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7. DESCRIPTION								
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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.

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PERIOD (Check One or More as	Appropriate)		
Pre-Columbian	16th Century	18th Century	20th Century
15th Century	17th Century	🕅 19th Century	
SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicat	le and Known) 1819-2	20	
AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Ch	eck One or More as Appropria	ate)	
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XX Architecture	Landscape	Sculpture	
Art	Architecture	Social/Human-	
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Communications	Military	Theater	
Conservation	Music	Transportation	

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.

9. MAJOR	A MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES												
Henry-Russell Hitchcock, Architecture, Nineteenth and Twentieth Centuries													
(Baltimore, 1963), 85.													
Wayn	Wayne Andrews, Architecture, Ambition, and Americans (New York, 1955), 144												
Tarp	Talbot F. Hamlin, <u>Greek Revival Architecture in America</u> (New York, 1955), 144. 101, 104, 344.												
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	89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion					Natio		regist	ei.				
1	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:						Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation						
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Form	10-300a
(July	1969)

STATE

## NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

## **INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

(Continuation Sheet)

	Massachusetts
COUNTY	
	Suffolk

FOR NPS USE ONLY

ENTRY NUMBER

DATE

(Number all entries)

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, <u>Meeting House & Church in Early New England</u> (New York, Toronto, and London, 1963), 222.