orm No. 10-300 REV. (9/77)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

# NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED JUN 14 1979
DATE ENTERED AUG 14 1979

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

## 1 NAME

HISTORIC: Church of the Holy Trinity and ~~Holy Trinity~~ Rectory

AND/OR COMMON: same

## 2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER: 381 Main Street and 144 Broad Street

__NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN: Middletown __ VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT: Second

STATE: Connecticut CODE

COUNTY: Middlesex CODE

## 3 CLASSIFICATION

| CATEGORY | OWNERSHIP | STATUS | PRESENT USE | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| __DISTRICT | __PUBLIC | X OCCUPIED | __AGRICULTURE | __MUSEUM |
| X BUILDING(S) | X PRIVATE | __UNOCCUPIED | __COMMERCIAL | __PARK |
| __STRUCTURE | __BOTH | __WORK IN PROGRESS | __EDUCATIONAL | __PRIVATE RESIDENCE |
| __SITE | **PUBLIC ACQUISITION** | **ACCESSIBLE** | __ENTERTAINMENT | X RELIGIOUS |
| __OBJECT | __IN PROCESS | __YES: RESTRICTED | __GOVERNMENT | __SCIENTIFIC |
| | __BEING CONSIDERED | __YES: UNRESTRICTED | __INDUSTRIAL | __TRANSPORTATION |
| | | __NO | __MILITARY | __OTHER: |

## 4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME: The Society of the Church of the Holy Trinity

STREET & NUMBER: 381 Main Street

CITY, TOWN: Middletown __ VICINITY OF

STATE: Connecticut

## 5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.: Middletown Land Records, Municipal Building

STREET & NUMBER: 152 DeKoven Drive

CITY, TOWN: Middletown

STATE: Connecticut 06457

## 6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE: State Register of Historic Places

DATE: 1979 __FEDERAL X STATE __COUNTY __LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: Connecticut State Historical Commission

CITY, TOWN: Hartford

STATE: Connecticut

# 7 DESCRIPTION

| CONDITION | | CHECK ONE | CHECK ONE |
|---|---|---|---|
| __EXCELLENT | __DETERIORATED | __UNALTERED | X ORIGINAL SITE |
| X GOOD | __RUINS | X ALTERED | __MOVED DATE_____ |
| __FAIR | __UNEXPOSED | | |

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

These two buildings are located in Middletown, Connecticut in the small downtown area of the city. The church and parish rectory are sited a short distance apart on adjoining lots. The church faces east towards Main Street. Unlike the neighboring commercial buildings, it is set back from the street with a front lawn. The rectory behind the church faces west on Broad Street in a neighborhood characterized by mid-to-late nineteenth century residences.

The Church of the Holy Trinity, 381 Main Street:

The church, completed in 1874, was designed by Henry C. Dudley in the Gothic Revival style. It is approximately sixty feet wide and one hundred feet long. The exterior walls, constructed of local brownstone, display rock-faced ashlar and smooth trim; the roof is slate shingled.

The church is basilican in plan. It consists of a long nave, two side aisles, a wide narthex, and a chancel. The gabled roof is steeply pitched and exhibits small gabled dormers. Buttresses are displayed on the lower side walls and on the facade. The main facade, exhibiting a variety of Gothic detail, is symmetrically arranged. The elements have a vertical orientation, distinctive of the style. Its bold appearance is accented by its brownstone surfaces. The rock-faced ashlar contrasts with the smooth stone moldings and contributes to the rich textural quality of the building.

The tall, pointed gable, formed by the roof of the nave, is one of the most prominent features of the facade. The shape of the gable is repeated by two triangular parapets, one on either side. The profile of the roof is imitated by the roof-line of the narthex directly beneath. The narthex, running the width of the facade, projects from the nave. The Gothic arched portal is at the center. The portal is crowned by a steeply pitched gable and a trefoil is displayed above the doors. Two smaller gables project from the roof of the narthex, one on either side of the portal. Gothic arched windows are below. These bays echo the appearance of the portal bay and the steep, uppermost portion of the facade.

