

# Massachusetts Cultural Resource Information System

## Scanned Record Cover Page

<b>Inventory No:</b>	CON.396
<b>Historic Name:</b>	Trinity Episcopal Church
<b>Common Name:</b>	
<b>Address:</b>	81 Elm St
<b>City/Town:</b>	Concord
<b>Village/Neighborhood:</b>	Concord Center
<b>Local No:</b>	G9-708
<b>Year Constructed:</b>	1884
<b>Architect(s):</b>	Anderson, Beckwith and Haible; Belluschi, Pietro S.; Chapman, John H.; Connick, Charles J.; Little, Harry Britton; Owen, Frank Sewall
<b>Architectural Style(s):</b>	Gothic Revival
<b>Use(s):</b>	Church
<b>Significance:</b>	Architecture; Religion
<b>Area(s):</b>	CON.AE: River Street Area CON.DU: Main Street Historic District
<b>Designation(s):</b>	Local Historic District (03/12/1962)
<b>Building Materials(s):</b>	Roof: Slate Wall: Ashlar Random Laid; Glass; Granite; Wood; Stone, Uncut Foundation: Stone, Uncut



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Commonwealth of Massachusetts  
Massachusetts Historical Commission  
220 Morrissey Boulevard, Boston, Massachusetts 02125  
[www.sec.state.ma.us/mhc](http://www.sec.state.ma.us/mhc)

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## FORM B - BUILDING

Assessor's number

USGS Quad

Area(s)

Form Number

CON. 396

Massachusetts Historical Commission  
80 Boylston Street  
Boston, Massachusetts 02116

G9-708

CONCORD

AE

396



CONCORD

(neighborhood or village)

Concord Center

67-81 Elm Street

SS

Trinity Church

Historic Name

Episcopal Church

Present

" "

Original

1884; addns. 1913,

of Construction 1941, 1948, 1963

Teele, church history, Keyes

Style

Gothic Revival

Form

JH Chapman; addns.

Architect/Builder Harry Little, Frank Owen,

Pietro Belluschi

Exterior Material:

fieldstone

Foundation

random-laid ashlar

Wall/Trim

asphalt shingle

Roof

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures

none

Major Alterations (with dates) Enlarged

1941, 1948; new church added 1963.

(see p. 2). Belfry removed. Modern entry, w. end, some windows replaced.

Condition

good

Moved ☒ no ☐ yes Date N/A

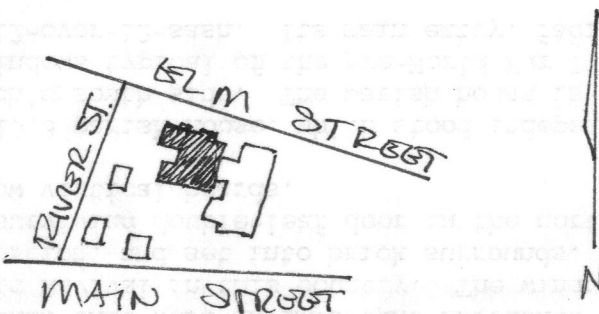
Acreage 60, 776 sq. ft.

Setting

In residential district of  
late-19th-century houses at town center.  
On large lot at corner of River Street,  
extending south to Main Street at rear.

## Sketch Map

Draw a map of the area indicating properties within it. Number each property for which individual inventory forms have been completed. Label streets including route numbers, if any. Attach a separate sheet if space is not sufficient here. Indicate North.



Recorded by A. Forbes  
for Concord Hist. Commission

Organization  
June, 1992

Date (month/day/year)

BUILDING FORM

CON-396

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION ☐ see continuation sheet

*Describe architectural features. Evaluate the characteristics of this building in terms of other buildings within the community.*

Trinity Church is highly significant for its 1884 English Gothic Revival stone chapel, designed by local architect John Chapman, and in the future may have architectural significance for the main church, designed by Pietro Belluschi in 1963. Both sections are constructed in random-laid ashlar of mixed granite and fieldstone. Chapman's building, with its diminutive proportions, shallow buttresses, randomly-laid stone with "grape-vine" mortar, steeply-pitched roof, and side-projecting transept and entry bay, was clearly inspired by the English country churches that were an important influence on the mid- to late-nineteenth-century Gothic Revival in this country. The windows are pointed-arched, small in proportion, and set into brick surrounds. Low brick parapets adorn all the gables. The surviving double-leaf door in the north entry bay is simply-constructed of narrow vertical boards.

