

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED NOV 1 1976  
DATE ENTERED APR 13 1977NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORMSEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*  
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS**1 NAME**

HISTORIC Holy Trinity Hellenic Orthodox Church

AND/OR COMMON

Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church (preferred)

**2 LOCATION**

STREET &amp; NUMBER

Lewis Street

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Lowell

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

5th Massachusetts

STATE

Massachusetts

VICINITY OF

025

COUNTY

Middlesex

CODE

017

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

## CATEGORY

 DISTRICT  
 BUILDING(S)  
 STRUCTURE  
 SITE  
 OBJECT

## OWNERSHIP

 PUBLIC  
 PRIVATE  
 BOTH

## PUBLIC ACQUISITION

 IN PROCESS  
 BEING CONSIDERED

## STATUS

 OCCUPIED  
 UNOCCUPIED  
 WORK IN PROGRESS

## ACCESSIBLE

 YES: RESTRICTED  
 YES: UNRESTRICTED  
 NO

## PRESENT USE

 AGRICULTURE  
 COMMERCIAL  
 EDUCATIONAL  
 ENTERTAINMENT  
 GOVERNMENT  
 INDUSTRIAL  
 MILITARY  
 MUSEUM  
 PARK  
 PRIVATE RESIDENCE  
 RELIGIOUS  
 SCIENTIFIC  
 TRANSPORTATION  
 OTHER**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**NAME Holy Trinity Hellenic Orthodox Church  
President, Board of Directors

STREET &amp; NUMBER

Lewis Street

CITY, TOWN

Lowell

VICINITY OF

STATE

Massachusetts 01852

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Middlesex County Registry of Deeds, North District

STREET &amp; NUMBER

Gorham Street

CITY, TOWN

Lowell

STATE

Massachusetts

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE Inventory of the Historic Assets of the Commonwealth

DATE

1975

 FEDERAL  STATE  COUNTY  LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

Massachusetts Historical Commission

CITY, TOWN

Boston

STATE

Massachusetts

# 7 DESCRIPTION

## CONDITION

EXCELLENT  
 GOOD  
 FAIR

DETERIORATED  
 RUINS  
 UNEXPOSED

## CHECK ONE

UNALTERED  
 ALTERED

## CHECK ONE

ORIGINAL SITE  
 MOVED DATE \_\_\_\_\_

### DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Holy Trinity Church is sited at the corner of Lewis and Jefferson Streets in the "Acre" neighborhood of Lowell. The Greek Orthodox church's urban location is reinforced by its siting on the lot. The church is built contiguous to the sidewalks of Lewis and Jefferson Streets. It is surrounded on three sides by North Common Village (1937-1940). The first public housing project in Massachusetts, the village is composed of 2 story multi-unit buildings sited amidst ample green space inspired by the "Greenbelt" movement of that period. To the west of the church, across Jefferson Street, is Western Canal (1830) (NR 1976; Locks and Canals Historic District). On the other side of the canal is Suffolk Street and facing Holy Trinity, across the streets and canal, is St. Patrick's Roman Catholic Church (organized 1830; this structure constructed c. 1853), the first Catholic church in Lowell. The streets and canal banks were recent targets of a "Model Cities" financed beautification program; this entailed intensive and compatible plantings, lighting and walkways.

The plan of the church is a Greek cross with ridge roofs. The load bearing walls are built of yellow-toned brick. Above the crossing of the nave is a gilded dome set on a 16 sided base and drum of the same yellow-toned brick. In each of the 16 sections of the drum is a round arched window, with dripstone molding. Atop the dome is a gilded cross. The facade faces southeast onto Lewis Street. It is composed of two square bell towers joined by a round arched bridge. Above the bridge is a triangular pediment with a Greek cross atop its apex. The towers are divided into three stages by two limestone string courses. One is at an implied first floor/second floor line; the other is at the impost of the arch. In the second stage of the towers are rectangular windows with brick jackarch lintels. Atop each of the towers is an octagonal enclosed bell cupola. The cupolas have Byzantine columns at the corners. The columns support round arches which in turn support ridged, gilded domes. The towers and bridge create a deeply recessed, round arched space, which houses the entrance to the narthex. This space is framed by three stage buttresses. Filling this space, at the ground level, is a pedimented porch with a round arch, set on square Byzantine columns and pilasters. This entrance porch echoes the forms of the larger space in which it is situated.

