VLR-1/18/72   NRHP-5/5/72

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type ell entries — complete applicable sections)

STATE:
VIRGINIA

COUNTY:
STAUNTON (in city)

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

1. NAME

COMMON:

TRINITY EPISCOPAL CHURCH

AND/OR HISTORIC:

TRINITY EPISCOPAL CHURCH

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:

S W corner of intersection of Beverley St. and Lewis St.

CITY OR TOWN:

Staunton   (James Kenneth Robinson, Seventh District Congressman)

STATE	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
Virginia	51	(in city)	790

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY *(Check One)*	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
☐ District ☒ Building ☐ Site ☐ Structure ☐ Object	☐ Public ☒ Private ☐ Both Public Acquisition: ☐ In Process ☐ Being Considered	☒ Occupied ☐ Unoccupied ☐ Preservation work in progress	Yes: ☒ Restricted ☐ Unrestricted ☐ No

PRESENT USE *(Check One or More as Appropriate)*

☐ Agricultural	☐ Government	☐ Perk	☐ Transportation	☐ Comments
☐ Commercial	☐ Industrial	☐ Private Residence	☐ Other *(Specify)*	
☐ Educational	☐ Military	☒ Religious		
☐ Entertainment	☐ Museum	☐ Scientific		

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY   General E. Walton Opie, Trustee

OWNER'S NAME:

Board of Trustees

STREET AND NUMBER:

Trinity Episcopal Church

CITY OR TOWN:	STATE:	CODE
Staunton	Virginia	51

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC:

Augusta County Court House

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:	STATE	CODE
Staunton	Virginia	51

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:

Historic American Buildings Survey Inventory

DATE OF SURVEY: 1957   Federal   State   County   Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

Library of Congress

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:	STATE:	CODE
Washington	D. C.	11

STATE: VIRGINIA   COUNTY: STAUNTON (in city)   ENTRY NUMBER   DATE   FOR NPS USE ONLY

					(Check One)				
CONDITION		☐ Excellent	☒ Good	☐ Fair	☐ Deteriorated		☐ Ruins	☐ Unexposed	
		(Check One)				(Check One)			
		☐ Altered	☒ Unaltered			☐ Moved		☒ Original Site	

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (If known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Executed in the style of the Early Gothic Revival, Trinity Episcopal Church occupies the block at the southwest corner of the intersection of Beverley and Lewis Streets. The picturesque churchyard, which also contains the rectory and parish house serves as a burial ground and is planted with a variety of large shade trees. Decorative cast iron fences bound a number of the family plots which in many cases contain obelisks, table tombs and vertical tablets. Although the land naturally descends with the slope of the hill, the lot has been leveled to some degree with the use of a brick retaining wall which is topped with a fine cast iron fence linked by brick pinnacles. From the Beverley Street gate a brick walk laid in a basket weave pattern leads to the entrance portal of the church and splits to encircle the building.

In spite of the fact that a number of additions have augmented the size of the church, the building's general plan is that of a gable roof basilica with a central entrance tower. The Church's walls are laid in a variety of bonds and are encircled by a brick water table. Although much of the church including the tower has no visible bond, Flemish bond can be found on the north ends of the nave and American bond is used in many areas below the water table and on the east side. The northern facade is dominated by the projecting three stage tower divided by belt courses and flanked by the recessed forms of the nave and its wings. The facade is therefore comprised of five bays with the central entrance flanked by the two nave lancets and two pointed arch doors on the north end of the wings. The first two stages of the tower include a simple pointed-arch, vertically panelled double door surmounted by an eight-part rose window. Crowned by battlements, the third stage of the tower is pierced by a pair of louvered lancets with brick hood molding. Diagonally cut buttresses emphasize the corners of the tower, the nave and the wings.

The east and west sides of the building are nine bays long with buttresses separating the five lancets which are topped with brick hood moldings. The remaining bays have gauged pointed-arch heads as well as more stylized buttresses. The roofline on the east and the west wings has a molded cornice and round edge brackets. The addition of the vesting room at the southeast end of the building and the enlargement on the southwest breaks the simplicity of the basilical shape but the clean gable end on the south reaffirms the form.

