

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

PH 0669245  
FOR NPS USE ONLY  
RECEIVED MAY 22 1978  
DATE ENTERED OCT 19 1978  
DATA SHEET

**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 Episcopal Church

AND/OR COMMON

Same

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER

338 Center Street

CITY, TOWN

Henderson

STATE

Kentucky

VICINITY OF

CODE

021

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

COUNTY

Kentucky

CODE

101

**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
- COMMERICAL
- EDUCATIONAL
- ENTERTAINMENT
- GOVERNMENT
- INDUSTRIAL
- MILITARY
- MUSEUM
- PARK
- PRIVATE RESIDENCE
- RELIGIOUS
- SCIENTIFIC
- TRANSPORTATION
- OTHER:

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

St. Paul's Episcopal Church, c/o Rev. Tom Daily, Rector

STREET & NUMBER

338 Center Street

CITY, TOWN

Henderson

STATE

Kentucky

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Henderson County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

Main Street

CITY, TOWN

Henderson

STATE

Kentucky

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

Survey of Historic Sites in Kentucky

DATE

1971

- FEDERAL
- STATE
- COUNTY
- LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

Kentucky Heritage Commission

CITY, TOWN

Frankfort

STATE

Kentucky

## 7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<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 _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

---

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

St. Paul's Episcopal Church, built in 1859-60, is located on the southwest corner of Green and Center Streets in downtown Henderson. Henderson, situated on the Ohio River in western Kentucky in close proximity to the larger metropolis of Evansville, Indiana, is the major city of Henderson County as well as being its seat of government. The church structure itself is approximately four blocks from the river and is within two blocks of the courthouse and city hall. To the immediate east on Green Street is a commercial district, while further south on Green Street and to the west of the church are residences.

Based on the cruciform plan and built of stuccoed brick, the church is a simple version of the Gothic Revival. The main gabled facade, facing northeast, is pierced by an equilateral arch window above which is a low-relief stone hood mold. A simple, wooden peak ornament offers the only other decorative facade treatment. The square bell tower on the northwest corner contains the main entrance, a Tudor arch doorway, and is surmounted by an eight-sided spire. Above the continuous stone stringcourse, a louvered, lancet window pierces each side of the tower. Four similar windows with gabled heads are situated in the base of the spire (see photo 1).

The sanctuary is seven bays deep and, like the facade, the buttresses are the only major interruptions of its smooth walls. The lancet windows have stone hood molds in low relief reiterating that of the main facade window. The Tudor arch doorway on the east side wall provides a second entrance to the rear of the nave.

In 1881, a parish house was added by extending the west transept to five bays, and retaining the same style as the church structure itself. More recently, in 1958, a two-story stone wing was added to the south of the parish house (see photo 2).

Inside, the nave consists of a center aisle with two narrow side aisles, and the original pews have been retained. The dark walnut ceiling and beams contrast sharply with the stark whiteness of the walls (see photo 3). A large pointed arch opening marks the break between the sanctuary and the chancel. The focal point of the interior is the arrangement of the three lancet windows in the southwest wall above the altar. This triptych depicts scenes from the life of St. Paul in brilliantly colored stained glass which is believed to have been imported from Holland. The stained glass in the northeast and side windows appears to be of domestic origin.

# 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 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                      1859-60                      BUILDER/ARCHITECT                      Bishop Benjamin Bosworth Smith

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

St. Paul's Episcopal Church is architecturally significant in being a chaste yet tasteful example of the universal adaption of the Gothic Revival by Anglican churches throughout the latter half of the nineteenth century. From its origins in England in the late 1700s, the Gothic Revival came to be intimately associated with church architecture, and while the simple lines and planar qualities of St. Paul's reflect only the more basic elements of the style, the widespread influence of the Gothic taste remains evident. The building is also significant through its associations with the Right Reverend Benjamin Bosworth Smith (1794-1884), the first bishop of the Diocese of Kentucky. Furthermore, St. Paul's location on Green Street, the busiest thoroughfare in downtown Henderson, is strategic as it is the last remaining nineteenth century structure amidst a conglomeration of modern buildings.<sup>1</sup>

Constructed in 1859-60, the plan of St. Paul's resembles that of several Episcopal churches in central Kentucky built in this same period. The design for these churches is credited to Bishop Benjamin Bosworth Smith. It is believed that Bishop Smith employed the church at Stoke Poges, England, as the inspiration for these Kentucky Gothic churches, a noted example being St. Philip's in Harrodsburg (listed on the National Register on January 31, 1978). Church records indicate that St. Paul's should be added to the list of Bishop Smith's churches, as he was authorized by the vestry of St. Paul's in 1856 to supervise the design for an English Gothic style church.