The side elevations are simple brick planes with the same string courses as the facade. On the elevations, where the cross projects, are tri-partite long round arched windows. The entire structure rises from a 4' base of projecting courses of brick capped by a limestone watertable.

The interior space is dominated by the dome. The simple finishing of the walls is ornamented by symbolic mural decoration in Renaissance style. These murals were executed by the German artist G. Rinkel. The altar is screened by an elaborate ikonostasion. Suspended from the dome is a large crystal chandelier. Above the narthex is a choirloft. In 1940 a fire damaged the northern end of the interior.

1935 witnessed the first pews and organ to be installed in the church. The original pews were replaced in 1951. A renovation of the interior was undertaken in 1965; the murals were repaired and the icons were regilded.

# 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 checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input checked="" 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 1906

BUILDER/ARCHITECT Henry L. Rourke

### STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Holy Trinity Church is significant as the first structure built to house Greek Orthodox worship in the United States and for the central role it played in the development of the Greek community in New England. Architecturally, it is significant as a rare example of a Byzantine-derived style.

Greeks began arriving in Lowell in large numbers in the 1890's. In 1894 the community organized a society called "The Washington-Acropolis" to perpetuate Greek traditions and religion, and a priest was secured to minister to religious needs. This was the fourth Greek orthodox community organized in the United States, following within one or two years the communities in New York and Chicago; the New Orleans church was the earliest, established in 1865. The church was incorporated in 1900, plans were initiated in 1901, and construction of this structure began in 1906. A Lowell architect, Henry L. Rourke, was hired. Rourke had visited the Aiga Sophia in Constantinople (Istanbul), and the parishioners requested a Byzantine structure based on that model.

Life in Lowell was difficult for the Greek community. Faced with an alien culture and language, the church became a natural center for the emerging community. The Greeks were a part of a continuing process of exploitation of successive immigrant groups by the textile mill owners. This church served as a symbol of unity and permanence in an often hostile environment. In 1909 the parish began the first Greek school in the area in the church basement. The school was later moved to separate facilities.

In 1918, the very Reverend Panaretos G. Anagnos-Topoulos, Pastor of Holy Trinity, died during the influenza epidemic, acquired while ministering to his parishioners.

In 1920 creditors threatened to seize the church; the parishioners gathered at the doors and offered money, jewelry (even wedding bands) to raise \$16,000 in a single day. In 1934, at the depth of the Depression, the church was again threatened by seizure. This time Christos Laganas, a shoe industrialist, made a personal payment of \$13,000. The community eventually repaid him.

The political turmoil in Greece during the 1920's had effects in Lowell. On December 28, 1924, Metropolitan Vasilios proclaimed Lowell as his See and himself as Archbishop, with Holy Trinity as the Cathedral of the Independent Royalist Communities of the United States and Canada. Members of the community who sympathized with the Venitzelious (Republicans) left and established a new parish. In 1929 Archbishop Vasilios returned to Greece at the call of the Holy Synod of Greece. Holy Trinity rejoined the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of North and South America.

## 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Gialopsos, Rev. Phillip G.; The History of the Greek Orthodox Community of "Holy Trinity" Records of the Holy Trinity Church  
 Coburn, Frederick; History of Lowell, Lowell Historical Society, Lowell:1920.  
 Kanoutsos, Seraphim; The Life of the Greek Communities in America, Holy Trinity, Lowell: 1911.  
 Kengott, George; The Record of a City, MacMillan, New York: 1912.  
 Lowell Daily Sun (1906-1908)

## 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 1/6 acre (6400sq.ft.)

UTM REFERENCES

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

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

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

Joseph R. Orfant, National Register Editor & Lewis T. Karabatsos, Lowell Museum

ORGANIZATION

Massachusetts Historical Commission

STREET & NUMBER

294 Washington Street

CITY OR TOWN

Boston

Asst. Director

DATE

26 October 1976

TELEPHONE

617-727-8470

STATE

Massachusetts

## 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

*Elizabeth Reed Armandon*

TITLE Executive Director, Massachusetts Historical Commission DATE

10/26/76

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

CHIEF DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

DATE

4/13/77

ATTEST:

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

3. 18. 77

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	NOV 1 1976
DATE ENTERED	APR 13 1977

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER

PAGE

Holy Trinity Hellenic Orthodox Church

8

page two

The Holy Trinity Church Orthodox Church was built by the donations of salaries and family heirlooms or immigrant laborers. It stands today as the center of one of the most active and thriving Greek communities in America. Unchanged over the years, it is a symbol of the devotion and labors of the early Greek immigrants.

