

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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NOV 18 1977

DATE ENTERED

MAY 22 1978

**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

The Church of the Holy Trinity

AND/OR COMMON

LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

Southeast corner of South and Monroe Streets

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Vicksburg

VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Fourth

STATE

Mississippi

CODE

28

COUNTY

Warren

CODE

149

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

COMMERCIAL

EDUCATIONAL

ENTERTAINMENT

GOVERNMENT

INDUSTRIAL

MILITARY

MUSEUM

PARK

PRIVATE RESIDENCE

RELIGIOUS

SCIENTIFIC

TRANSPORTATION

OTHER:

OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME The Vestry

The Church of the Holy Trinity

STREET & NUMBER

P. O. Box 24

CITY, TOWN

Vicksburg

VICINITY OF

STATE

Mississippi 39180

LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Office of the Chancery Clerk
Warren County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

P. O. Box 351

CITY, TOWN

Vicksburg

STATE

Mississippi 39180

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Statewide Survey of Historic Sites

DATE

1975

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Mississippi Department of Archives and History

CITY, TOWN

Jackson

STATE

Mississippi

39205

7 DESCRIPTION

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

Located on the southeast corner of Monroe and South streets in Vicksburg, Mississippi, the Church of the Holy Trinity is a picturesque structure of Romanesque Revival design begun in 1870 and completed twenty-four years later. In form, it is composed of a simple, rectangular nave, with shallow transepts and chancel, entered through a corner tower. Its architectural interest, however, is derived principally from its generous scale and rich variety of detail. The tower's impressive height, which reaches 170 feet, is countered by the length of the nave (125 feet), the strongly horizontal quality of which is seen especially on the north elevation. Giving considerable variety to the east end of the nave is a cluster of steep gables over the chancel windows and transepts that recalls, but does not compete with, the thrust of the tower.

The round arch theme--so basic to the Romanesque--is played in many variations over the structure. All fenestration is arched and, because of the thick masonry walls, is set into deep, splayed reveals. Label molds, which spring from stone imposts, are used liberally and strengthen the impact of the arch motif. The broad, decorated cornice of the tower breaks out to accommodate circular windows on each elevation. To avoid a monotonous repetition of shape, the architect introduced layered, stepped corbels, conspicuously vertical and functionally important buttresses, and intricate brick cornices. An important element of the decorative scheme is the roof, which is treated with broad horizontal stripes and, on the tower, with geometric designs in light-colored slate. In less sensitive hands, such profuse and varied use of Romanesque Revival ornament could have become ponderous and dull, but in the spirited composition of Holy Trinity this pitfall is happily avoided. It is unfortunate, however, that the building cannot be fully appreciated because of the wooden parish house constructed c. 1927 parallel to, and thus obscuring, the south elevation. A small passage or "hyphen" connects the two buildings and screens a pleasant buttress-and-arch rhythm from view.

A small, dark vestibule in the tower communicates through tall, arched, double-leaf doors into the spacious nave lit by twenty-two windows glazed with handsome stained glass. Six among these were designed and executed by the Tiffany Studios, and one of special interest was dedicated to the dead of both the Union and the Confederate armies who fell during the siege of Vicksburg in 1863. The walls are plaster above a walnut wainscot fitted with arched panels and heavy moldings. Above, wooden corbels support a miniature arcade below the cornice. The dramatic yellow pine ceiling is supported by a structural system of diagonal and arched braces below the collar beam. The east wall is divided into three bays defined by arches and Corinthian pilasters with terra cotta ornaments originally highlighted with various colors but now, unfortunately, painted white. In 1911, the chancel was "improved" by the Altar Guild, whose new paint, wainscot, and marble floor erased the original treatment, which was described as follows:

The chancel walls tone up from a dark dado of tile effect to the fawn, which in turn melts into the blue dome above, bespangled with gold stars. The tout-ensemble, together with the walnut furniture produces a most pleasing picture of good taste and subdued fitness (Vicksburg Daily Commercial Herald, June 24, 1894).