The simple vertically panelled double doors on the entrance tower open onto the inner narthex doors which are ornately carved with a low relief passion flower design. These double four-panel doors flanked by stationary panels are surmounted by a glass transom which is screened by a carved wooden gril repeating the passion flower design. Over the northern end of the church hangs the choir loft which is decorated with pointed-arch panels supported by two octagonal posts and reached by a flight of stairs at each end. The interior of the church is sheathed in plaster and decorated with wood trim and trussing. The five bay nave is flanked by seven bay wings, five of which are supported by slender cast iron clustered columns and two of which are fortified by heavy stucco piers. Side aisles break a path through the wooden pews to the three pointed arches which outline the choir beyond. Each pew ends in an ogee shaped plaque topped with a trefoil finial and the side pews are angled towards the altar. The nave is divided and supported by open Tudor arch shaped trusswork which descends to join the columns and mark the bays. This truss design is echoed in the wings and

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

arm 10-300a	UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR	STATE	
July 1969)	NATIONAL PARK SERVICE	VIRGINIA	
	NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES	COUNTY	
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between the bays in elevation. The chancel has been enlarged on the east and west where two bays of pointed brick arches were cut to accomodate these improvements. The door of the vesting room which is located to the east of the chancel is decorated with the same passion flower design as that of the narthex door.

Trinity Episcopal Church contains seven signed Tiffany stained glass windows as well as stained glass in an early English style. Of the seven Tiffany examples, two are in the west wing, three are in the east wing and two flank the triple lancets over the altar. Included among the designs is a brillantly colored mountain stream bordered by poplars and loosely framed by morning glory vines, a warrior saint holding the palms of victory, the Good Samaritan, and a crowned Virgin and Child.

Located in the southwest section of the church yard is the rectory which was built of brick in a Jacobethan cross gable form with a complex roof surrounded by a brick cornice and displaying stepped gable and battlement ends. The one-over-one sash windows vary between a lancet shape with a pointed arch hood molding and a multiple unit rectangular bay with a labelled hood molding.

In the southeast corner of the year stands the two story gable roof Parish House with one-and-a-half story cross gable wings. Laid in random American bond brick the two story gable end facade has a three bay one story entrance porch with a centrally located flat end gable portal. The second story is pierced by a pointed arch window. The south walls of the wings descend to form part of the southern retaining wall. The interior has been altered for modern use.

PERIOD *(Check One or More as Appropriate)*

- [ ] Pre-Columbian
- [ ] 15th Century
- [ ] 16th Century
- [ ] 17th Century
- [ ] 18th Century
- [X] 19th Century
- [ ] 20th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) *(If Applicable and Known)*

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE *(Check One or More as Appropriate)*

Aboriginal
- [ ] Prehistoric
- [ ] Historic
- [ ] Agriculture
- [X] Architecture
- [ ] Art
- [ ] Commerce
- [ ] Communications
- [ ] Conservation

- [ ] Education
- [ ] Engineering
- [ ] Industry
- [ ] Invention
- [ ] Landscape Architecture
- [ ] Literature
- [ ] Military
- [ ] Music

- [ ] Political
- [X] Religion/Philosophy
- [ ] Science
- [ ] Sculpture
- [ ] Social/Humanitarian
- [ ] Theater
- [ ] Transportation

