

PH0021890

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

|                  |      |
|------------------|------|
| STATE:           |      |
| COUNTY:          |      |
| FOR NPS USE ONLY |      |
| ENTRY NUMBER     | DATE |
| MAR 16 1972      |      |

1. NAME

COMMON:  
Christ Church (within the boundaries of the Georgetown Historic District)

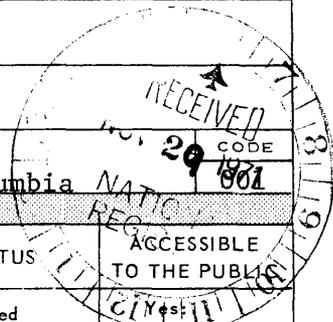
AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:  
3116 O Street, N.W.

CITY OR TOWN:  
Washington

STATE: District of Columbia      CODE: 11      COUNTY: District of Columbia



3. CLASSIFICATION

| CATEGORY<br>(Check One)  | OWNERSHIP                                   | STATUS   | ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC                       |
|--|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> District <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building                       | <input type="checkbox"/> Public             | <input type="checkbox"/> Occupied                      | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure                                     | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied         | <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Object  | <input type="checkbox"/> Both               | <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress | <input type="checkbox"/> No                    |
| Public Acquisition:<br><input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered |   |  |  |

PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

|  |                                     |   |  |                                   |
|--|-------------------------------------|---|--|-----------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural  | <input type="checkbox"/> Government | <input type="checkbox"/> Park                 | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation  | <input type="checkbox"/> Comments |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial    | <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial | <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence    | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |                                   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Educational   | <input type="checkbox"/> Military   | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Religious |  |                                   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment | <input type="checkbox"/> Museum     | <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific           |  |                                   |

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:  
Christ Church

STREET AND NUMBER:  
3116 O Street, N.W.

CITY OR TOWN: Washington      STATE: District of Columbia      CODE: 11

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:  
Recorder of Deeds

STREET AND NUMBER:  
6th and D Streets, NW

CITY OR TOWN: Washington      STATE: District of Columbia      CODE: 11

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY: Proposed District of Columbia Additions to the National Register of Historic Properties recommended by the Joint Committee on Landmarks

DATE OF SURVEY: March 7, 1968       Federal       State       County       Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:  
National Capital Planning Commission

STREET AND NUMBER:  
1325 G Street, NW

CITY OR TOWN: Washington      STATE: District of Columbia      CODE: 11

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE:

COUNTY:

ENTRY NUMBER

DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

MAR 16 1972

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 type="checkbox"/> Altered              | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unaltered |                               | <input type="checkbox"/> Moved        | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site |                                    |

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Christ Church, a very fine example of late 19th century Gothic, is located in Georgetown at the southwest corner of 31st and O Streets. The second church on the site, Christ Church replaced an earlier church built in 1818. The first church, which was too small for the needs of the congregation, was torn down in 1885; work on the new church was begun in 1885 and completed in 1887.

Christ Church with its tall dominating bell tower, its stone Gothic arches and lancet windows has been called a miniature cathedral. The one story structure is constructed of red smooth-face brick laid in common bond. Christ Church itself is rectangular in shape and measures about 90' x 60' with the old parish hall (Keith Hall) at the south end measuring about 30' x 60'. To the west of Keith Hall and the altar and transept sections of the church is an addition for kitchen and offices (1923) and a modern chapel (1967).

The church contains considerable yellow sandstone used for decorative accents such as window sills, buttress caps, corner blocks at gable and dormer ends, door enframements, the north gable finial and cross, gable copings for the main church and aisle dormers (though most of this stonework is covered with a protective sheet of lead), as well as the steps to the doorways.

The main facade which faces on O Street contains a large three-story corner tower with a two level open belfry. It has setback buttresses at its three exposed corners, and a north-south gable roof covered with slate. In the north and south gable ends of the tower are circular openings. On its north side are two levels of windows, a narrow lancet on the second floor and two square slits on the third. On the east side, the tower has two narrow lunettes on the first floor. Considerable rebricking around them suggests that they may be a later addition. On the third floor of the tower are two narrow slit windows.

