

SUMMARY OF NOMINATION INFORMATION IN ONJH FILES

NAME House of Prayer Episcopal Church and Rectory  
 COUNTY Essex  
 MUNICIPALITY Newark City

TYPE:  
 Individual X  
 Historic District       
 Multiple Property       
 Documentation Form     

NOMINATION FORM

ONJH FILES

- Nomination form (If there are continuation sheets, please indicate number)      ✓
- First page (#1-6)      ✓ CS:
- Description (#7)      ✓ CS: 1
- Significance (#8)      ✓ CS:
- Last page (#9-11)      ✓ CS:
- SHPO Signatures
- USGS Map      ✓
- Site plan
- Tax map      ✓
- Floorplan
- Photo index map
- Other maps
- Photographs (Indicate number)      ✓
  - Exterior 3 (plus 1 photocopy)
  - Interior 2
  - Streetscapes
  - Outbuildings
  - Historical 1
  - Negatives      ✓
  - Contact Sheet

DATE OF LISTING

State Register       
 National Register 10/30/72

SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION

N.J.H.S.I. #      Draft Nomination       
 Newspaper/Magazine Articles      Correspondence       
 HABS      Contextual Data       
 Other (Please specify)     

STAFF MEMBER Peter Goldstein DATE 6/22/71  
 UPDATES: STAFF      DATE       
 STAFF      DATE

NAME House of Prayer Episcopal Church & Rectory  
MUNICIPALITY Newark COUNTY Essex Co.

Nomination Form:

Final Nomination Form  Signed  Unsigned   
U.S.G.S. Map  Photocopy   
Other Maps TAX Map

Plan(s): Site  Floor

Photographs:

	<u>Identified</u>	<u>Unidentified</u>	<u>Inadequate Coverage</u>
Exterior	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> of Church	<input type="checkbox"/>	<del>XXXXXX</del>
Interior	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> of Church	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Streetscapes	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Outbuildings	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Historical	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Rectory</u>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> - exterior shots	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> interior shots

Negatives:

Same as prints  Less than prints  Additional Negatives

Slides: Slides of Both Bldgs. Required

Boundaries:

No precise boundaries  Defined in nomination   
Defined by map  Latitude & longitude   
U.T.M.'s  Boundary justification

National Register notification of listing to SHPO:

Copies of final approved nomination:

Other: \_\_\_\_\_

SHPO Notification Letters:

Intent to nominate  National Register  State Register   
Owner list

Supplemental Information:

\* N.J.H.S.I.  - Use of Prayer Draft nomination   
Newspaper/Magazine articles  Recent correspondence   
Local ordinance data  Maps  HABS   
Other

Materials in Storage:

Public Meeting notification  Draft nomination   
Newspaper articles  Correspondence   
Historical information  Other

\* Plume Hse. - Rectory & HABS

State Register Encroachments \_\_\_\_\_

Tax Act Certification \_\_\_\_\_

Section 106 Consultations and Comments \_\_\_\_\_

Grants-in-Aid \_\_\_\_\_

Notes:

Reorganized by: DTA

Date: 8/19/81

# HISTORIC SITES

Form 10-100  
(July 1969)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

## NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries -- complete applicable sections)

STATE: New Jersey	
COUNTY: Essex	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

### 1. NAME

COMMON:  
House of Prayer Episcopal Church and Rectory

AND/OR HISTORIC:  
Same as above

### 2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:  
Broad St. north of State Street

CITY OR TOWN:  
Newark

STATE: New Jersey      CODE: NJ      COUNTY: Essex      CODE: 013

### 3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ _____ _____

### 4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:  
House of Prayer Episcopal Church

STREET AND NUMBER:  
Broad St. North of State Street

CITY OR TOWN: Newark      STATE: New Jersey      CODE: NJ

### 5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC:  
Essex County Hall of Records

STREET AND NUMBER:  
High Street

CITY OR TOWN: Newark      STATE: New Jersey      CODE: NJ

### 6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY: Nabs- N.J.-7-NEARK

New Jersey Historic Sites Inventory 2186.3 and 2186.16

DATE OF SURVEY: 1961       Federal     State     County     Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:  
Historic Sites Division, Department of Environmental Protection

STREET AND NUMBER:  
John Fitch Plaza, P.O. Box 1420

CITY OR TOWN: Trenton      STATE: New Jersey      CODE: NJ

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: New Jersey  
 COUNTY: Essex  
 HISTORIC SITES  
 FORM 10-100 (July 1969)

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"/> Unrepaired
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (If known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE: Brownstone -- Recent

Renovation - exterior portion (following a fire of several years earlier) really did not have to make any substantive change in order to recapture the original which had nearly weathered. On the interior, there are no major changes either to the more basic heavy structure, although many details have changed. This, of course allows for noted architect and parishioner Wm. Holroyd Wood's east end changes of 1896 including a fine carved Gorm stone altar and reredos.

