

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED APR 28 1975
DATE ENTERED JUN 20 1975

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

1 NAME

HISTORIC
Trinity Episcopal Church
AND/OR COMMON
Trinity Episcopal Church

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER
400 North Sibley Avenue
CITY, TOWN
Litchfield
STATE
Minnesota
VICINITY OF
CODE
27
COUNTY
Meeker
CODE
093
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT
Sixth
NOT FOR PUBLICATION

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL
			<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY
			<input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
			<input type="checkbox"/> PARK
			<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
			<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
			<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
			<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME
Trinity Episcopal Church
STREET & NUMBER
400 North Sibley Avenue
CITY, TOWN
Litchfield
STATE
Minnesota
VICINITY OF

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.
Registry of Deeds, Meeker County Courthouse
STREET & NUMBER
325 North Sibley Avenue
CITY, TOWN
Litchfield
STATE
Minnesota
VICINITY OF

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE
Statewide Historic Sites Survey
DATE
1972
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS
Minnesota Historical Society
CITY, TOWN
Bldg. #25, Fort Snelling; Saint Paul
STATE
Minnesota
FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

EXCELLENT
 GOOD
 FAIR

DETERIORATED
 RUINS
 UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

UNALTERED
 ALTERED
slightly

CHECK ONE

ORIGINAL SITE
 MOVED DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

A wooden church in the board-and-batten style which was the trademark of the Episcopal church in the 1850s - 1870s. The original church consisted of nave and chancel, north transept, and a shed-roofed vestry attached to the north side of the chancel. A parish school house was built at the same time immediately to the east of the church and a rectory a block and a half to the west. The south transept and the bell tower were added later, but closely match the original work.

The chancel consists of two 10' bays with a width of about 18'. The nave is of three 17' bays with a width of 26'. The west wall is 3' beyond the third truss, so the nave is about 54' long.

The structure consists of arch-braced trusses, having a 60° slope, of notable grace and simplicity. The straight members are solid, but the arched bracing is of boards concealing rather inadequate knee braces, for which reason a tie rod was inserted in the middle truss in 1931. The trusses are tied together longitudinally by a heavily-molded plate ten feet from the floor, and by chamfered purlins. The exposed edges of the trusses are chamfered: the chamfers are stained red and the arched soffits black. The arches terminate on boldly molded brackets.

The exterior walls have a strongly architectural treatment. A horizontal band at window-sill height divides the board-and-batten upper walls from the lower weather-boarded wainscot. This is divided into panels by continuing the window casings and mullions down to the ground sill; the panel beneath each window is embellished with crossed boards.

In the interior, the walls are plastered, with a wide chair rail at window sill height echoing the exterior treatment. The roof rafters are faced with beaded ceiling boards, stained and varnished. The side window in the nave are in pairs, with trefoiled square heads. Originally there was a triple lancet in the chancel and a pair of lancets in the west end. These were later replaced by the pointed triangular window above the reredos and by the large west window with simple wood tracery of interlaced mullions. There are four dormers with bracketed hoods in the roof, although one is now concealed by the tower.

All the original furnishings were made of pine to the architect's designs. The altar was replaced at the turn of the century, but the pews, choir stalls, sedilia and bishop's chair remained until they were replaced in the 1950s. Three of the old pews can be found in the parish hall wing; the rest were taken to the chapel at the Cass Lake Episcopal camp. Identical furnishings can be seen in situ, however, in the little Episcopal chapel on the north shore of Chearwater Lake near Annandale, which is contemporary with Trinity Church and of the same provenance.

The parish school, now incorporated into the parish hall, a few feet to the east of the church and connected to it, was a simpler echo of the church. It was about 23' wide by 28' long, with a matching steep roof carried on two simple trusses which still exist above the present flat ceiling. It is possible that the triple lancet windows in the west wall were the original chancel windows. The parish hall lacks architectural sophistication and probably was not designed by the architect.

(see continuation sheet)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	APR 28 1975
DATE ENTERED	JUN 20 1975

Trinity Episcopal Church

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 1

The original rectory, a block and a half to the west, is now privately owned. In its long roofline and narrow dormers it resembles, though perhaps accidentally, Richard Upjohn's Garrison, N.Y. home.

The first pipe organ had been originally at Christ Church in St. Paul and was reputed to be the first pipe organ in the state, or at least in the diocese. However, it was soon replaced by a Hook & Hastings tracker-action organ from Boston, which stood in the south transept. It in turn was replaced in 1946 by the present instrument in the north transept.

Stretching its successive elements more than 120' along the north side of Central Park, Trinity Church largely retains its original appearance. The hip-roofed south transept does not interrupt visually the repeated ridge lines of the nave, the chancel and, after an interval, the old school. The horizontal composition is terminated and punctuated toward the west end by the three-story bell tower with its gabled roof. The only discordant note is the high roof which was built in recent years between the church and the school. This fills in the essential gap between the two elements and, further, covers the east wall of the chancel and its window. It is to be hoped that this roof will some day be removed, restoring the original appearance.

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 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 1871 BUILDER/ARCHITECT Richard Upjohn 2.

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Trinity Church, Litchfield, is an excellent example of the wooden Gothic of the early second half of the nineteenth century. It is a sophisticated architectonic work of grace and dignity and entirely without gingerbread.

The parish minutes record that the architect's fee was \$140, which was 4% of the contract price of \$3,500 for the church. (The parish school cost \$934.91.) The money for its construction came largely from its famous namesake in New York City, for which Richard Upjohn had been the architect. Furthermore, he had designed in the 1850s the Brooklyn home of the Litchfield family, for whom the town was named. These circumstances, plus the evidently superior design, indicate that he was the unnamed architect. If so, it should be considered one of his last and finest works. It should be carefully protected and preserved, and in addition it would be well if it were to be recorded in photographs and measured drawings.