Bishop Smith, aside from serving as the first bishop of the Diocese of Kentucky, was a leader in the fields of both religious and secular education in the state. He established a seminary in Lexington in 1834 for the training of young men to the Episcopal ministry, and also served as the third Superintendent of Public Instruction. In 1868, Bishop Smith became Presiding Bishop of the Episcopal Church (Swinford and Lee, p. 298).

The Protestant Episcopal in the United States was formed in 1789, separating from the Church of England as the result of differences that arose from the Revolutionary War. In the years immediately following the creation of the Episcopal Church, no effort was made towards any organization west of the Appalachians as so few Episcopalians existed in the region. The first organized Episcopal worship group in Kentucky was established in Lexington in the mid-1790s and was known as the "Episcopal Society" (Swinford and Lee, p. 10). The parish of Christ

<sup>1</sup> The majority of these modern buildings along this commercial "strip" in Henderson consist of fast-food establishments and filling stations.

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Collins, Lewis. History of Kentucky. Berea, Kentucky: Kentucky Imprints, 1976.

A History of St. Paul's Church. Henderson, Kentucky, 1960.

Swinford, Frances Keller, and Lee, Rebecca Smith. The Great Elm Tree: Heritage of the Episcopal Diocese of Lexington. Lexington: Faith House Press, 1969.

# 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY Approx. 1/2 acre

UTM REFERENCES

A	1 6	4 4 8 0 5 0	4 1 8 7 6 9 0	B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C				D			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The boundaries of the nominated property encompass approximately a one-half acre lot on the southwest corner of Green and Center Streets. The lot is bounded on the north by a sidewalk paralleling Center Street, on the east by a sidewalk paralleling Green St., and on the south and west by the foundations of the structure itself.

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

Charlotte Schneider, Architectural Historian

ORGANIZATION

Kentucky Heritage Commission

DATE

April, 1978

STREET & NUMBER

104 Bridge Street

TELEPHONE

(502) 564-3741

CITY OR TOWN

Frankfort

STATE

Kentucky

# 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

*Cedric W. Miller*

TITLE

State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE

5/15/78

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

*William L. Hebovich*

DATE

10/19/78

ATTEST

*William L. Hebovich*

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

Oct 17, 1978

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	MAY 22 1978
DATE ENTERED	OCT 19 1978

