

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

5

RECEIVED

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. Stephen's Episcopal Church

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

19 South Tenth Street

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Philadelphia

VICINITY OF

Third

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

STATE

Pennsylvania

CODE

42

COUNTY

Philadelphia

CODE

101

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	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC ACQUISITION	<input type="checkbox"/> ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT
			<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL
			<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY
			<input type="checkbox"/> PARK
			<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
			<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
			<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
			<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

St. Stephen's Episcopal Church

STREET & NUMBER

19 South Tenth Street

CITY, TOWN

Philadelphia

VICINITY OF

STATE

Pennsylvania

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Philadelphia City Hall

STREET & NUMBER

Broad and Market Streets

CITY, TOWN

Philadelphia

STATE

Pennsylvania

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE Philadelphia Historical Commission
Historic American Buildings Survey

DATE 1957

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

1313 City Hall Annex
Library of Congress

CITY, TOWN

Philadelphia
Washington

STATE Penna.
D.C.

DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The structure is an early Gothic Revival design of 1822-23. The front wall and flanking towers are of coursed ashlar granite; side and rear walls are of brick faced with coursed ashlar granite. The twin towers are octagonal, 86 feet in height, mounting in five stages, with the front wall between serving as a connecting screen. The screen is crenelated, as were the towers originally. The body of the building is rectangular, approx. 61 by 102 feet. It is a one-story building with a height at the cornice line of about 40 feet, surmounted by a gable roof. There are pointed-arch windows throughout, including lancet windows in the towers.

On the north side of the structure are a transept with a rose window, a vestry room (both added 1879), and a three-story rusticated granite ashlar parish house (added 1880). The parish house shares the west frontage of the structure. Except for the additions and the removal of the crenelations from the towers, the exterior of the structure has seen negligible change since it was constructed.

Three entry doors lead into a vestibule, connected to stairways in the towers. The interior is based on the three-aisle plan. There are galleries supported by clustered columns on three sides. The east end of the north gallery is now recessed in the transept; the corresponding portion of the south gallery has been removed. An inner vestibule is situated under the west gallery with the organ casing above. Box pews line the aisles. The chancel consists of a raised marble platform with marble chancel furniture. A massive marble reredos with mosaic and stained glass rises on the east wall. The ceiling is flat and is supported by wooden transverse ribs with brackets and finials.

The interior of the building has been redecorated a number of times. The galleries originally reached to the east wall. That wall held two round windows over the galleries and three central pointed-arch windows which complemented those at the west end. The chancel area was of a less imposing design. The interior walls, now plastered and painted, were originally of coursed stone.

The setting of the building has changed from a relatively open residential neighborhood to a site overshadowed by large commercial buildings.

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 checked="" 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 checked="" 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 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 Built: May, 1822 - Feb., 1823 BUILDER/ARCHITECT William Strickland,
Frank Furness

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The structure is notable as an early (1822-23) Gothic Revival design, important in its tentativeness in demonstrating the development of Gothic Revival architecture. The designer was the distinguished Philadelphia architect William Strickland, who is known primarily for his Greek Revival buildings (e.g. his Second Bank of the United States and Merchant's Exchange). Of a number of Strickland's experiments with the Gothic, St. Stephen's is a rare surviving example. It is the oldest building extant in Philadelphia of Gothic design, and was seemingly the first building erected in Philadelphia that was conceived of as being thoroughly Gothic. (Earlier buildings such as Strickland's short-lived Masonic Hall utilized Gothic elements fused to basically Federal or Classic architecture. Of these, the only example still standing is St. Mary's church where the facade with Gothic elements was an addition to an existing building.)

It is apparent with this design that Strickland was in new and unfamiliar territory. His conception of the Gothic falls somewhat awkwardly short of mature Gothic. He utilized many Gothic elements including clustered columns, pointed windows and doors, and the vaulted effect of the ceiling. However, as Strickland's biographer A.A. Gilchrist remarks, "There is an attempt to use all the characteristic features of medieval architecture without any understanding of Gothic construction." G. Tatum notes that at this time "... it was not clear that even the most accomplished architect understood the Gothic very well." The awkwardness of the design appears to be in part due to the squat character of the body of the building. The typically Gothic vertical thrust is nearly absent. The clustered columns reach only to the galleries and are then cut short. The flat ceiling with its closely spaced and heavy (though ornamentally pierced) ribs presses space downward. This effect must have been stronger - and also more coherent - with the original horizontally coursed stone walls and with the galleries reaching to the east wall. Only the tall pointed windows supply vertical direction.

