

PH0369756

DATA SHEET

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED JUL 30 1976
DATE ENTERED APR 11 1977

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

St. Paul's Cathedral
AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

127 NW 7

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Oklahoma City

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

No. 5

STATE

Oklahoma

VICINITY OF

CODE

40

COUNTY

Oklahoma

CODE

109

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

OWNERSHIP

STATUS

PRESENT USE

DISTRICT

PUBLIC

OCCUPIED

AGRICULTURE

MUSEUM

BUILDING(S)

PRIVATE

UNOCCUPIED

COMMERCIAL

PARK

STRUCTURE

BOTH

WORK IN PROGRESS

EDUCATIONAL

PRIVATE RESIDENCE

SITE

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

ACCESSIBLE

ENTERTAINMENT

RELIGIOUS

OBJECT

IN PROCESS

YES: RESTRICTED

GOVERNMENT

SCIENTIFIC

BEING CONSIDERED

YES: UNRESTRICTED

INDUSTRIAL

TRANSPORTATION

NO

MILITARY

OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

St. Paul's Episcopal Church

STREET & NUMBER

127 NW 7

CITY, TOWN

Oklahoma City

STATE

Oklahoma

VICINITY OF

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Office of the County Clerk

STREET & NUMBER

Oklahoma County Courthouse

CITY, TOWN

Oklahoma City

STATE

Oklahoma

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Special St. Paul's Survey

DATE

1976

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS

Oklahoma Historical Society

CITY, TOWN

Oklahoma City

STATE

Oklahoma

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED (structurally)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input 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 present St. Paul's, as constructed 1903-1904, is roughly 120 feet long from the narthex on the south to the back of the chancel on the north. The nave is approximately 50 feet wide. The style is Norman Gothic and one long-time communicant once spotted an English church much like it in Cambridge.

The roof of the nave is a gable roof supported by wooden beams. There is a brick pointed arch (a working arch of solid brick) between the nave and the chancel, which is half a hexagon. Walls in the nave are white plaster; in the chancel they have been covered with imported silk fabric. The chancel has a low paneling to about eight feet of fine oak and there is an oak chancel railing, all done some 25 years after the church was built. There is also an oak rail at the beginning of the chancel and oak choir stalls.

Windows are squared off. Originally of plain glass, they have been replaced over the years with stained glass. There is a set of three windows in the top of the south gable of the nave and other windows and gables are set in the roof. In the early 1920s the large carara marble altar that now dominates the sanctuary was imported from Italy. (The original altar, built by a Swedish immigrant at his mill a few blocks from the church, is still in use at a mission in the state.) The rather fine marble pulpit was added at about the same time. The church's massive square tower, which never possessed a bell, originally had some very fine finials; as they deteriorated they were replaced by lower finials.

Except for addition of the narthex, (so carefully designed as to be indistinguishable from the original structure), the Cathedral itself has changed little on the outside. Most of its changes, as indicated, have come to the interior. In 1917 St. Paul's installed its second pipe organ, an Austin. The first, a two-manual Kimball, tubular pneumatic in operation and run by water, had been installed in the wooden church at its second location and moved to the new church in 1904. The present organ, a three-manual Aeolian-Skinner, was installed in 1957.

St. Paul's first physical expansion came in 1909 when a parish house was added to the right rear of the church. Leonard H. Bailey was architect. The gabled ell accommodated offices, kitchen and dining hall, chapel, lounge, and Sunday School classes. It was in the mid-1940s that the decision came (see No. 8) to resist moving to the suburbs and, instead, to expand the church's downtown facilities. The present two-story Sunday School building was added to the east, thus forming something of a 'U' opening onto 7th Street. The modern brick structure is stone-faced on the street to conform to the Cathedral and Chapel. The small Cloister with its brick paving and recently completed plantings rounds out the complex, gives it a warmth and informality sometimes lacking in larger churches.

In short, perhaps St. Paul's most distinguishing feature is that it looks like a church ... a relatively small, gracefully proportioned, altogether Anglican structure in a style that ante-dates the Classic Revival.