The tower doorway in the north face of the tower is the most elaborate in the church. It consists of a two leaf lancet door with vertical boarding and two elaborate scroll hinges (with upper and lower spiral and trefoil end) per leaf. The splayed jambs of the doorway have three attached columns on each side with Gothic floral caps. The columns support a three step molded archivolt forming a pointed enframement over the doorway. The door is reached by four sandstone steps. The spandrel above the entrance door is filled with diaper work in red terra cotta matching the brick work. The squares contain eight-pointed stars.

On the north facade are the three main lancet windows with two buttresses between each pane. The voussoirs are formed of two brick courses, one stretcher and the other header. Above the middle lancet is a small round window similarly framed. The front door on the west end of the north facade is quite similar to the tower door, although it is not as tall or elaborate. The door has strap hinges similar to the tower door but with only one spiral. The single column at each side supports a molded arch over the doorway. The door is reached by five stone steps.

The sanctuary windows on the 31st Street side consist of three aisle windows (with light green wood mullions) and 12 clerestory windows in groups of three separated by buttresses. At the transept there is a lancet with

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



**8. 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) **completed 1887**

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 checked="" 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 Joint Committee on Landmarks has designated Christ Church a Category II Landmark of importance which contributes significantly to the cultural heritage and visual beauty of the District of Columbia. The present church is a very fine example of late 19th century Gothic. It was designed by the firm of Cassell and Laws and completed in 1887. Originally founded in 1817 by a group of prominent Georgetown citizens, this church throughout the 19th and 20th centuries has served many of Georgetown's businessmen, merchants and government officials.

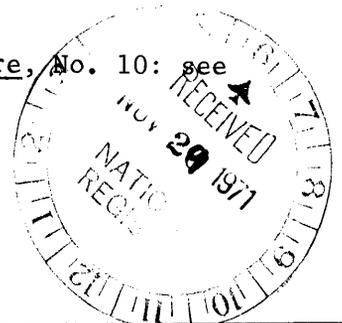
Christ Church was founded on November 10, 1817, when a group of prominent Georgetown citizens met at the home of Thomas Corcoran "for the purpose of organizing a new congregation and devising a plan for building an additional Protestant Episcopal Church." Up until that time St. John's Church was the only Episcopal Church in Georgetown and it was so crowded that "even gallery seats rented at high rates." For this reason many of the parishoners of St. John's met to found the new church. Members of this founding group included: Thomas Corcoran, Clement Smith, Francis Scott Key, John S. Haw, John Myers, Ulysses Ward, James A. Magruder, William Morton, Thomas Henderson, and John Pickerell. The services of Reverend Ruel Keith, formerly assistant pastor of St. John's, were engaged.

Construction began on the church in May of 1818 and the new church was consecrated on December 30, 1818. When finished, it was the largest Episcopal Church in the District. In 1835 a "Wren-type" steeple was added to the building. In 1867, it became necessary to remodel and expand the church. The need for a larger church became more and more pressing and by 1885 the vestry decided to erect a new structure.

The architectural firm of Cassell and Laws were engaged to design the brick Gothic building and a construction bid by William C. Morrison for \$38,000 was accepted. The new church, the cornerstone of which was laid on October 1, 1885, was completed and consecrated June 2, 1887. An electric carillon was donated to the church in 1959.

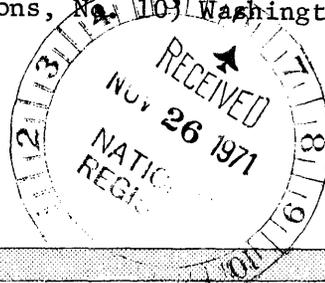
(Much of the above is taken from Georgetown Architecture, No. 10: see bibliography)

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Commission of Fine Arts and HABS, Georgetown Architecture--Northwest  
 (Historic American Buildings Survey Selections, No. 110) Washington, D.C.:  
 1970. pp. 136-159.



