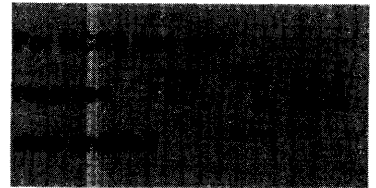


**United States Department of the Interior  
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**



**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 Gethsemane Episcopal Church

and/or common Gethsemane Episcopal Church

**2. Location**

street & number 901-905 <sup>4th</sup> ~~Fourth~~ Avenue <sup>S</sup> South N/A not for publication

city, town Minneapolis N/A vicinity of congressional district Fifth

state Minnesota code 22 county Hennepin code 053

**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 type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational	<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<u>N/A</u> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

**4. Owner of Property**

name Gethsemane Episcopal Church

street & number 901 Fourth Avenue South

city, town Minneapolis N/A vicinity of state Minnesota

**5. Location of Legal Description**

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Registry of Deeds, Hennepin County Government Center

street & number 300 South Sixth Street

city, town Minneapolis state Minnesota

**6. Representation in Existing Surveys**

title N/A has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

date N/A N/A federal N/A state N/A county N/A local

depository for survey records N/A

city, town N/A state N/A

## 7. Description

<b>Condition</b>		<b>Check one</b>	<b>Check one</b>
<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 <u>          N/A          </u>
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

### Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Gethsemane Episcopal Church is located at 901 Fourth Avenue South near the edge of Minneapolis' downtown business district. The Gothic Revival style church, completed in 1884, was designed by Edward S. Stebbins, a prominent local architect.

The one storey building is constructed of limestone and has a steeply pitched multi-gable roof. Patterned stonework decorates upper gable ends. A two storey bell tower, with crenelated cap, occupies the northwest corner of the church. Entry doors at the tower base are set into gothic arches. The primary facade has a projecting gabled entry bay with a stained glass rose window above. Other windows in the church are en-framed in various shapes and filled with stained glass lights set into wooden muntins.

Obvious exterior alterations to the church include the infilling of two openings on the north facade and the west entry door in the tower. The double entry doors in the primary facade appear to be replacements.

A Parish House connects, through an enclosed passage, to the church on the south side. The two storey building, constructed in 1895, has undergone extensive alterations. In 1926, the front portion of the building was demolished and a new section was constructed.

The interior of the church is furnished throughout in polished white oak. The open truss beamed roof rises to a central peak above the nave. Truss ends are decorated with a carved floral design -- a motif repeated throughout the interior. The open plan allows unhampered vision to the sanctuary and altar which is separated from the nave by an elaborately carved rood screen. The screen was installed about 1920. A stained glass window above the altar depicts the Garden of Gethsemane. The window, designed by Louis B. Tiffany, was installed in 1895.

# 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 checked="" 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** 1883–84 /**Architect** Edward S. Stebbins

**Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)**

The Gethsemane Episcopal Church is significant for its Gothic Revival architectural style and for its importance as one of the oldest surviving churches in Minneapolis. The church, completed in 1884, is located at the edge of the City's downtown business district. The area surrounding the church has changed over the decades from its earlier, primarily residential nature, to its current commercial status. The church, having retained remarkable architectural integrity, represents a link with the nineteenth century in both design and location. The Episcopal parish was first organized in 1856 and within the year the congregation had built their first church. The earlier church (now razed) was the first building in Minneapolis constructed solely for religious purposes. By 1881, the congregation had expanded and a plan to erect a new church was implemented. The design for Gethsemane Church was executed by Edward S. Stebbins, a locally prominent architect. Stebbin's prototype for the design was based on the small English Gothic style parish churches found in rural England. The diminutive scale which emphasized broad rather than tall proportions and the crenelated square tower without a spire was an unusual design for local churches built during the late nineteenth century. The style did not gain popularity until the early part of the following century and then church proportions were generally larger. The interior of Gethsemane features an open truss roof plan, also unusual for the period, and fine stained glass windows, including the Garden of Gethsemane, designed by Louis B. Tiffany.

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

Minnesota Historic Properties Inventory Form: "Gethsemane Episcopal Church". Prepared by Douglas G. Kreidler, Sept, 1980.

Jones, Ruth E. Gethsemane Church: 125 years. N.P. April, 1981. (See Cont. Sheet, P. 5)

# 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property Less than one

Quadrangle name Minneapolis South

Quadrangle scale 7.5

### UMT References

A 

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4	9	7	9	7	0	0
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Zone Easting Northing

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Zone Easting Northing

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### Verbal boundary description and justification

Lot 11 and northwesterly 46 feet of Lot 10 Block 7 Snyder and Company 1st addition.

### List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state N/A code N/A county N/A code N/A

state N/A code N/A county N/A code N/A

# 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Camille Kudzia

City of Minneapolis

organization Heritage Preservation Commission

date March, 1982

street & number 210 City Hall

telephone 612-346-6655

city or town Minneapolis

state Minnesota

# 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 Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

*Russell W. Fridley*

Russell W. Fridley

title State Historic Preservation Officer

date

1/30/84

For HCRS use only

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

*for Aloua Byer*  
Keeper of the National Register

Entered in the  
National Register

date

3/8/84

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

Gethsemane Episcopal Church, Minneapolis, Hennepin County, MN

**CONTINUATION SHEET**

ITEM NUMBER 9 PAGE 5

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Torbert, Donald. "Minneapolis Architecture and Architects 1848-1908:  
A Study in Style Trends in Architecture in a Midwestern City." Ph.D. Thesis  
University of Minnesota, 1951.