- [ ] Urban Planning
- [ ] Other *(Specify)*

_____
_____
_____
_____
_____
_____
_____

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Staunton's Trinity Episcopal Church, a distinguished example of Early Gothic Revival architecture, was built in 1855 and is the third church that has been constructed on the land purchased by Augusta Parish from William Beverley on April 3, 1750. The present church carries on the distinguished tradition of this parish founded in 1746. The first Augusta Parish Church, completed in 1763, was a brick building with dimensions of forty feet by twenty-five feet. Very little is known of the first building but it is said to have had entrance steps, a cupola, and blinds. This building played a keen role in several of the state's important historic events. The curates of the church were actively concerned with the colonial situation and in 1775 they permitted the local freeholders to meet in the Augusta Parish Church to consider their relations with England. Later in 1781 when the Virginia Assembly was forced to flee Richmond by British dragoons under the command of Lt. Col. Banastre Tarleton, members sought refuge first in Charlottesville and then in Staunton where they convened in Augusta Parish Church. The Diocesan Convention of 1824 was held in the church and it was as this meeting that Alexandria rather than Williamsburg was chosen as the site of the Virginia Theological Seminary. Finally in 1831 the first Augusta Parish Church was taken down and the second church, completed in 1832, was erected adjacent to the site. This second church had dimensions of seventy-three feet six inches by forty-six feet six inches and was thirty feet high. Brick from the first church was used in the building of the second church. This new building, which was first referred to as Trinity Church in 1833, was quite plain, had an eighty foot tower, and could accommodate six hundred and fifty people.

After approximately twenty years of use, a third church was proposed and in 1855 the main body of the third and present church was completed. It is commonly held that the same unidentified English architect who drew up the plans for the Frances Scott Key Hall, then known as Wilmer Hall, at the Virginia Theological Seminary in Alexandria, was also the architect of the third Trinity Church. This third church was constructed on the site of the first church and the bricks from the 1763 building were used in the keystone of the present building. Rev. Thomas T. Castleman, the rector at the time of the third church's construction, held that the tower of the 1855 church covers part of the foundation of the first church. He also contended that the north wall of the present building is in the location of the south wall of the first church. In 1870 under the direction of the architect Edwin M. Taylor, wings were built to enlarge the church body, and in 1888 the chancel was enlarged and the two bays of arches were built on either side of the altar.

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NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

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8.

      During the War between the States the Virginia Theological Seminary moved from Union occupied Alexandria and was relocated in Trinity Church. The Dean of the Faculty and the hand-full of students converted the Vestry and lecture rooms, located to the east and west of the altar, into class rooms. Redecoration of the third church was carried out in 1936 under the direction of Mr. Alexander Trowbridge of Washington, D. C., and again in 1957 when the choir loft was rebuilt under the direction of Mr. Milton Grigg of Charlottesville.

      The rectory dates from 1872 and the parish house, the first in Virginia, was built in 1872-1873 and enlarged in 1924.

BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Gibson, Lucy Fitzhugh, _Stepping Stones_, _The Story of Stuart House_, privately
    printed by Archibald G. Robertson, 1966.
Hullihen, Elizabeth C., _History of Trinity Churchyard_, Beverley Manor Chapter
    of D.A.R., Beverley Press
Owen, Ruth Littell, _Augusta Parish and Trinity Episcopal Church 1746-1946_,
    previously published in the First Bicentennial Edition of the Staunton
    News-Leader and _Evening Leader_ in 1940.
Files of the Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission.

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

CORNER	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds		Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
NW	°	'	"	°	'	"		38°	08'	55"	79°	04'	31"
NE	°	'	"	°	'	"							
SE	°	'	"	°	'	"							
SW	°	'	"	°	'	"							

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: Less than 10 acres

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:
Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission Staff

ORGANIZATION	DATE
Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission	January, 1972

STREET AND NUMBER:
Room 1116, Ninth Street State Office Building

CITY OR TOWN:	STATE	CODE
Richmond	Virginia	51

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 ☐
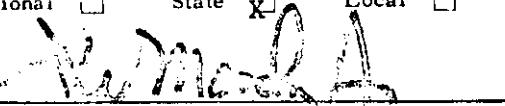
Name _James W. Moody, Jr., Director_

Title Va. Historic Landmarks Commission

Date JAN 18 1972

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 _____

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

38°07'30"

OLEBROOK 8 MI
INGTON (VIA VA 591 34 MI.

urvey

MN

GN

89 MILS
22 MILS

1 830 000 FEET

1000

U.S.G.S. 7½' quadrangle (scale:1:24000)
Staunton, Va.   1964

TRINITY EPISCOPAL CHURCH
     latitude   longitude
    38°08'55"   79°04'31"