A bell tower stands at the southeast corner of the building. It further emphasizes the distinctive verticality of the facade. Rectangular in shape, it is flanked by tall buttresses. Large, Gothic arched openings, displaying tracery, surround the top of the tower. Oculus and lancet windows decorate the sides and an arched entrance is at the base.

The interior of the church has plastered ceilings framed by wooden beams. The walls are also plastered and have wainscoting to the height of the window sills. The ceilings are supported by wooden trusses and columns. The floor is mostly linoleum surfaced; ceramic tile comprises the main aisle and the chancel, where it is fashioned in mosaic.

The interior exhibits the distinctive features of the Gothic Revival style. The pointed arch, the major decorative device, is employed in the shape of the windows, entrances, and roof supports. Their appearance corresponds to that of the

prominent, steeply pitched ceiling above the nave. From the narthex, three entrances open to the nave and side aisles of the basilica. The basilica is divided into five bays by six pairs of slender, clustered columns that border the nave. The columns support trusses that span the nave, side aisles and bays. Large, arched trusses support the ceiling of the nave. They display trefoils framed by cross members and are one of the most distinctive features of the interior.

The basilica is illuminated by a variety of stained glass windows. The leaded panes are composed with tracery that displays trefoils. Elaborately decorated, they portray saints, biblical scenes, and floral motifs. Gothic arched windows line the walls of the side aisles and clerestory. Small, trefoil-shaped windows are located above the side entrances and the sanctuary. A large rose window with intricate detail is exhibited above the main entrance of the basilica. Gothic arched windows are also displayed below the rose window and on the walls of the chancel.

The chancel has a vaulted ceiling that is ribbed by wooden members. It contains an altar and an intricate screen (reredos) of sculptured, white marble. The screen's main panel depicts the Crucifixion in bas-relief. The altar and screen were designed by Charles Haight and sculptured by J. Massey Rind in the early 1890s.

A large, three-story parish house adjoins the church in the rear. The main section was begun in 1891 and completed in 1909. Like the church, it is constructed of brownstone ashlar, except a portion of the south side which is brick. The long, main section is divided into three parts, each having a hipped roof that is slate shingled. A flat roofed, one-story ell, built in 1961 and constructed of brick, is at the rear.

Holy Trinity Rectory, 144 Broad Street:

The rectory, built in 1902, was designed by H. Hilliard Smith in the Colonial Revival style. Nearly square in plan, it is forty-four feet wide and forty-seven feet long. The two-and-one-half-story building is constructed of brick and is sited on a brownstone foundation. Brownstone has also been used for the window sills and keystones, displayed above the windows. The main section has a hipped roof which is slate shingled.

A two-and-one-half-story ell is at the northeast corner behind the main section. It has a gabled roof with the ridge running parallel to the street. The roof, like that of the main section, is slate shingled. A small porch with a shed roof runs along the rear wall of the building. It rests upon brick arches located at the basement level. This porch was a later addition.

The large residence displays the features representative of the Colonial Revival style. The hipped roof is topped by a flat deck. The deck is bordered by a balustrade. It has knobs capping the corner posts, and cross members below the railing. Two chimneys flank the deck further down the north and south sides of the roof. Gabled dormers project from the roof and display small pediments. Modillion blocks are beneath the eaves of the roof.

The house exhibits a five-bay facade. It displays brick quoins and a fret band borders the roof. Characteristic of the style, the facade is symmetrically arranged around the central bay. The central bay consists of a large, wooden porch and a second story Palladian window. These features are ornately detailed and form the prominent focal point of the building. The porch has six round columns in two groups of three, one group on either side of the entrance way. From the base, the smooth, surfaced columns taper to the entabulature. Pilasters on either side of the door support the entabulature. The door is framed by sidelights. The entabulature exhibits dentils and is crowned by an intricate balustrade. The balustrade has slender balusters and corner posts capped by knobs. The ornately decorated Palladian window overlooks the balustrade. The window contains a fanlight framed by a wooden, fan-like motif and is topped by a small keystone. The center light, below the fanlight, is bordered by two narrow side lights. These lights display numerous small, square panes.