Property Holy Trinity <sup>Greek</sup> ~~Hellenic~~ Orthodox Church

Middlesex

State Mass. Working Number 11.1.76.4418

**TECHNICAL**

**CONTROL**

Photos 3  
Maps 1

KP  
OK 11.1.76

**HISTORIAN**  
accept  
B. Grosvenor  
11/16/76

**ARCHITECTURAL HISTORIAN**

Accept  
M. J. Hurty  
12-4-76

**ARCHEOLOGIST**

**OTHER**

**HAER**

Inventory \_\_\_\_\_  
Review \_\_\_\_\_

**REVIEW UNIT CHIEF**

Accept  
Cole  
2.21.77  
actual  
**BRANCH CHIEF**

**KEEPER**

Keeney  
for Inventory  
3.18.77

National Register Write-up \_\_\_\_\_  
Federal Register Entry 5-3-77

Send-back \_\_\_\_\_  
Re-submit \_\_\_\_\_

Entered APR 13 1977

INT:2106-74



Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church  
Lowell, MA.  
1976

Andrew Drenas  
Holy Trinity Church, Lewis Street, Lowell  
Massachusetts 01852.

Photograph #1 *013*

Looking northwest across Lewis Street towards  
the church facade.

*DOE* APR 13 1977

NOV 1 1976

PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

Com - Pics

Color Photographers  
190 MIDDLE STREET  
LOWELL, MASSACHUSETTS 01852



Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church  
Lowell, MA.

1976

Andrew Drenas

Holy Trinity Church, Lewis Street, Lowell,  
Massachusetts 01852

Photograph #2 *of 3*

Looking northeast across the intersection of  
Jefferson & Lewis Streets towards the church  
facade and west elevation

APR 13 1977

NOV 1 1976

PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

Com - Pics  
Color Photographers  
190 MIDDLE STREET  
LOWELL, MASSACHUSETTS 01852

HT-3



PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

HT-2

Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church  
Lowell, MA.

1976

Andrew Drenas

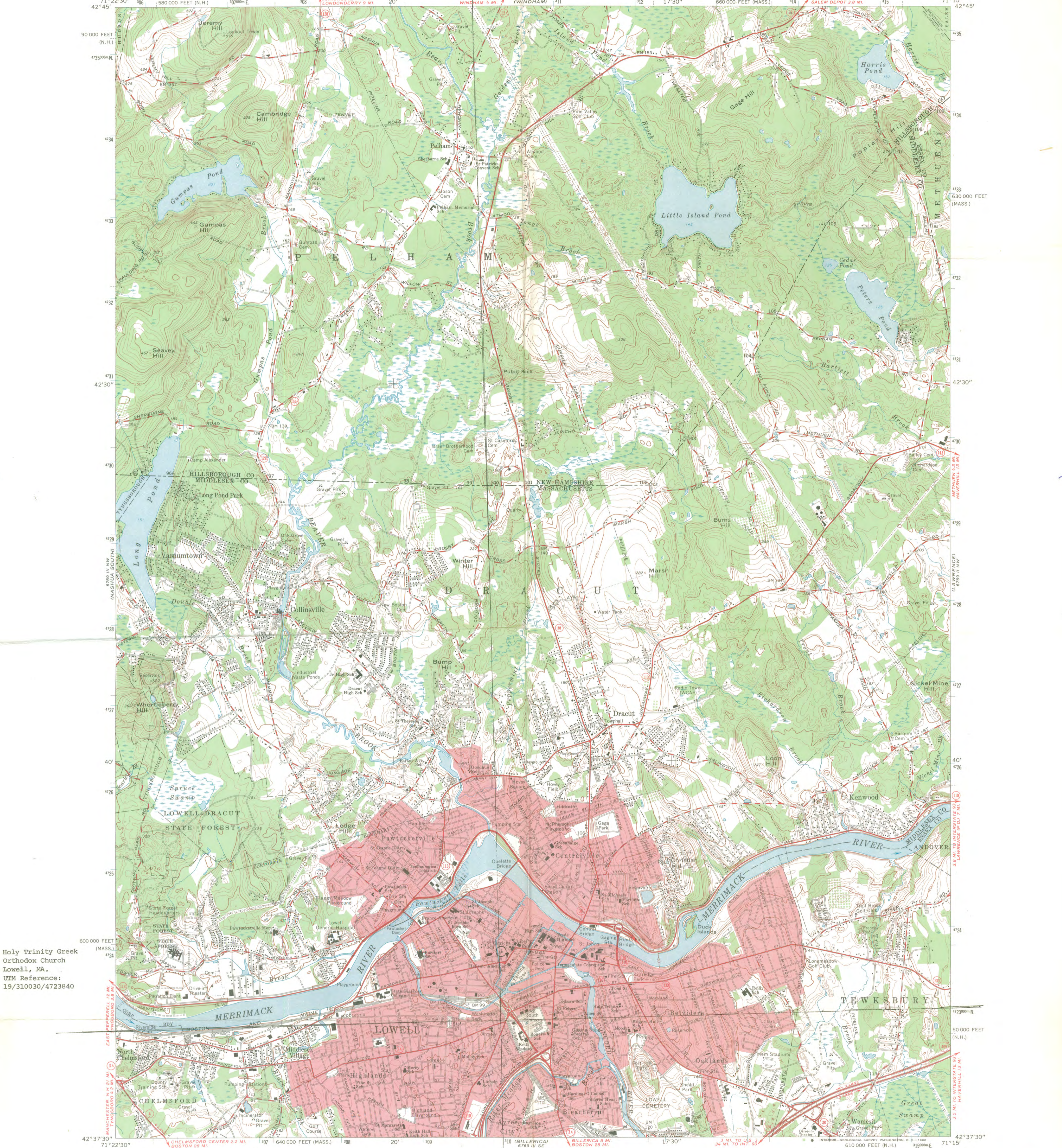
Holy Trinity Church, Lewis Street, Lowell,  
Massachusetts 01852