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 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 1903 to present

BUILDER/ARCHITECT Arthur J. Williams

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

St. Paul's Episcopal Cathedral of Oklahoma City -- a handsomely traditional structure -- and St. Joseph's Catholic Cathedral near by (and also being nominated for the National Register) are the two oldest major church buildings in Oklahoma's capital city. Both serve old congregations, born almost with the town itself (1889). And both, having decided to remain downtown, have undertaken expansion and/or restoration programs.

* * *

St. Paul's was organized as a mission effort in 1891. The first service was held in a borrowed federal court room. In 1893 the parish bought lots at 219 West Second Street and built a small frame church. (Indication of its size: cornerstone was laid July 15 and the building was completed 30 days later!) This church, though moved to a nearby location in 1901, served the parish (it shed its mission status in 1902) until 1904, when the present church was ready for occupancy. Its cornerstone had been laid the previous summer. On Easter Day of 1904 its then 175 communicants held their first service in the new building. Dedication, however, did not come until Aug. 10, 1927 ... when the mortgage was retired! The parish house (see No. 7) was opened in late 1909. The Sunday School building completed the complex in 1949.

After Oklahoma became a state in 1907 the Episcopal Church decided to locate the bishop, as head of the church in the diocese, and the cathedral in Oklahoma City. St. Paul's offer of its church for service as cathedral was accepted and in January 1909 its first dean was installed. In the mid-1920s the sanctuary was redecorated, the exterior renovated, the grounds landscaped. In 1938 the state of Oklahoma ceased to be a missionary district. This took place in the first diocesan convention held at the Cathedral. During this convention a constitution and canons were written for the new diocese.

In the mid-1940s the congregation, then numbering 650 communicants, was faced with several major decisions. Recognizing the need for a new Sunday School building, the parish in 1944 bought lots immediately to the east of the church and chapel, for possible expansion. Then late the following year a ten-man committee was appointed by the dean to study the problem then facing most downtown urban churches: to expand facilities to meet increased needs or to flee to new suburban facilities. The committee decided proximity to its communicants was less important than the services a downtown church can provide. St. Paul's, it noted, was close to the city's major hotels and hospitals. It was thus in a position to serve visitors as well as residents, rich and poor alike. In the words of a church spokesman, St. Paul's could easily become "every man's church where all might worship, work and serve together."

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Botkin, Sam L., The Episcopal Church in Oklahoma, American-Bond Printing Co., Oklahoma City, 1951
Edwards, Archibald C., Letters & Personal Conversations, January 1976
Lynch, Anne Garland, St. Paul's Episcopal Cathedral of Oklahoma City, Oklahoma From 1891 to 1958, a Monograph, 1958

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY c. one acre

UTM REFERENCES

A 14 634685 3926574
ZONE EASTING NORTHING
C

B
ZONE EASTING NORTHING
D

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

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

Table with 4 columns: STATE, CODE, COUNTY, CODE. Two rows are present, both empty.

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Kent Ruth, Deputy

ORGANIZATION

Oklahoma Historical Society

STREET & NUMBER

Historical Building

CITY OR TOWN

Oklahoma City

DATE

February 1976

TELEPHONE

405/884-5456

STATE

Oklahoma

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

STATE

LOCAL X

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

[Signature]

TITLE

SHPD

DATE JUL 27 1976

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

CHIEF

[Signature]

DATE

4/11/77

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHAEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST:

[Signature]

DATE

3.18.77

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8

PAGE 1

St. Paul's Cathedral

Based on these findings a \$300,000 program was begun to restore the sanctuary and parish house and to build an educational and recreational building. Opened in Sept. 18, 1949, it contained a children's chapel, banquet hall, and library. For the first time in its history the church had what it considered to be a fully equipped physical plant. Today, as the oldest continuous parish in the diocese, St. Paul's continues to serve its growing congregation, the nearly one dozen parish churches and missions in the Oklahoma City area, and, through the Bishop, the entire state of Oklahoma.