

PH0687286

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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RECEIVED
OCT 24 1978
DATE ENTERED
DEC 22 1978

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

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC Church of the Advent, Episcopal
AND/OR COMMON same

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER 122 North Walnut St.
CITY, TOWN Cynthiana VICINITY OF 6
STATE Kentucky CODE 021 COUNTY Harrison CODE 097

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<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:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME The Church of the Advent, c/o Rev. K.E. Gustafson, Rector ✓
STREET & NUMBER 122 North Walnut
CITY, TOWN Cynthiana VICINITY OF STATE Kentucky

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Harrison County Courthouse
STREET & NUMBER Main Street
CITY, TOWN Cynthiana STATE Kentucky

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE Survey of Historic Sites in Kentucky (Supplement), 1971
DATE 1971 FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS Kentucky Heritage Commission, 104 Bridge Street
CITY, TOWN Frankfort STATE Kentucky

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Church of the Advent, Episcopal, is located on the west side of North Walnut Street in Cynthiana, Kentucky. The building is a short distance west of the commercial district, and is surrounded by residences. The edifice proper was completed in 1855, and the square tower on the northeast corner was finished in 1860. Bishop Benjamin Bosworth Smith provided the design in the form of a small model of either cardboard or wood, said to be based on Stoke-Poges Church in England.

Constructed of Harrison County limestone, the Church of the Advent is in the form of a Latin cross, the nave being seventy-five feet long and the transept sixty feet wide. The gabled facade facing North Walnut Street (see photo 1) is pierced by three narrow lancet windows. The center one is taller, but all are enveloped by projecting stonework that forms an equilateral arch. This window composition is flanked by two-tiered buttresses, and the raking eaves are treated with modest bargeboards.

The main entrance is a Tudor-arched opening on the street side of the pyramidal-roofed bell tower. The rear (see photo 2) is much like the front, and the side passage on the south has a small gabled shelter that repeats the bargeboard motif of front and rear. Stone buttresses define most bays and appear on every corner to render the building a sense of solidity.

The sanctuary (see photos 4 and 5) seats eighty-five persons and has not been altered since the turn of the century. The interior originally had one level, like the Low Episcopal churches of the Atlantic coast; the chancel was raised ca. 1899 and a continuous dado was added at the same time.

The northern half of the transept functions as the organ recess, and the oak altar was carved by women parishioners and presented to the church in 1899 (see photo 6). To the left of the altar is a lancet-shaped plaque containing the Decalogue, and to the right is another plaque containing the Apostles' Creed. The latter (see photo 7) is worded according to the 1661 Book of Common Prayer used by the Church of England, as opposed to the 1789 prayer book used by most American Episcopalians of the nineteenth century.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES

1855; 1860

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

Bishop Benjamin Bosworth Smith

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Church of the Advent, Episcopal, in Cynthiana, Kentucky, is architecturally significant as a fine adaptation of the Gothic Revival--a style traditionally deemed appropriate for churches of the Anglican Communion. Its seating capacity of eighty-five is symbolic of the religious fervor and optimism of the parish, which recorded only eleven communicants and thirty-five Sunday School pupils at the time the cornerstone was laid. The building also attains merit through its association with the Right Reverend Benjamin Bosworth Smith, a pioneer Kentucky clergyman and educator.

Harrison County is in the northern belt of Kentucky's famous Bluegrass region, and the county was settled soon after the American Revolution because of the fertility of the land. Cynthiana, the county seat, was incorporated in 1793, one year after Kentucky became a state. The earliest regular Episcopal worship services were conducted in the town in 1837 with two candidates for the priesthood serving as lay readers (Swinford and Lee, The Great Elm Tree, p. 211). A parish was formed in 1847, and in 1852 its members, who had been meeting in churches of various denominations, resolved to build their own house of worship (Ibid., p. 214). A half-acre lot on Walnut Street was purchased, and Bishop Benjamin Bosworth Smith provided a design in the form of a small model based on a church he had visited in England.

Smith, in addition to serving as the first Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Kentucky, was a leader in the fields of secular and religious education. In 1834, he established an Episcopal theological seminary in Lexington, and he was the third Superintendent of Public Instruction for the Commonwealth of Kentucky. In 1868, Smith became the ninth Presiding Bishop of the Protestant Episcopal Church in the U.S.A.

According to tradition, the church Smith had seen in England was that at Stoke-Poges made famous by Thomas Grey's poem "Elegy Written in a Country Churchyard." In their 1935 History of the Church of the Advent, Jane and Ralph Madson wrote the following:

That the model was or was not of that famous church cannot be proved from the records, but a comparison of the two churches as they stand today makes it conclusively evident that the Church of the Advent is of the general type, but by no means a faithful replica of Stoke-Poges. In the first place, the English church, like most of the very old ones, has been built in stages, frequently added to through the years. Thus there is in it an intermingling of the various types of English church architecture. There is a similarity in the towers of the two

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Madson, Jane Dunbar and Madson, George Ralph, The History of the Church of the Advent, privately printed, 1935.