The 1913 parish house, which stood independently until 1963, is now linked to the church's south side. The parish house is a 2-story stucco structure, with a variety of windows typical of the pre-World War I period, including multi-paned casements and 12-over-12-sash. Its main entry, facing River Street, has been altered. (Cont.)

HISTORICAL NARRATIVE ☐ see continuation sheet

*Discuss the history of the building. Explain its associations with local (or state) history. Include uses of the building, and the role(s) the owners/occupants played within the community.*

The building of Trinity Church reflects the diversification of population that took place in the Concord community over the second half of the nineteenth century. As David Little points out, the Episcopal Church "took a long time coming" to Concord, which 250 years before had been founded by Colonists strongly opposed to the Episcopacy of the Church of England. In the 1880's, that yankee spirit was still alive in some old-timers, who, in the words of J.S. Keyes, considered the church of "these Anglicans...a disturbing, proselytizing institution." Understandably, then, the founders of the Episcopal congregation in Concord were largely people who had moved to town from other communities.

The first Episcopal services held in Concord were two funerals in the 1850's. Worship services began in private homes in either 1867 or 1869, and were held sporadically in houses and public halls under guest ministers for about ten years thereafter. In 1882, Dr. Washington Trull came to Concord, and helped lead an effort to establish an Episcopal mission here. He arranged to rent the empty North Center schoolhouse at 24 Court Lane, then being used for a funerary chapel, as a regular meeting place for the small but dedicated group of worshipers, and by the end of the year a building fund for a permanent church had been started. (Cont.)

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES ☐ see continuation sheet

Maps, atlases: 1889, 1895, 1906.  
Little, David. "Concord and its Churches", in Teele, ed. The Meeting House on the Green. 1985.  
Little and Day. Harry Little's Concord.  
Miller, Marian, and Tower, Frederick. A History of Trinity Church, 1884-1962. 1970.  
Keyes/Tolman.  
Richardson.  
Town directories.

☐ Recommended for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. *If checked, you must attach a completed National Register Criteria Statement form.*



## INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

Community

Property

CONCORDTrinity Church

Massachusetts Historical Commission  
80 Boylston Street  
Boston, Massachusetts 02116

Area(s) Form No.

## ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE, cont.

The 1963 church building is dominated by a high, steep, hipped slate roof, and, in contrast to the solidity of the chapel, seems virtually wall-less, as the building itself is stepped deeply back under the roof, and surrounded on at least two sides by vertical-paneled glass walls. The new building has a capacity of 400, and is graced with two works by Gyorgy Kepes--a white Carrara marble altar and a stained-glass window at the eastern end.

## HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE, cont.

The schedule of services became more regular in 1883, when the Rev. Edward Rand of Watertown was engaged to conduct Sunday services. (

The lot for the new building, (another piece of land was added later), was one of those belonging to William F. Hurd, who in the late 1870's-early '80's had developed a small residential neighborhood at the base of Elm Street. It was purchased at a considerable discount for \$500, and ground was broken and a cornerstone laid in the spring of 1884. The architect was Concord's own John H. Chapman (see #350 Main Street), who donated his services. Like most architects of his time, John Chapman designed buildings in a variety of styles. For the church he chose the simple English country Gothic Revival, a humble style very much in keeping with a small building that seated only 127 people.

Gifts and donations made some decoration and ornament possible, including monogrammed windows from Mrs. Elizabeth Hunt, Mrs. FE Bigelow, SH Emery, Jr., and A. Bronson Alcott, who in his youth had been confirmed in the Episcopal Church. Mrs. OH Underhill gave a large circular window in the west wall and a Tiffany glass window above the altar (later removed to the Parish Hall.) No money was ever given for a bell, however, and the little belfry over the entrance stood empty for several years until it was eventually removed. Crosses were mounted on the east and west gables in 1894. After they were destroyed in the 1938 hurricane, replacements were made of "hurricane timber" by Russell Hunt.

