

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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DATE ENTERED

**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 Chapel

AND/OR COMMON
St. Paul's Chapel

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER
Broadway between Fulton and Vesey Street

CITY, TOWN
New York

STATE
New York

VICINITY OF
19th

COUNTY
New York

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT
061

CODE
36

CODE
061

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
			<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT
			<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL
			<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY
			<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:
			<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
			<input type="checkbox"/> PARK

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME
Corporation of Trinity Church

STREET & NUMBER
74 Trinity Place

CITY, TOWN
New York

STATE
New York

VICINITY OF

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.
New York County Hall of Records

STREET & NUMBER
31 Chambers Street

CITY, TOWN
New York

STATE
New York

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE
Historic American Buildings Survey - 37 photographs

DATE
1937

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS
Library of Congress/Annex

CITY, TOWN
Washington

STATE
D.C.

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" 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

St. Paul's Chapel was designed by the Scottish architect, Thomas McBean, a student of James Gibbs of London. It was located to face the river with its back to Broadway. The east porch was added three years later as a concession to the busy street. The chapel closely follows James Gibbs' famous St. Martin's-in-the-Fields in London. When the steeple was designed 28 years later by the American architect James Crommelin Lawrence, he followed the lines of the Gibbs' London church steeple.

St. Paul's is built of rough-dressed local stone cut in small blocks. The windows are framed in brownstone and the corners are reinforced by sandstone quoins as are the entrance doors, one on either side of the large central Palladian window. Four giant fluted Ionic columns of sandstone support the pedimented portico at the east end. These are more widely spaced in the center to frame rather than block the central feature of the Palladian window. Above the modillioned cornice, a heavy balustrade, well proportioned to the whole, adds needed height to the sides so they visually blend with the east pediment and west tower.

The spire rises 220 feet in a truly soaring graceful form. Although dwarfed today by New York skyscrapers, it manages to maintain this impression by the proportions of its individual parts and its relationship to the building as a whole.

The interior of the church displays the same mastery of scale and space composition. The fluted columns at the sides are raised on pedestals and engaged against the gallery fronts as is common in churches of this period, but the Corinthian order of the capitals is of an unusually extravagant nature. The interior space is united by the fully vaulted ceiling which flows from the central elliptical arch to the interpenetrations of the gallery vaults.

The Palladian window of the chancel is framed by an elliptical arch which echoes the prominently keystone arch between the nave and chancel. The window itself serves to frame the altar with its railing and the Glory, designed by Major L'Enfant. It represents Mt. Sinai in clouds and lightning, the Hebrew word for God, in a triangle and the two Tablets of the Law with the Ten Commandments. This glory was erected to conceal the monument of General Richard Montgomery, buried beneath the east porch of the chapel, which could be seen through the Palladian window. The marble monument was ordered by Congress in 1776 and carved by the Italian sculptor, Jaques Caffieri. Above the Glory at the center of the arch around the window is an elaborate baroque cartouche of carved wood, gold leafed with the Hebrew word for God in red and gold rays.

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 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 checked="" 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 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 1764-66 BUILDER/ARCHITECT Thomas McBean

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

St. Paul's Chapel, built in stages between 1764 and 1796, is one of the two finest examples of Late Georgian church architecture in the United States. Its elegance is only equaled and perhaps surpassed by King's Chapel in Boston for its time period. St. Paul's Chapel is also New York City's sole surviving religious edifice of the pre-Revolutionary period and it represents that city's greatest architectural achievement prior to 1776.

History

St. Paul's Chapel was established for the parish of Trinity Church. Construction on the main body began in 1764 and was completed in 1766. The spire was added in 1794-96. Since Trinity Church itself was destroyed in the fire of 1776, St. Paul's Chapel was used as the place of religious service following George Washington's inauguration in 1787. Funeral services for two Presidents, James Monroe in 1831 and William McKinley in 1901, have been held there.

The church was designed to face the river, which then came almost to the present Greenwich Street, with its back to Broadway. At the time, the vestry was criticized for planning so large and ornate a building in such a remote area. Today it is surrounded by skyscrapers which dwarf the building, giving it a miniature quality. The church has been in continuous service since its opening in 1766 with the exception of a period in 1950 when it was closed for structural restoration.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Burnham, Alan, Ed., New York Landmarks, Middletown, Connecticut, 1963.

Morrison, Hugh, Early American Architecture, New York, 1952.

Ware, William, Ed., The Georgian Period, 4 vols., Boston, 1902.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 1.5

UTM REFERENCES

A | 1 | 8 | | 5 | 8 | 3 | 6 | 3 | 0 | | 4 | 5 | 0 | 6 | 9 | 8 | 0 |
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

B | | | | | | | | | | | | |
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C | | | | | | | | | | | | |
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

D | | | | | | | | | | | | |
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

St. Paul's Chapel is on Block 87, Lot 1 on the Tax Map for the Borough of Manhattan. The churchyard occupies the entire block bounded on the north by Vesey Street, on the east by Broadway, on the south by Fulton Street, and on the west by Church Street, using the near curb lines.