The stone chancel railing is removed and many minor appointments including the small pulpit are similarly gone or rearranged. Subsequently, a perforated "decor-block" rood-screen was created, with the still accessible Wood sculpture still faintly visible in the background through it --- ahead of which screen was a very simple altar even much closer to the congregation. A clergyman of another Episcopal parish advises the compiler (1971) that this screen has been removed again after only several years.

Interior - powerful, bold, worshipful simplicity: columns, arches, ceiling-roof structure, and the repetitive deep-set round trefoil windows along the nave just below the roof line.

The church is described as "four pointed Gothic" and other Gothic.

The best original description on the House of Prayer is Frank Willis', in his noted 1850 book: Ancient English Ecclesiastical Architecture: "Owing to peculiarity of site, the Tower is placed at east end of Nave, south of Chancel. By this means orientation is preserved, and the Tower is rendered conspicuous, which could not have been had it been placed at any distance back from the street. It was impossible to make the Chancel quite as deep as could have been desired, it is however deep enough to be divided into Choir and Sacrarium and is nearly one-third the length of Nave. Its dimensions are twenty feet by eighteen feet in the clear; the Nave and Aisles are sixty-eight feet by forty-four feet. The Porch is in the first bay of the south Aisle. The Aisles are separated from Nave by arcades of five bays; the pillars are alternately circular and octagonal; instead of responds the extreme arches are supported on semi-octagonal corbels. The Clerestory is perforated by quatrefoils within circles. The side windows of Aisles are couplets; at west end of Aisles are single lancets; at west end of Nave is a couplet internally, externally a pentiplet, the center and extreme windows being filled with masonry, and forming simply an arcade or panneling. The walls, including Tower and Spire, are of stone. The total height of Spire is about one hundred and twenty feet; the apex of Nave roof is about forty-three feet. The seats are all open, and will accommodate 500 persons. The organ will be at east end of north Aisle. The pulpit against north pier of Chancel Archway in Nave. Against north and south walls of Choir or outer Chancel, will be handsomely carved stalls. The altar will be of stone raised six steps above Nave, and detached from east wall. A Cadenave of stone in the form of a corbel is to be built in north wall. The front is adjoining main entrance doorway. A

Continued

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

8. Significance

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian	<input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 18th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century
<input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 19th Century	

SPECIFIC DATES (if Applicable and Known) 1849, 1849, 1849, after 1850's; Rectory c. 1710

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Invention	<input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture	_____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> Landscape	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian	_____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Art	<input type="checkbox"/> Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> Theater	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> Literature	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Communications	<input type="checkbox"/> Military		
<input type="checkbox"/> Conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> Music		

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The chief significance of the church itself is architectural, as it was the product of an international master of the Gothic Revival (early), and added to by another master who happened to be also a parish member.

The church - always referred to as the House of Prayer, is justly famous in its own right - as distinguished from its adjoining Rectory - which is the Plume House, built c. 1710 and probably the oldest building in America's 3rd. oldest major city. The house (Rectory) aside from its identification with the Revolution was the scene of a variety of scientific experiments, notably in the attic-observatory used by Rector - Rev. Hamibal Goodwin, inventor of celluloid photo film which made movies possible; the historic site should, therefore, include all buildings of the Parish group, but the processing of voluminous history on the Rectory is being delayed. Frank Wills, architect, was second to none as a master architect of churches in the U.S. and Canada, in the middle of the early Gothic Revival. By 1849, he was brought to New Jersey by American Protestantism's foremost hierarchical art patron and moving spirit of the Ecclesiological Movement toward "proper" English Parish Gothic - the Bishop of New Jersey, Doane, doing also Christ Church, Newark in the same 1849-50 period. Likely no one other than Frank Wills could have competed on equal or even superior terms with the greatest architect of the day - Richard Upjohn. It was Wills, not Upjohn, who was Official Architect of the New York Ecclesiological Society - a counterpart of the London Eccles. Soc. and the spearhead of most-skilled architects, church professionals and Protestant hierarchy who were the most influential Gothic Revival force in America.