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CONTINUATION SHEET

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7 - DESCRIPTION

Although it is regrettable that this decorative scheme does not survive, the interior of Holy Trinity does enjoy a large measure of integrity. Almost all of the furnishings remain intact, including all pews, designed with squat Romanesque columns, scrolled arms, and carved finials, the marble font carved with kneeling angels, and the walnut lectern.

8 - SIGNIFICANCE

To accommodate the parishioners while they awaited the completion of Holy Trinity, a "convenient and comfortable" chapel was constructed and remained standing until c. 1894, when a Sunday school was erected in its place and attached to the completed church by a covered walkway. A parish house, dating from c. 1927, now occupies the site of the original chapel (Todd, pp. 11-12).

Because the expense of building such an ambitious church as Holy Trinity far exceeded the congregation's immediate resources, it is not surprising to find that its construction spanned a twenty-four year period. Ten years after construction began, the first service was held within its unfinished interior on March 28, 1880, but it was not until 1894 that Holy Trinity stood completed, having cost a total of approximately \$70,000. The Rite of Consecration took place on June 24, 1894, and was described as "an event to which its congregation has been looking forward for years and which latterly has been awaited with almost equal expectation by the community in general" (Daily Commercial Herald, June 24, 1894).

With its handsome building completed, the parish of the Holy Trinity thrived. Its history remained uneventful until 1936, when the Reverend Camille Estornelle of New Jersey arrived in Vicksburg to conduct a two-week mission. His popularity with the parishioners of Holy Trinity was immediate, and many succumbed to his charismatic, almost "hypnotic," personality. In June, 1936, Estornelle was asked by the vestry to act as locum tenens until the recently retired rector could be replaced. This "temporary" arrangement was readily agreed to by Estornelle, who quickly applied for, and was given, the qualified approval of William M. Green, bishop coadjutor of Mississippi. After only a few weeks, several parishioners petitioned the vestry to consider Estornelle for the rectorship, and support for the idea grew throughout the congregation of Holy Trinity.

In the meantime, Bishop Green had learned from the bishop of New Jersey that Estornelle's past included a divorce suit in which he was defendant and a four-year suspension from the ministry. Under the circumstances, Bishop Green was not willing to receive, nor was the bishop of New Jersey willing to issue, the Letters Dimissory necessary to transfer Estornelle from one diocese to another. With the

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 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY) Ecclesiastical Jurisprudence
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1870, 1936-1938

BUILDER/ARCHITECT E. C. Jones

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

In sharp contrast to the lusty growth of the 1840s and 1850s, the economic stagnation of Reconstruction Mississippi almost precluded the building of large, sophisticated structures designed to be current with the nation's architectural tastes. A rare exception, however, was the Church of the Holy Trinity, begun in 1870 by a newly formed Episcopal parish in Vicksburg. Indeed, when it was completed in 1894, Holy Trinity was considered the finest ecclesiastical building in Mississippi, and it is significant today as the most outstanding example of the Romanesque Revival style in the state. In addition to its important contribution to the architectural history of Mississippi, the church is significant in the diocesan history because of the unprecedented events of the Estornelle affair which occurred there during the late 1930s.

On September 29, 1869, sixty Vicksburg residents petitioned the Right Reverend William M. Green, bishop of the Diocese of Mississippi, for the creation of a new parish in the south part of the city, to be named Holy Trinity. Consent was quickly given, and services began shortly thereafter at a local academy. Recognizing the Greek and Gothic traditions as "old fashioned," the senior wardens of Holy Trinity selected for their permanent place of worship the Romanesque Revival style, which they called "Norman." Within a year the vestry had received the final design for their magnificent building from Edward C. Jones, an architect active in Charleston, South Carolina, c. 1848-1861 (Ravenal, p. 203), but at this time established in Memphis, Tennessee. So novel and unfamiliar was the Romanesque style, that the Vicksburg Times and Republican of October 27, 1870, admitted the necessity of educating the public in "matters of taste" and carried a lavish and complimentary design critique. The cornerstone was laid on October 31, 1870, and by early 1871 the rector, W. W. Lord, was able to make the following report:

The foundations of a noble church edifice (128 feet length, 75 feet front, and 170 feet spire) have been laid and we trust that, like those of old, who, in troublous times, laid the foundation of the House of God, our hands also will be permitted to complete it (Journal, Diocese of Mississippi, 1871, p. 42).