The rectory has a central hall plan. The first floor is divided into seven rooms; the second floor has six; and the third contains four. The hall of the first floor adjoins the most decorative rooms of the building. It leads to the dining room at the rear; entrances on either side open to the living room and sitting room.

The interior exhibits the distinctive features of the Colonial Revival style. The main entry is wood paneled and opens to the central hall. The hall, bordered by a chair rail, contains a large stairway set to the side. The stairway has an ornate balustrade that displays a thin handrail and slender, turned balusters. The rooms have plastered walls and ceilings that exhibit decorative wood details. Wide, ridged moldings border the walls, doors, and windows; the floors are constructed of narrow, oak plank.

The building's six fireplaces, each differently treated, are Adamesque in detail with slender, wooden elements. Three are located on the first floor, one in each of the three major rooms. The fireplace in the dining room is elaborately detailed. Pilasters support a denticulated frieze and narrow cornice. Thin, turned columns are displayed in front of the pilasters. The fireplace is flanked by two wood cabinets with leaded glass panes.

# 8 SIGNIFICANCE

| PERIOD | AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| __PREHISTORIC | __ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC | __COMMUNITY PLANNING | __LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE | X RELIGION |
| __1400-1499 | __ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC | __CONSERVATION | __LAW | __SCIENCE |
| __1500-1599 | __AGRICULTURE | __ECONOMICS | __LITERATURE | __SCULPTURE |
| __1600-1699 | X ARCHITECTURE | __EDUCATION | __MILITARY | __SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN |
| __1700-1799 | __ART | __ENGINEERING | __MUSIC | __THEATER |
| X 1800-1899 | __COMMERCE | __EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT | __PHILOSOPHY | __TRANSPORTATION |
| X 1900- | __COMMUNICATIONS | __INDUSTRY | __POLITICS/GOVERNMENT | __OTHER (SPECIFY) |
| | | __INVENTION | | |

SPECIFIC DATES 1874-Church
1902-Rectory

BUILDER/ARCHITECT Henry C. Dudley-Church
H. Hilliard Smith-Rectory

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Church of the Holy Trinity and the parish rectory are significant Middletown buildings that contribute notably to the architecture of the community. The church, located in the center of the city, illustrates the distinctive characteristics of the Gothic Revival style. The rectory behind it is one of the best preserved examples of a Colonial Revival residence in Middletown. These two structures are representative of the substantial heritage of the Episcopal Church in this city. Many prominent Middletown residents, including former Governor Raymond E. Baldwin and former United States Secretary of State, Dean G. Acheson, have been members of the Parish of the Holy Trinity. The parish has been important in the history of the Episcopal Church in the state and has been instrumental in the founding of the Church in this country.

An Anglican congregation was formed in the city in 1724, from which the Parish of Christ Church was organized in 1750. Its first church was built south of the present edifice on the South Green in 1755. The rector of this church, the Reverend Abraham Jarvis, was one of ten Connecticut clergymen who sought to establish an American Church apart from the Mother Church of England after the Revolution. These clergymen decided that the Reverend Samuel Seabury should become their Bishop. Seabury was consecrated by the Church of Scotland, and upon his return to Connecticut, he became the first Bishop of the Church in America. It was in this parish's church that Bishop Seabury in 1785 performed the first ordinations of Episcopalian clergymen in America. These were the principal events that marked the establishment of the Protestant Episcopal Church in the United States, which was officially recognized in 1788. The Reverend Jarvis, rector of this parish, succeeded Seabury and became the second Bishop of Connecticut in 1797.

The second church built by the parish was completed in 1834. This building is now the Russell Memorial Library on Broad Street, a short distance south of the present rectory. The original church, which had become too small for the growing parish, was razed in 1835. During the occupancy of the Broad Street church, the Society of Christ Church changed its name to the Society of the Parish of the Holy Trinity in 1857.

