

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

STATE: Massachusetts	
COUNTY: Suffolk	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

1. NAME

COMMON:
Cathedral Church of St. Paul

AND/OR HISTORIC:
St. Paul's Church (Episcopal)

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
136 Tremont Street, between Winter and Temple Streets and opposite the Common.

CITY OR TOWN:
Boston

STATE: Massachusetts CODE: 02114 COUNTY: Suffolk CODE:

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ _____ _____

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
Bishop John M. Burgess, Cathedral Church of St. Paul, Episcopal Church

STREET AND NUMBER:
131 Tremont Street

CITY OR TOWN: Boston STATE: Massachusetts CODE:

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:
Registry of Deeds, Suffolk County

STREET AND NUMBER:
Pemberton Square

CITY OR TOWN: Boston STATE: Massachusetts CODE:

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:

DATE OF SURVEY: Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: STATE: CODE:

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7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

(Check One)					
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
(Check One)			(Check One)		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered		<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered		<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Cathedral Church of St. Paul is a two-story, oblong-shaped gable-roofed structure, constructed of sandstone, with a bold temple-type pedimented portico with six giant Ionic columns.

Stone steps lead up to the large portico, which extends across the full width of the west (front) elevation. Except for a stone panel set high in the wall above, extending horizontally over the three large flat arched entrance doors, the portico wall is unadorned. Inside the vestibule, which also extends across the width of the church, three more doors open into the audience room. The auditorium is three bays long and its large windows have clear glass. The ceiling is curved and decorated with recessed panels. A gallery for the choir and organ is located above the entrance doors at the west end.

High stall-like pews occupy the main floor, and the interior, painted white, is severely plain. The present chancel and its dome, located at the east end, are a copy of those in St. Paul's, London, and were added in 1926-27. The present altar and reredoes were also installed at that time. The exterior and interior of the church are otherwise little-changed from their original appearance.

The Cathedral Church of St. Paul is in excellent condition; the building is still used for religious services and is also open to visitors.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|----------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian | <input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 19th Century | |

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) **1819-20**

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input type="checkbox"/> Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Political | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | <input type="checkbox"/> Science | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | _____ |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Military | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | | | |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Cathedral Church of St. Paul, designed and built by Alexander Parris and Solomon Willard in 1819-20, was the first church in the Greek Revival style to be erected in New England. Constructed of sandstone and with a bold temple-type pedimented portico, St. Paul's is little-altered on the exterior and its severely plain interior has also undergone few modifications.

History

Alexander Parris and Solomon Willard were commissioned in 1819 by the vestry of the newly established St. Paul's parish to construct a Grecian temple that would strongly contrast with Boston's existing churches, which were built in the Georgian, Federal-Adameque, and Gothic Revival architectural styles. Constructed of Acquia Creek sandstone from Virginia, the capitals of the Ionic portico were carved by Willard. Work began in 1819 and the new church was dedicated on June 30, 1820. The cost of construction was double the original estimate and the sale of pews also went more slowly than had been anticipated, so that the parish labored under a heavy burden of debt for a number of years.

In 1912 St. Paul's parish transferred its church property to the Cathedral Chapter and on October 7, 1912, the church was dedicated to the service of the Episcopal diocese as the Cathedral Church of St. Paul.

In 1926-27 the original chancel of the church, located at the east end, was rebuilt and enlarged. The present altar and reredoes were installed there at that time.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Henry-Russell Hitchcock, Architecture, Nineteenth and Twentieth Centuries (Baltimore, 1963), 85.
 Wayne Andrews, Architecture, Ambition, and Americans (New York, 1955), 144.
 Talbot F. Hamlin, Greek Revival Architecture in America (New York, 1944), 101, 104, 344.
Massachusetts, A Guide to Its Places and People (American Guide Series) (Boston, 1937), 84, 161.
 Walter H. Kilham, Boston After Bulfinch, An Account of Its Architecture, 1800-1900 (Cambridge, 1948), 23.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
NW	° ' "	° ' "		42 °	21 ' 21 "	71 ° 03 ' 46 "
NE	° ' "	° ' "				
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: **1 1/3 acre**

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: **Charles W. Snell, Survey Historian**

ORGANIZATION: **Division of History, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation, National Park Service** DATE: **6/11/70**

STREET AND NUMBER: **801 - 19th Street, N.W.**

CITY OR TOWN: **Washington** STATE: **D. C.** CODE:

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison 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. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National State Local

Name _____

Title _____

Date _____

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

 Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date _____

ATTEST:

 Keeper of The National Register

Date _____

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(Continuation Sheet)

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9. Major Bibliographical References for Cathedral Church of St. Paul, Boston:

Alan Gowans, Images of American Living (Philadelphia and New York, 1964), 270.

Edmund W. Sinnott, Meeting House & Church in Early New England (New York, Toronto, and London, 1963), 222.