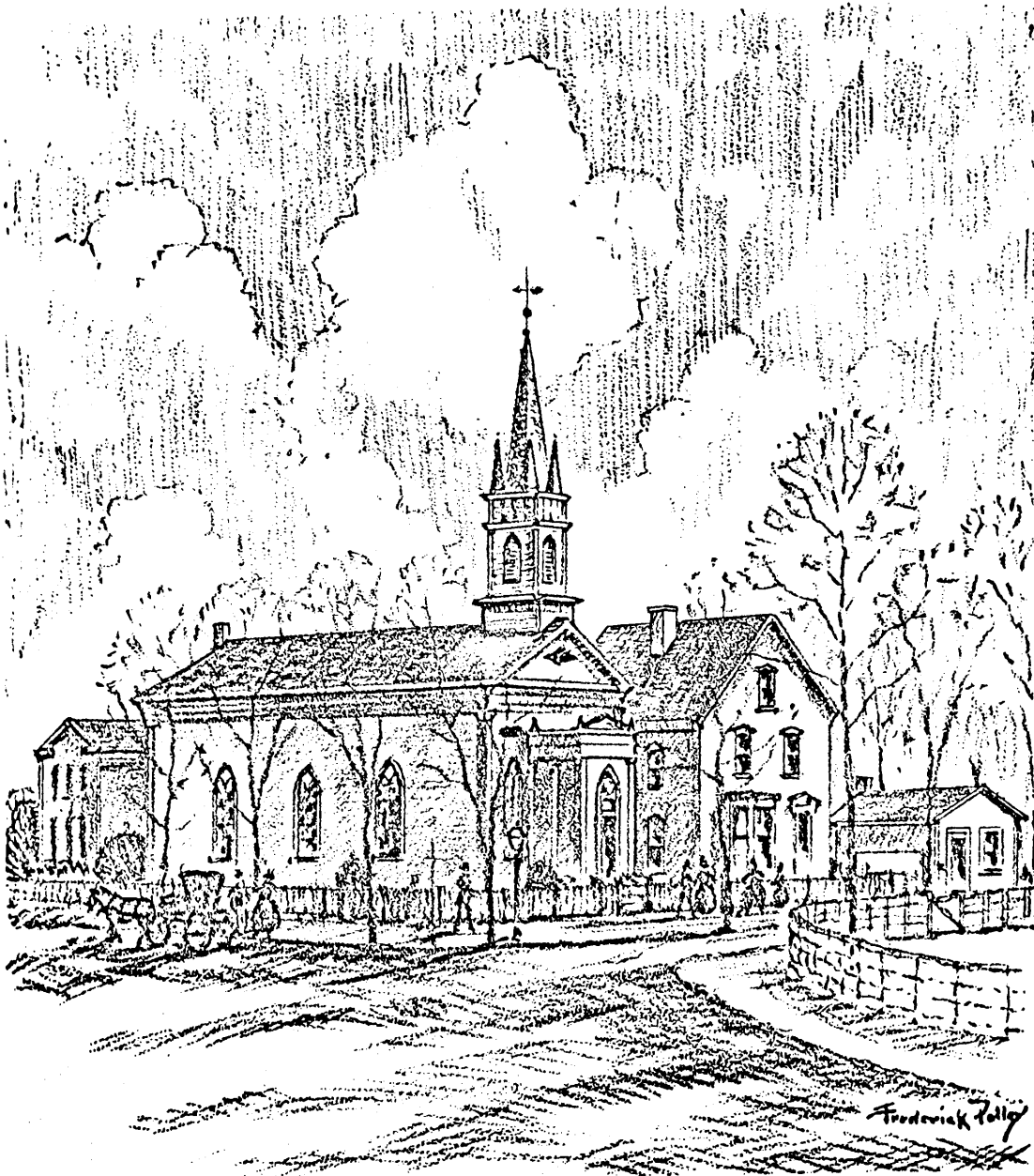
EXHIBIT "A"



PLANS THAT INSPIRED THE BUILDING OF THE FIRST CHRIST CHURCH



EXHIBIT "B"



THE EARLY CHRIST CHURCH, 1837-1857