The parish was closely associated with the Berkeley Divinity School, established in Middletown in 1854. The school, the only Episcopal seminary in Connecticut, remained in the city until 1928, when it was moved to New Haven. The four buildings that comprised the school were located close to the present church on adjoining property at the intersection of Main Street and Washington Street. Until

## 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES


Alice B. Richter, History of the Church of the Holy Trinity Middletown, Connecticut (privately printed, Steward Press, 1963)

H.F. Donlan, Middletown Tribune: Souvenir Edition (Middletown: 1896)


## 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 1

QUADRANGLE NAME Middletown

QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:24,000

UTM REFERENCES

| | ZONE | EASTING | NORTHING | | ZONE | EASTING | NORTHING |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| A | 18 | 695820 | 4603490 | B | 18 | 695~~710~~ 730 | 4603440 |
| C | | | | D | | | |
| E | | | | F | | | |
| G | | | | H | | | |

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Middletown Land Records Vol. 95, pg. 139 and Vol. 214, pg. 357

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 Robert Svec

ORGANIZATION Greater Middletown Preservation Trust

DATE January 8, 1979

STREET & NUMBER 27 Washington Street

TELEPHONE (203) 346-1646

CITY OR TOWN Middletown

STATE Connecticut 06457


## 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

TITLE Director, Connecticut Historical Commission

DATE June 5, 1979

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

Carl Shull

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE 8-14-79

ATTEST: Donna Pope Boyd

~~CHIEF OF REGISTRATION~~

DATE 8/14/79

1885, most of the ordinations of the seminary's graduates were performed in the parish's church, and the students assisted in the maintenance of the expanding parish.

Bishop John Williams, the founder of Berkeley Divinity School, was ordained a priest at the Broad Street Church and had served as curate for the parish. Upon the establishment of the seminary in 1854, he returned to Middletown and served as Berkeley's Dean for the duration of his life. Williams was consecrated the fourth Bishop of Connecticut in 1865, and subsequently the Church of the Holy Trinity became the cathedral of the Episcopal Diocese of the state. He became the Senior and Presiding Bishop of the American Church in 1887.

The present church, the third built by the parish, was completed in 1874. Designed by Henry C. Dudley, it is one of the best examples of the Gothic Revival style in Middletown. This building replaced the Broad Street church which had become inadequate in size. Like the former church, it became the Diocesan cathedral and remained so until the death of Bishop Williams in 1899.

The structure reflects the marked development that transformed the appearance of Middletown following the Civil War. It is one of a group of Gothic Revival institutional buildings erected here during the 1860s and 70s; it is one of three churches of the style that border Main Street. During this era, industry greatly expanded and immigration to the city increased. These churches are notable examples of the economic and social vitality that continued in Middletown into the twentieth century. By the end of the nineteenth century, this parish had two missions in outlying sections of the city and a separate parish had been established from the mission in the South Farms district.

The church is an integral part of downtown Middletown. It occupies a prominent site in the central block of Main Street. The church retains its original appearance despite the construction of the rear addition, completed in 1909. This rear addition serves as the parish house and displays materials, steeply pitched roofs, and decoration compatible with the design of the church.

The present rectory on Broad Street, behind the church, was constructed in 1902, and was the third built by the parish. Designed by H. Hilliard Smith, it is a distinctive Broad Street building, and is one of the best preserved residences of the Colonial Revival style in Middletown. The rectory is sophisticated in design, and is representative of a building style fashionable in the city at the beginning of the twentieth century. The Reverend Edward C. Acheson was the first rector to reside here. Acheson later became the sixth Bishop of Connecticut in 1915. Dean G. Acheson, the Bishop's son, became Secretary of State during President Truman's administration.

The Church of the Holy Trinity, complemented by the rectory behind it, is one of the city's most prominent landmarks. These two buildings exemplify the heritage of the Episcopal Church in Middletown and its substantial religous contribution to the community. The interval between the construction of the structures was characterized by marked industrial and residential expansion in the city. The buildings, displaying sophisticated architecture, reflect the vitality of the parish and Middletown during this era.