Photograph #3 *13*

Looking north in the church interior

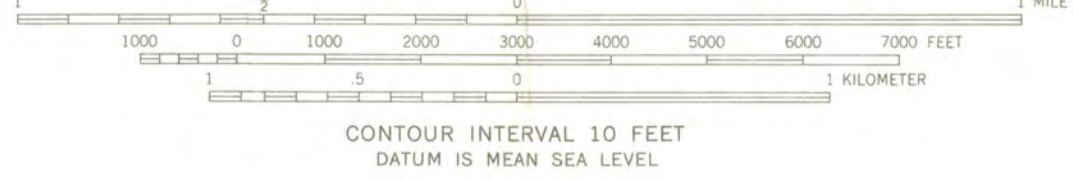
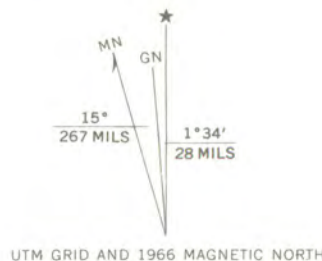
00E APR 13 1977 NOV 1 1976

Com - Pics  
Color Photographers  
190 MIDDLE STREET  
LOWELL, MASSACHUSETTS 01852



Holy Trinity Greek  
Orthodox Church  
Lowell, MA.  
UTM Reference:  
19/310030/4723840

Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey  
Control by USGS, USC&GS, and Massachusetts Geodetic Survey  
Topography by planetable surveys 1939 and 1944. Revised 1966  
Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum  
10,000-foot grids based on Massachusetts coordinate system,  
mainland zone, and New Hampshire coordinate system  
1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks,  
zone 19, shown in blue  
Red tint indicates areas in which only landmark buildings are shown



ROAD CLASSIFICATION  
Heavy-duty ——— Light-duty ———  
Medium-duty ——— Unimproved dirt ———  
Interstate Route    Slate Route

THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS  
FOR SALE BY U. S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, WASHINGTON, D. C. 20242  
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

LOWELL, MASS.—N. H.  
N4237.5—W7115.7/5

1966  
AMS 6769 III NE—SERIES V814



ENTRIES IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

STATE MASSACHUSETTS

Date Entered APR 13 1977

<u>Name</u>	<u>Location</u>
Great Stone Dam	Lawrence vicinity Essex County
Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church	Lowell Middlesex County
Chandler, General Samuel, House	Lexington Middlesex County

Also Notified

Hon. Edward M. Kennedy  
Hon. Edward W. Brooke  
Hon. Paul Tsongas

Regional Director, North Atlantic  
Region

State Historic Preservation Officer  
Mrs. Elizabeth R. Anadon  
Executive Director, Massachusetts  
Historical Commission  
294 Washington Street  
Boston, Massachusetts 02108

# NR Data Sheet

DATE: 11/15/76  
Reviewer INITIALS: B6  
NR DOE APR 13 1977

NAME AS IT APPEARS IN FEDERAL REGISTER: Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church

OTHER NAMES: Holy Trinity Hellenic Orthodox Church

## LOCATION:

STREET & NUMBER Lewis St.