On the front, Broad St. facade, which is also for reasons Wills explains, uniquely the altar or "east end" as well, is carved in stone in sizable letters (Old English lettering) just below the "east end" windows filled-in by Wood's later flush reredos) the relevant inscription "My house shall be called the house of prayer". The relevance of Parish outreach has also been pronounced, - in the 19th Century when the Church pioneered in social outreach work in the nearby (then Old First Ward) neighborhood, and again in recent years, when, with its nearby constituency largely lower income and now ethnically modified, it has reached out principally to blacks - with socially and artistically elevating programs.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE New Jersey	
COUNTY Essex	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

(Number all entries)

House of Prayer Church & Rectory

7. Continued - Description

New Jersey: Code 34

Essex: Code 013

recess formed in north Chancel wall surmounted by a curved canopy, is to be the Bishop's stall. All the windows are to be filled with painted glass, executed by Mr. Bolton. All the seats, pulpit, Altar-rails, lectern, etc., are being executed in black walnut - the open roof of pine. The contract for this Church, including every thing, is about \$13,000.00.

The Rectory (Plume House) is constructed of native sandstone from neighborhood quarries. It has broad and thick penellings, hand hewn beams and flooring, and deep window sills characteristic of the domestic architecture of the period.

Congressional Representation

Honorable Harrison A. Williams - U.S. Senator

Honorable Clifford P. Case - U.S. Senator

Honorable Peter W. Rodino Jr. - Congressman (10th District)

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Schnell, Kenneth B. A Survey 1905 Thesis, Newark. St. Coll.; Newark Public Library

Stanton, Phosda B. The Gothic Revival and American Church Architecture Hopkins, 1938.

Wills, Frank Early English Ecclesiastical Architecture 1850. And Church Architecture.

DAILY ADVISOR, Newark, November 28, 1949

News, Newark, January 31, 1965.

Sentinel, Newark, November 26, December 3, 1950.

3 booklets: The House of Prager, 50th Anniversary and 75th Anniversary

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY				LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES								
CORNER	LATITUDE			LONGITUDE			LATITUDE		LONGITUDE			
	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
NW	0	'	"	0	'	"	74°	44'	53"	74°	10'	18"
NE	0	'	"	0	'	"						
SE	0	'	"	0	'	"						
SW	0	'	"	0	'	"						

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: ]

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: Licensed "professional planner" & architectural historian  
Donald W. Ceyer,

ORGANIZATION: \_\_\_\_\_ DATE: 9/71

STREET AND NUMBER: 351 Broad St.

CITY OR TOWN: Newark STATE: New Jersey CODE: 24

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION	NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION
<p>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:</p> <p>National <input type="checkbox"/> State <input type="checkbox"/> Local <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Name: <u>Richard J. Sullivan</u></p> <p>Title: <u>Commissioner, Department of Environmental Protection</u></p> <p>Date: _____</p>	<p>I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.</p> <p>_____  <i>Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation</i></p> <p>Date: _____</p> <p>ATTEST: _____</p> <p>_____  <i>Keeper of The National Register</i></p> <p>Date: _____</p>

GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS



NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM

(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with photograph)

STATE New Jersey	
COUNTY Essex	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
 PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM

1. NAME			
COMMON: House of Prayer Episcopal Church			
AND/OR HISTORIC: House of Leaver			
2. LOCATION			
STREET AND NUMBER: Broad Street, north of State Street			
CITY OR TOWN: Newark			
STATE: New Jersey	CODE 31	COUNTY: Essex	CODE 013
3. PHOTO REFERENCE			
PHOTO CREDIT: Donald W. Geyer			
DATE OF PHOTO: 1971			
NEGATIVE FILED AT: Donald W. Geyer, 351 Broad Street, Newark, New Jersey			
4. IDENTIFICATION			
DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC. Front, left diagonal, showing tower and entrance therein, chancel beside tower, nave construction including round windows and aisle buttressing. Relationship to Plume House (Rectory) to left, modern Colonnade Apartments as backdrop.			



House of Prayer Episcopal Church and Rectory (Plume House)

Elizabeth Quad

Newark, Essex County