10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

| LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES<br>DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY |          |         |         | OR      | LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES<br>DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY<br>OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES |         |         |          |         |         |           |         |
|--|----------|---------|---------|---------|---|---------|---------|----------|---------|---------|-----------|---------|
| CORNER   | LATITUDE |         |         |         | LONGITUDE   |         |         | LATITUDE |         |         | LONGITUDE |         |
|  | Degrees  | Minutes | Seconds | Degrees | Minutes   | Seconds | Degrees | Minutes  | Seconds | Degrees | Minutes   | Seconds |
| NW   | °        | '       | "       | °       | '   | "       | 38°     | 54'      | 30" N   | 77°     | 03'       | 42" W   |
| NE   | °        | '       | "       | °       | '   | "       |         |          |         |         |           |         |
| SE   | °        | '       | "       | °       | '   | "       |         |          |         |         |           |         |
| SW   | °        | '       | "       | °       | '   | "       |         |          |         |         |           |         |

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 7,200 sq. ft.

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:  
Suzanne Ganschinietz, Architectural Historian

ORGANIZATION: National Capital Planning Commission DATE: August 12, 1971

STREET AND NUMBER:  
1325 G Street, N.W.

CITY OR TOWN: Washington STATE: District of Columbia CODE: 11

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 [Signature]

Title Deputy-Mayor Commissioner

Date \_\_\_\_\_

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

[Signature]  
 Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date MAR 10 1972

ATTEST:  
[Signature]  
 Keeper of The National Register

Date FEB 8 1972

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

|                  |      |
|------------------|------|
| STATE            |      |
| COUNTY           |      |
| FOR NPS USE ONLY |      |
| ENTRY NUMBER     | DATE |
| MAR 16 1977      |      |

(Number all entries)

7. Description - Christ Church

two mullions. The door to the south end of the east aisle is identical to the western front door, except that it has only four steps.

Keith Hall has one large east window composed of two rows of six windows in the same plain stone mullions and enframingent. Each window has 28 panes in lead. Above this group is a shallow brick relieving arch of two courses of headers. In the apex of this wall are three tall slit openings with louvers. The street door on the east end of Keith Hall appears to be of a later date. It has brick jambs, a low stone pointed arch and a two leaf door made of vertical boards with chamfered edges. Each leaf has three hinges, roughly cross-shaped in a sort of rudimentary coping of those on the front doors. There are four stone steps leading up to the door.

On the south side of Keith Hall are four flat-topped dormers with two twenty-light rectangular windows each. These are hidden from the outside because of the proximity of an adjacent wall to the south.

On the west side the fenestration is similar to the east; there are five aisle windows and 15 clerestory windows. At the west end of the transept and altar sections are three windows, to the north of the gable center line, with the same plain stone enframements as the east end of Keith Hall.

There is a gable roof over the main north-south section of the church with the side aisles covered with sloping shed roofs which rise to the nave walls. These side aisles have projecting pointed dormers over the lancet windows. The whole roof is covered with grey rectangular slate. The altar projections to the south and west transept are gabled with standing seam covering, painted red. Keith Hall has an east-west gable roof in grey slate.

The interior of the sanctuary is composed of the main north-south nave with lower side aisles on each side. On the east side the aisle is separated from the nave by four pointed arches on low heavy columns; at the north end the fifth bay of this aisle comprises the entrance vestibule below the tower. The west aisle is separated by five pointed arches on similar columns, with a second entrance door at the north end in the north wall. Separated from the nave by a large pointed arch at the south end is a transept section which extends to the width of the aisles. In the east arm is the organ console and in the west, organ pipes. Beyond this is the altar (or choir) area separated from the transept section by a second large pointed arch. This contains, in the center, the altar with its handsome retable.

The most striking feature inside the church is the series of German stained glass windows. In the east aisle there are four windows, in the west aisle five. Another prominent decorative feature is the carving of the capitals in the nave. These are of robust floral design, all rather similar. In the transept section and altar area are other decorative features. The triumphal arch and the two aisle arches have floral caps and colonettes. The two aisle arches to the transept section are closed by wrought iron leaf gates.

(Much of the above is taken from Georgetown Architecture, No. 10: See bibliography)