CITY, TOWN Lowell

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT 5th

STATE Massachusetts 25

VICINITY OF

COUNTY Middlesex  
code 017

OWNER OF PROPERTY: (Circle) PRIVATE STATE LOCAL GOV'T MUNICIPAL COUNTY OTHER

ADMINISTRATOR (underline)

FEDERAL (AGENCY NAME):

NPS REGION: (CIRCLE) N. ATLANTIC MID ATLANTIC SOUTHEAST MIDWEST

SOUTHWEST ROCKY MOUNTAIN WEST PACIFIC NORTHWEST

## FEATURES:

<u>INTERIOR</u>	<u>EXTERIOR</u>	<u>ENVIRONS</u>
- Substantially intact-1	- Substantially intact-2	- Substantially intact-3
- unknown - 4	- unknown - 5	- unknown - 6
- not applicable - 7	- not applicable - 8	- Not applicable-9

- Interior, exterior, environs not intact-0

CONDITION -	<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
	<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED	<input type="checkbox"/> Reconstructed	<input type="checkbox"/> Unknown
		<input type="checkbox"/> Unexcavated	<input type="checkbox"/> Excavated	

ACCESS -  Yes-restricted Yes-unrestricted No access Unknown

historic district? YES  NO

WITHIN NATIONAL REGISTER HISTORIC DISTRICT? YES  NO  
IF YES, NAME:

WITHIN NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK? YES  NO  
IF YES, NAME:

ADAPTIVE USE: YES  NO Saved?  YES NO

FUNCTION(S): (use vocabulary words)

then- church

now- church

## SIGNIFICANCE:

<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> RELIGION	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW/Gov't/politics	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE	<input type="checkbox"/> health
<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN	<input type="checkbox"/> recreation
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION	<input type="checkbox"/> settlement
<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> socio/cultural
<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY		<input type="checkbox"/> urban & commun
<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT		<input type="checkbox"/> planning

## Claims

"first"  YES NO "oldest" YES NO "only" YES NO

1st structure built to house Greek Orthodox worship in US

**ARCHITECTURAL STYLE:**

architect/m.builder: *Henry L. Poulke*  
landscape/garden designer:  
interior decorator:

engineer:

artist/artisan: *G. Rinkelien - mural painter*  
builder/contractor:

**ETHNIC GROUP:** *Greek*

**NAMES:**

personal

(label role  
&  
appropriate date)

events

institutional

**DATES:**

DATE OF CONSTRUCTION (Specific date or 1/4 of century): *1906*

DATE(S) OF "MAJOR" ALTERATIONS:

HISTORICALLY SIGNIFICANT DATE(S): *1900 - present*

**SOURCE:**

(OF NOMINATION)

PRIVATE

STATE

LOCAL GOV'T

MUNICIPAL

COUNTY

OTHER

FEDERAL AGENCY:

**ACREAGE:**

(to nearest tenth of an acre)

*.2*

**COMMENTS:** (include architectural information here)

Yellow brick, 1 story, ~~cross-shape~~ cruciform with Greek Cross plan, cross gabled roof with large central ribbed gilded dome with round arched windows in drum, front center ~~recessed~~ ~~round~~ ~~on~~ ~~Pallade~~ enhance with Palladian arched enhance way set within small gabled section; 2 front corner bell towers, each surmounted by ~~flat~~ octagonal bell cupola with ~~concentric~~ round gilded ribbed domes and bases with blind concentric round arched sections pierced by circular openings. Influenced by Byzantine church designs. First structure built to house Greek Orthodox worship in U.S;

**SIGNIFICANCE:** (maximum two sentences)

*religious and cultural center for an early Greek community; area's first Greek school operated for a while in church basement (1909).*