St. Paul's Episcopal Church

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 2

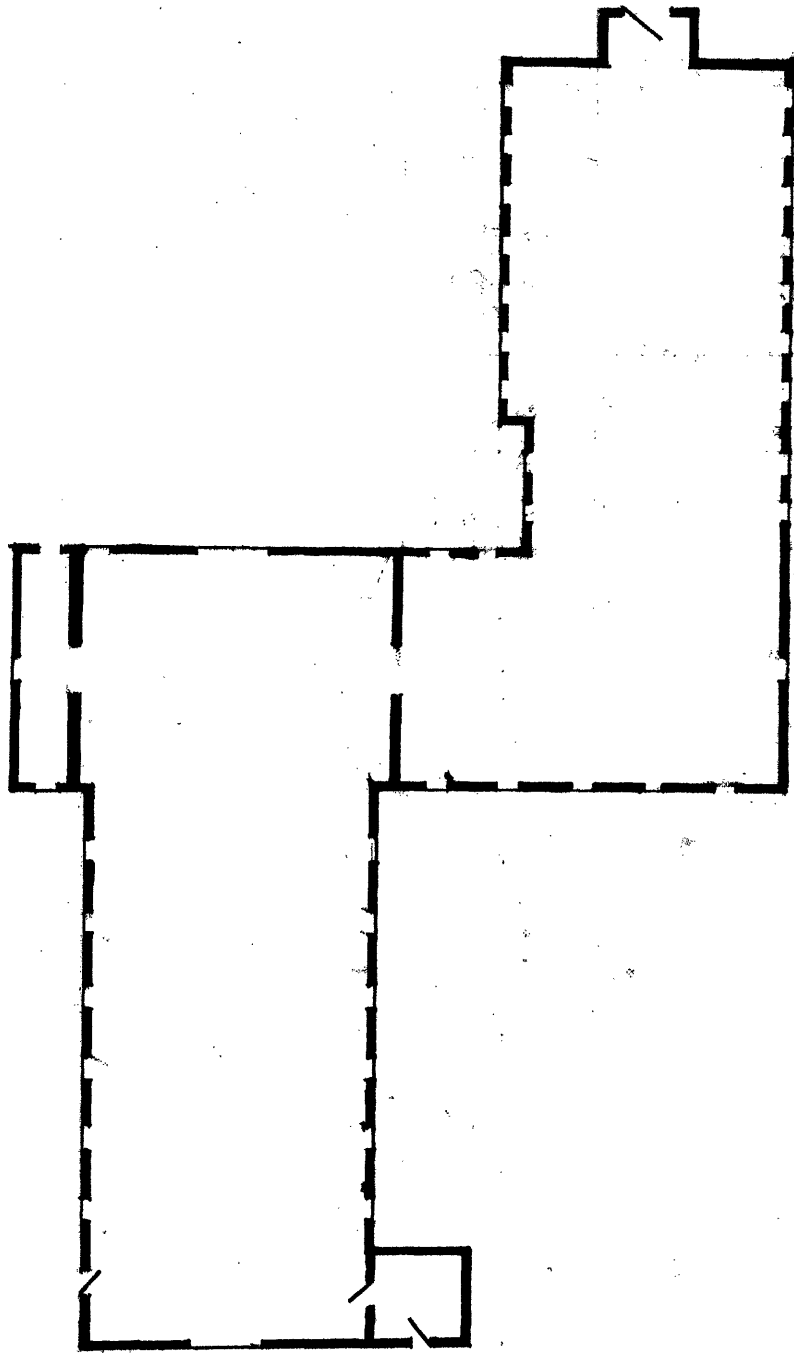
Church, founded in 1809, was the outgrowth of this society. Later in 1822, the parish of Christ Church, Louisville, evolved. In 1829, the Diocese of Kentucky was created, and by 1832, the year Bishop Smith was consecrated, the Diocese boasted six parishes--Lexington, Louisville, Danville, Henderson, Paris, and Hopkinsville (Collins, p. 441).

The Parish of St. Paul's had its beginnings in 1806, when Episcopal services were first conducted in a public meeting house in Henderson by the Reverend Williams Kavanaugh, an Episcopal missionary who had moved to Henderson in that year. No formal action was taken to establish a parish in Henderson until 1831, when a group of twenty citizens met at the Union Church and resolved to organize an Episcopal parish. By 1835, St. Paul's parish had been officially accepted into the Diocese.<sup>2</sup>

In 1833, Bishop Smith visited Henderson and recommended that the congregation call as its first minister the Reverend Daniel H. Deacon. Deacon was "one of B.B. Smith's original group of candidates for Holy Orders and the first young priest to be wholly trained and ordained by the Bishop for service in Kentucky" (Swinford and Lee, p. 89). This advice was taken and by 1834 St. Paul's had a minister, and plans were under way for the construction of a church building. This first church, located on the corner of Third and Main Streets, was completed in 1838.

By 1856, a steady growth in the number of communicants had created the need for a new church. A lot at the corner of Green and Center Streets was donated to the church by one of parishioners, Maria Davis Alves, and another adjoining lot was purchased for the site of the new building. The completed church, costing a total of \$12,000, was consecrated on May 31, 1860, by Bishop Smith (A History of St. Paul's Church, p. 15). By 1882, the congregation had increased by such numbers as to justify the addition of the parish house in the previous year.

<sup>2</sup>There is some question as to the exact date that St. Paul's was admitted into the Diocese. A History of St. Paul's Church, (p. 5) gives the date as 1835 while Swinford and Lee (p. 76) list St. Paul's admission in 1832, as does Collins (p. 441).



St. Paul's Episcopal Church

Henderson County

Not to scale