Stanton, Phoebe B., The Gothic Revival and American Church Architecture, Baltimore: The Johns Hopkins Press, 1968.

~~Srinford, Frances Keller, and Lee, Rebecca Smith, The Great Elm Tree, Lexington, Ky. : Faith House Press, 1969.~~

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY Less than one-half acre
 UTM REFERENCES

A	1 6	7 3 5 8 6 0	4 2 5 2 4 9 0	B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C				D			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

A rectangular lot bounded by the sidewalk running parallel to North Walnut Street on the east, a driveway on the south, an imaginary line formed by the rear wall on the west, and the property line between the church and 124 North Walnut Street on the north.

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Daniel Kidd, Architectural Historian

July, 1978

ORGANIZATION

Kentucky Heritage Commission

DATE

STREET & NUMBER

104 Bridge Street

TELEPHONE

502-564-3741

CITY OR TOWN

Frankfort,

STATE

Kentucky

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

STATE

LOCAL

As the designated State Historic Preservation 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.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

Cedric W. Minton

TITLE

DATE

10-19-78

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DIRECTOR, DEPARTMENT OF TECHNOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

DATE

12/22/78

ATTEST

DATE

12/24/78

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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Church of the Advent, Episcopal
CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 2

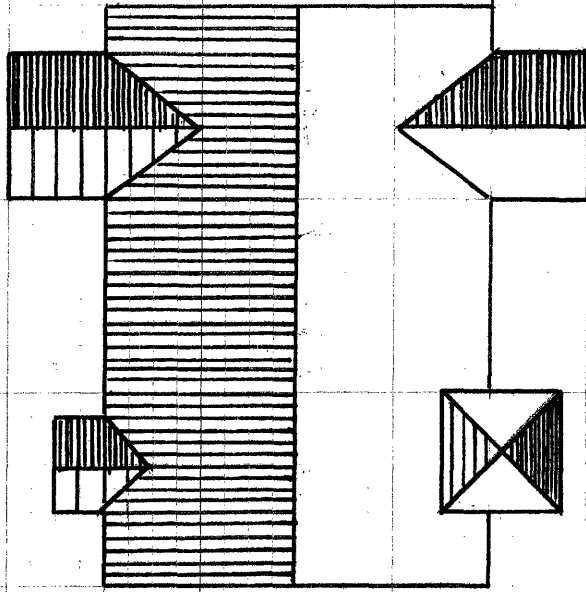
churches, although Stoke-Poges has a steeple on the tower. In Stoke-Poges there are tall, narrow windows; but they are always paired. In Stoke-Poges there is a Norman chancel arch...But the Church of the Advent has no chancel arch. The Church of the Advent is almost entirely of Early English architecture and lacks the additional types found in Stoke-Poges. (Chapter II, pages unnumbered)

There are three other Episcopal churches in Kentucky designed by Bishop Smith and bearing certain similarities to the Cynthiana church; the 1852 Church of the Ascension in Frankfort (entered on the National Register as part of the "Corner in Celebrities" Historic District, March 11, 1971), the 1860 St. Philip's Church in Harrodsburg (entered on the National Register, January 31, 1978), and the 1859-60 St. Paul's Church in Henderson (National Register nomination forwarded to Washington, D.C., May 16, 1978). The same model was apparently used for each, with modifications imposed by labor, materials available, and varying tastes among the parishes.

The Church of the Advent falls into the mainstream of architecture preferred by American Episcopalians in the nineteenth century. In The Gothic Revival and American Church Architecture, Phoebe Stanton wrote that "because of the Protestant Episcopal requirements and preferences, the Gothic Revival found widespread and refined expression in North America, taking the form there of the acceptance of the English parish church style...They [American churchmen and architects] understood the abstract, rationalistic architectural theories which accompanied reconsideration of medieval building" (pp. 311-12).

The Church of the Advent ranks as one of the finest small-scale Gothic Revival buildings in Kentucky and is considered a local landmark in Cynthiana. The stone masonry exemplifies fine workmanship, and the building achieves a dignity beyond its size through its very simplicity and tasteful proportions. The sanctuary, unaltered since the turn of the century, contains the correct interior fittings for a Low Episcopal church and is related to the exterior through its chasteness and through its relations of elements.

Bishop Smith called the cornerstone-laying "'a signal event' in the growth of the diocese [of Kentucky]," adding, "By the great liberality of a very few friends, it promises to be one of the neatest and most complete of our small churches and the first in the diocese constructed of stone" (Madson and Madson, Chap. II). During the consecration service in 1860, he described the building as "a charming little church... [which] affords almost the first example of an improved taste in grading, inclosing [sic], and ornamenting the grounds around the church" (Ibid., Chap. II).



CHURCH OF THE ADVENT, EPISCOPAL
CYNTHIANA, HARRISON COUNTY, KENTUCKY

ROOF PLAN
NO SCALE