Viewed from the exterior, the low nave fails to fill the void presented by the facade. The facade itself is an amalgam, demonstrating, says Tatum, "... the mixed ancestry of most early Gothic designs." The crenelations of the towers and rooflines are "reminiscent of the Castellated Mode", and the towers appear to be derived from the gothicized Romanesque St. Stephen's church of Vienna.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Gilchrist, Agnes Addison, William Strickland, Architect and Engineer, Univ. of Penna. Press, Phila., 1950
 Tatum, George, Penn's Great Town, Univ. of Penna. Press, Phila., 1961
 Webster, Richard, Philadelphia Preserved, Catalog of the Historic American Buildings Survey, Temple Univ. Press, Phila., 1976
 St. Stephen's church records and historical material in parish house

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 1

QUADRANGLE NAME Philadelphia

QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:24,000

UTM REFERENCES

A 18 486 610 4422 0910
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

B
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C

D

E

F

G

H

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

19 South Tenth Street, Philadelphia, Pa.

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

Martin H. Aurand

ORGANIZATION

St. Stephen's Church

DATE
7/27/78

STREET & NUMBER

19 South Tenth Street

TELEPHONE
922-3807

CITY OR TOWN

Philadelphia

STATE
Pennsylvania

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

STATE X

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

TITLE

DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

DATE

ATTEST:

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

CHIEF OF REGISTRATION

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER (8) PAGE (2)

The structure is imperfect Gothic, but Gothic nevertheless. It does not display the stylistic historical accuracy of later buildings such as John Notman's St. Mark's church. Yet, St. Stephen's is of great value in our understanding of the development of the Gothic Revival, as expressed in later architecture, and as compared to earlier styles. It is a rare and unusual example of a great architect's tentative venture across the threshold of a "new" style.

The transept and vestry room added in 1879 were designed by a second noted Philadelphia architect, Frank Furness. Apparently, compatibility was a major consideration with this addition as the new construction utilizes the stylistic elements of the original building. However, Furness does assert his distinctive hand in the abstract ornamentation of woodwork, the outstanding instance being the stairway in the vestry room. This is a vintage Furness design. Furness also added extensive stenciled interior decorations to the entire building, but these have unfortunately been painted over. Remnants have survived though in the organ chambers. The parish house was designed by George C. Mason & Sons in 1880.

The building contains a wealth of artistic treasure, of sculpture, mosaic, and stained glass. For this reason St. Stephen's has been called "Philadelphia's Westminster Abbey". The outstanding example is the sculpture "The Angel of Purity" by the great American sculptor St. Gaudens. There are three early Tiffany windows. Additional features are a Venetian glass mosaic and three monumental sculptures by Steinhauser.

The cornerstone of St. Stephen's was laid by Bishop William White on May 30, 1822. Members have included the architect, William Strickland, George Mifflin Dallas, vice-president of the U.S. from 1845 to 1849, and Dr. S. Weir Mitchell, author and medical pioneer. Many leading Philadelphia families such as the Cadwaladers, Lippincotts, Caldwells, Morrises, Magees, Bartons, and Burds have been part of the congregation.

FHR-8-300A
(11/78)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
HERITAGE CONSERVATION AND RECREATION SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

FOR HCRS USE ONLY

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DATE ENTERED

ST. STEPHEN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH, Philadelphia County
CONTINUATION SHEET ITEM NUMBER PAGE

#10 Verbal Boundary Description

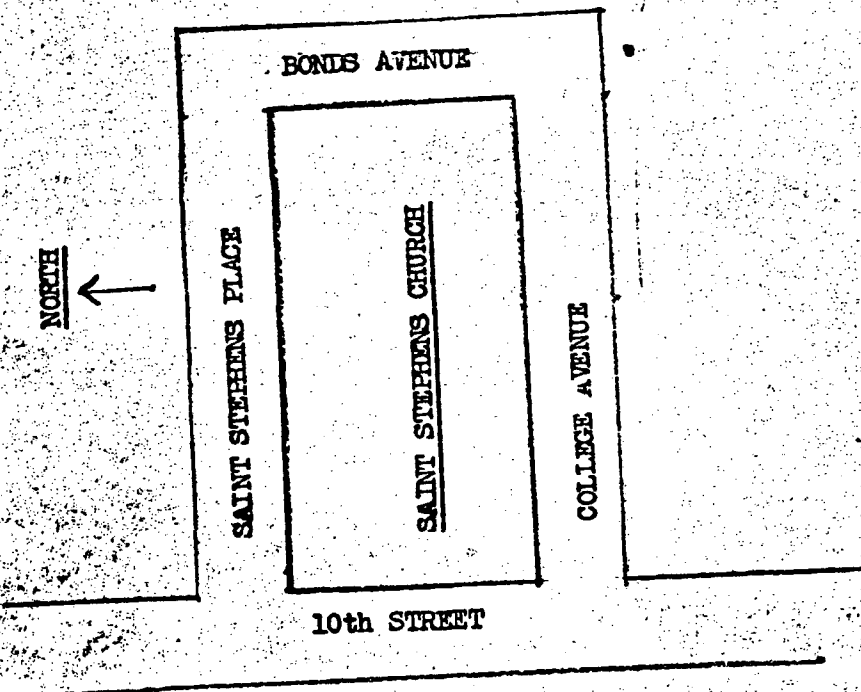
Starting at a point on the northeast corner of 10th Street moving north along east side of 19th Street to St. Stephen's Place; then east along southside of St. Stephen's Place to Bonds Avenue; then south along westside of Bonds Avenue to College Avenue; then west along northside of College Avenue to starting point.

3/21/44

Dear Smith: Thought this might interest you. Note how street names have been changed.

M.G.S.

FROM A MAP OF 1860



Saint Stephen's Place IS NOW DeGray Street

College Avenue is now Lombard Street

Bonds Avenue, an extension of the present Delhi Street, is now part of the Church garage, without through access.

DUNCAN C. ELY