Later commenting on the "costly and magnificent" building, the bishop determined that it was "unsurpassed by any like undertaking in the South West" (Journal, Diocese of Mississippi, 1871, p. 55).

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Diocese of Mississippi. Journal: Forty-fourth Annual Conference. Jackson: Clarion Steam Printing Establishment and Book Bindery. 1871.

Jackson. Mississippi Department of Archives and History. Statewide Survey of Historic Sites. Warren County. Holy Trinity Episcopal Church. "A Partial List of Windows Designed and Executed by Tiffany Studios." N.p., n.d. Xerox copy of title page and p. 77.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY approx. one-half

UTM REFERENCES

A

1	5
ZONE	

6	9	9	5	2	5
EASTING					

3	5	8	0
3	8	5	6
NORTHING	7	2	0

B

ZONE	

EASTING					

NORTHING					

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Beginning at the Southeast corner of South and Monroe streets, the property line extends 135 feet East; then South for 150 feet; then West for 135 feet; then North for 150 feet to place of beginning.

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE
 William C. Allen, Chief, Restoration and Development Section

ORGANIZATION
 Mississippi Department of Archives and History

STREET & NUMBER
 P. O. Box 571

CITY OR TOWN
 Jackson

DATE
 October, 1977

TELEPHONE
 (601) 354-6218

STATE
 Mississippi 39205

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 *Elmer R. Hilliard*

TITLE State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE November 14, 1977

FOR NPS USE ONLY

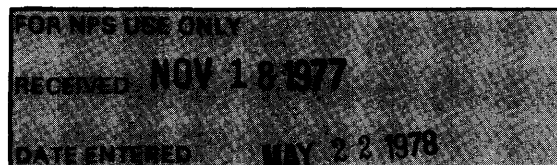
I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION
 ATTEST: *Walter W. Cole*

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER
 DATE *5-22-78*
 DATE *4-26-78*

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8 - SIGNIFICANCE

support of his vestry and parish, Estornelle refused to resign as rector and throughout 1937 engaged in a letter-writing battle with the bishops, who were unable to force his resignation.

The matter came to a head in November, 1937, when Bishop Green withdrew Estornelle's license to officiate in the Diocese of Mississippi. In January, 1938, Holy Trinity parish retaliated and "withdrew from the ecclesiastical authority of the Diocese of Mississippi." This unprecedented move resulted in the trial of Estornelle before the court of the Diocese of Mississippi, where he was found guilty of violating canon law and was ordered to permanently sever all connections with the Diocese (In Court of Review for the Fourth Province, [etc.], pp. 1-29).

The Estornelle affair is unique in the history of the Episcopal Diocese of Mississippi, and is one which is remembered for its bitterness. Not until 1943 did the vestry call a rector to succeed Estornelle, but since that time the parish has enjoyed amiable relations with the diocese and continues to flourish.

9 - MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Protestant Episcopal Church in the United States of America. In the Court of Review for the Fourth Province: Appeal From the Trial Court of the Diocese of Mississippi. The Standing Committee of the Diocese of Mississippi, Presentors and Appellees, vs. The Reverend Camille Estornelle, Defendants and Appellant. N.p., n.d.

Ravenel, Beatrice St. Julien. Architects of Charleston. Charleston: The Carolina Art Association. 1946.

Todd, Mrs. Carleton R., ed. The First Hundred Years; 1869-1969. The Church of the Holy Trinity, Episcopal. Vicksburg, Mississippi. N.p., n.d.

Vicksburg, Miss. Daily Commercial Herald. June 24, 1894.

Vicksburg (Miss.) Times and Republican. October 27, 1870.