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

Patricia Heintzelman, Architectural Historian, Landmark Review Project

ORGANIZATION

Historic Sites Survey

DATE

10/11/75

STREET & NUMBER

1100 L Street NW.

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

Washington

STATE

D.C.

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. ((NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARKS))

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

TITLE

DATE

Designated according to the
 Oct 9, 1976 date
 Boundary Certified:
 [Signature]
 Nov. 22, 1977 date

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHAEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION
 ATTEST: [Signature]

DATE

DATE

12/7/77

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

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St. Paul's Chapel

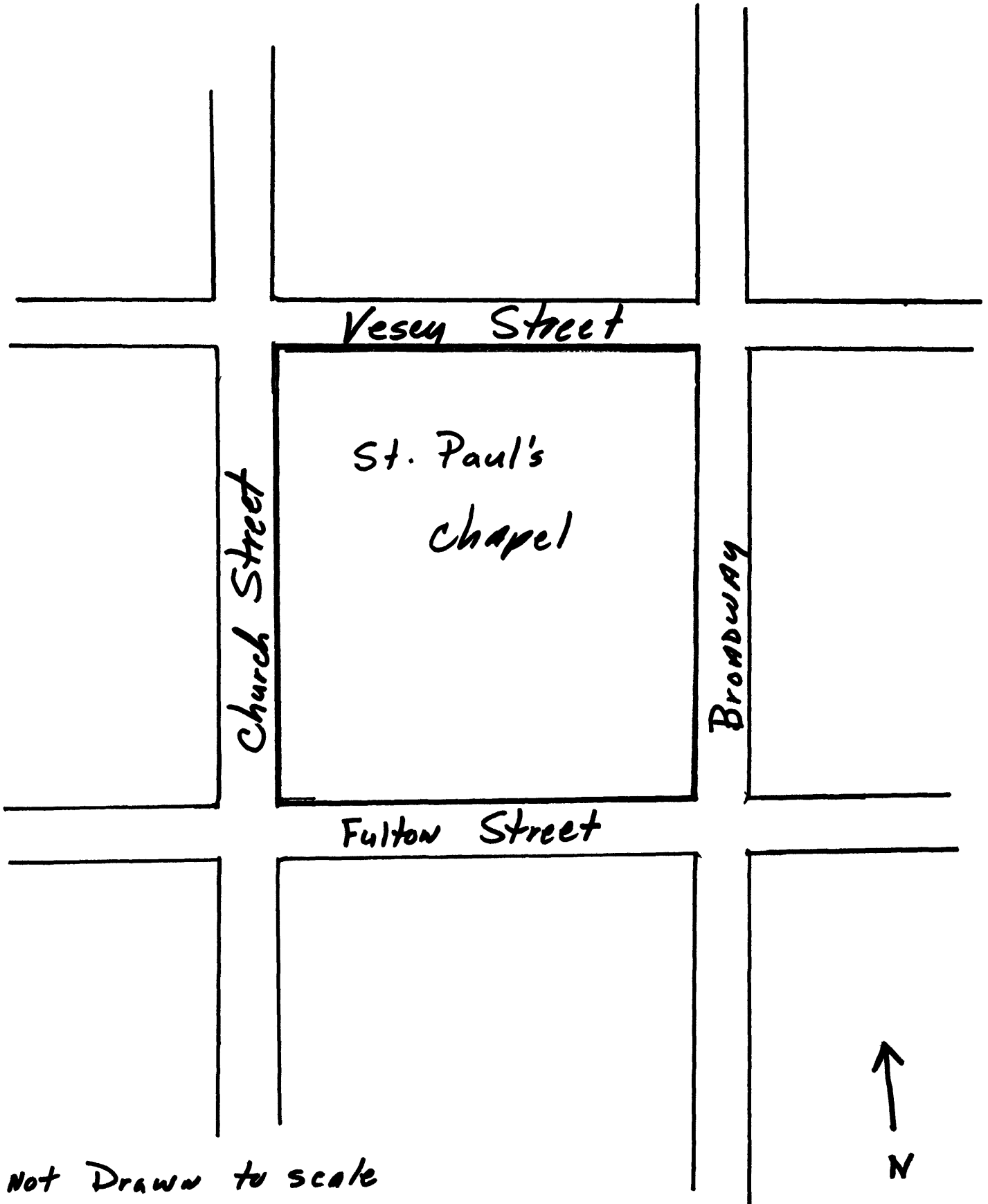
CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 2

The wineglass pulpit, with its sounding board is original to the building. It is elaborately carved and gold-leafed, surmounted by a coronet and six feathers, a survival of an emblem of British nobility. Fourteen original Waterford chandeliers, ordered for the Chapel in 1802, still hang in the nave and galleries. The organ case in the west gallery is mahogany, handcarved and built about 1804. The old box pews were removed in later renovations but a copy of the original floor plan exists. From this, the pew of George Washington has been reconstructed and put in place.

In 1950 St. Paul's Chapel was restored to its colonial appearance. The wooden spire was reinforced with steel and the interior of the church repainted and gilded.

Sketch map



Not Drawn to scale