

PH0000922

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

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE:
Connecticut

COUNTY:
Hartford

FOR NPS USE ONLY

ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
70-10-09-0028	10/15/70

1. NAME

COMMON:
Trinity Church

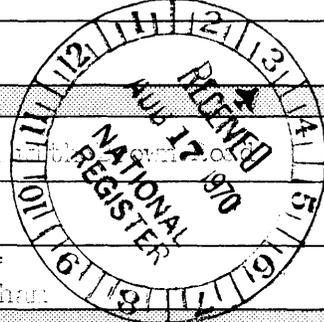
AND/OR HISTORIC:
Trinity Church

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
East side of Church St, opposite to junction with

CITY OR TOWN:
Brooklyn

STATE: Connecticut CODE: 06234 COUNTY: Hartford CODE: 06



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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	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"/> Government	<input type="checkbox"/> Park	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	<input type="checkbox"/> Comments
<input type="checkbox"/> Commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> Industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Educational	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Religious		
<input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Scientific		

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
Trinity Episcopal Church

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: Brooklyn STATE: Connecticut CODE: 06

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:
Town Hall

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: Brooklyn STATE: Connecticut CODE: 06

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:
Connecticut Historic Structures and Landmarks Survey

DATE OF SURVEY: 1966 Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:
Connecticut Historical Commission

STREET AND NUMBER:
75 Elm Street

CITY OR TOWN: Hartford STATE: Connecticut CODE: 06

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: Connecticut
COUNTY: Hartford
ENTRY NUMBER: 70-10-09-0028
DATE: 10/15/70
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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 type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

This church appears to be practically unchanged inside and out. Except for lower few courses and wooden water table recently replaced, clapboards are either original or very old, with shived joints, fastened with hand-wrought nails, thickly crusted with many coats of paint. Window frames and wide-suntined sash seem also original. Pedimented front entry, however, seems also to have been replaced along with paneled double front door. Inside, the box pews with paneled doors and backs, and the balconies with paneled fronts, as seen through a window, appear to be original. Present window shutters with movable louvres and wooden fans over balcony window arches are obvious late 19th century additions which poorly fit the openings to which they are applied.¹ The vertical strips running from sill of lower to head of upper windows on either side of each set, seem to have been placed solely to provide fastening for these shutters.

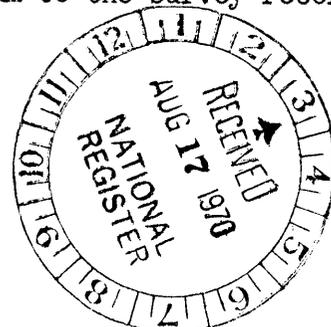
The Connecticut Historic Structures and Landmarks Survey, 1966.

The building is 46 x 30 feet, has a hewn oak frame with a hipped roof X and arched two-story windows. All the exterior trim is precise and handsome Georgian work.

In the interior most of Malbone's church furniture remains, although somewhat rearranged. The box pews rise some 4 feet from the alley floor, and each has a paneled door on H iron hinges. The original reading desk and pulpit are still used though the altar has been replaced. The proportions of the clear glass windows and the galleries suggest the cool interior of St. Paul's, Covent Garden.

Garvan, Anthony H.B., Architecture and Town Planning in Colonial Connecticut, (New Haven: Yale University Press, 1951), p. 145.

¹ The shutters and the vertical strips which were their fastenings have been removed recently, so that the exterior of the church has returned now to its original appearance (Addendum to the survey record for Old Trinity, July 1970).



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

8. SIGNIFICANCE

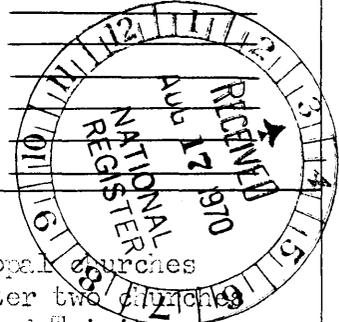
PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

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

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) 1771

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)
<u>Social History</u> |
| <input 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 | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | <input type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Military | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | | |



STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Old Trinity Church is one of the oldest Episcopal churches now standing in the United States. It was modeled after two churches designed by Peter Harrison—King's Chapel in Boston, and Trinity Church in Newport, Rhode Island. It exemplifies the refinement characteristic of the distinguished architectural designs of Harrison, whose work preceded that of Thomas Jefferson by almost a generation, and whose classicism provided a paradigm of good taste in the colonies.

The controversy which preceded the construction of the church shows how internal theological differences enriched the religious architecture of the colonies. The church was primarily the work of Godfrey Malbone. Malbone was an Anglican and a royalist who had been driven by misfortune from Newport in 1766. When he found himself about to be bound to pay two hundred pounds for the construction of a Puritan church in nearby Pomfret he sought the aid of other Anglicans in the community.¹ Malbone paid most of the costs of erecting Old Trinity and supplied the slave laborers who built it. The site of the church was donated by Azariah Adams.

A bronze plaque on the front of the church reads in part:

Trinity Church, the Oldest Episcopal Church now standing in the oldest diocese in the United States, in which Samuel Seabury of Connecticut was the first bishop. Built in 1771 here in his manor Kingswood, largely by Colonel Godfrey Malbone (Coxon) and modeled after Trinity Church Newport, Rhode Island, under which his father was buried, and Kings Chapel, Boston, Mass. where his wife's family, the Brinleys had been among the earliest worshippers and where Shrimpton Hutchinson, who married his sister, had been one of the wardens and who is also buried here. The use of the new church in the village superceded this in 1866.

The tablet was placed in 1921 to commemorate the 150th anniversary of the building. Ever since the hundredth anniversary there has been a service at the church on All Saints' Day. At present adequate funds provide for perpetual upkeep of the exterior.

¹At Fulham Palace, London, the archives contain a "Protest of Mr. Malbone and others against the Determination to Build a New Meeting house at Pomfret in Connecticut. From Crofut, p. 835.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

F. S. Marcy Crofut, Guide to the History and the Historic Sites of Connecticut. Volume II. New Haven: Yale University Press, 1937.

Garvan, Anthony, H.B. Architecture and Town Planning in Colonial Connecticut. New Haven: Yale University Press, 1951.

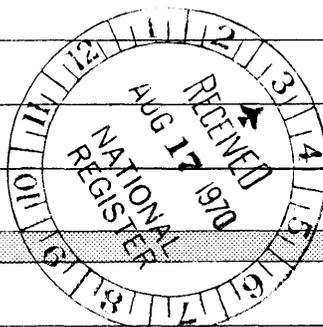
10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			OR	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	° ' "	° ' "		41° 37' 59"	71° 55' 28"	
NE	° ' "	° ' "				
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 2

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



11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
Constance Luyster, Administrative Trainee

ORGANIZATION: Connecticut Historical Commission DATE: 3/19/70

STREET AND NUMBER:
75 Elm Street

CITY OR TOWN: Hartford STATE: Connecticut CODE: 06

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 [Signature]
State Liaison Officer and Chairman
Title Connecticut Historical Commission
Date March 19, 1970

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

[Signature]
Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date [Signature]

ATTEST:
[Signature]
Keeper of The National Register
Date SEP 25 1970

SEE INSTRUCTIONS