Bishop Benjamin Paddock consecrated the little church on January 3, 1885 as Trinity Mission. Rev. Rand continued to conduct services until 1886, when he was replaced by the Rev. Benjamin Judkins, who was still pastor in 1888 when the church was granted full union with the Convention of the Diocese of Massachusetts, as Trinity Parish.

Under the next rector, Walter Russell Breed, (1890-1893) who also served St. Anne's of Lincoln, the congregation grew from 30 to 60 communicants, and continued to increase through the ministry of four more rectors until the end of World War II. In 1907 there were 115 members; by the 1940's there were over 300. (Cont.)

## INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

Community

Property

CONCORDTrinity Church

Massachusetts Historical Commission  
80 Boylston Street  
Boston, Massachusetts 02116

Area(s) Form No.

## HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE, cont.

In 1905 the church acquired the house and adjoining lot to the west for a rectory, purchasing it from John Chapman's widow for \$6,000. (The building, which later housed the Sunday School and offices, was torn down in 1965.) In 1913 the Parish House was built. Although overcrowding had become extreme, the first expansion of the church itself was the lengthening of the chancel in 1941. The expansion was one of the last works of architect **Harry Little**, (see #263 Simon Willard Road,) who, like John Chapman, donated his services. He did much remodeling as well, adding wood paneling, and replacing Mrs. Underhill's west circular window with one representing St. Francis of Assisi, made by the Connick company of Boston (the gift of Edward N. Chase.)

The chancel expansion did little to address the need for more seating, and in 1948 the nave was lengthened by two bays, increasing the capacity from 127 to nearly 200. In 1950-51 a large wing was added to the parish house--both projects were the work of architect **Frank S. Owen**.

The 1891 William Eaton house at 81 Elm Street was purchased for a new rectory in 1955. The former rectory was converted for use by the church school, and was also rented out to various non-profit organizations until it was torn down.

Assistant ministers began serving at Trinity in 1951, and in 1960 the house at 18 River Street was purchased for the assistant minister's residence.

Finally, in 1963, with the congregation approaching 800, after years of planning for a replacement or expansion of the 1884 church, the old Eaton house was moved to 10 Wood Street, and a new church, designed by **Pietro Belluschi**, was built in its place. It was connected to both the parish house and the old church, which continued in use as a chapel, and the house at 94 Elm Street was purchased for a new rectory.



*Trinity Church and Parish House*

Massachusetts Historical Commission  
80 Boylston Street  
Boston, Massachusetts 02116

Community Property Address  
CONCORD 67-81 Elm Street

Area(s)	FormNo.

## National Register of Historic Places Criteria Statement Form



Check all that apply:

- ☒ Individually eligible   ☐ Eligible only in a historic district  
☒ Contributing to a potential historic district   ☐ Potential historic district

Criteria:   ☒ A   ☐ B   ☒ C   ☐ D

Criteria Considerations:   ☒ A   ☐ B   ☐ C   ☐ D   ☐ E   ☐ F   ☐ G

Anne McCarthy Forbes

Statement of Significance by \_\_\_\_\_  
*The criteria that are checked in the above sections must be justified here.*

Trinity Church meets the criteria for individual listing on the National Register both as the major new religious institution in Concord of the last quarter of the nineteenth century, and for its stone Gothic Revival architecture, designed by local architect John Chapman. It possesses integrity of location, design, setting, materials, and workmanship, feeling and association.



CON. 396  
Inv 125 ✓

(Attach photo here)

FORM B - BUILDING SURVEY

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
Office of the Secretary, State House, Boston

2. Town

Concord

Street address

Elm St

Name

Trinity Church

Use: original & present

church

Present owner

Church

Open to public

Date

1884

Style

Source of date

A History of Trinity Church  
1884-1962

Architect

John Chapman

OR part of Area #

3. CONDITION Excellent Good Fair Deteriorated Moved

Altered

Added

1948

two bays on nave  
length

enlarged 1941

4. DESCRIPTION

FOUNDATION/BASEMENT: High Regular Low Material

WALL COVER: Wood

Brick Stone Other

ROOF:

Ridge

Gambrel

Flat

Hip

Mansard

high pitch

Tower

Cupola

Dormer windows

Balustrade

Grillwork

CHIMNEYS:

1

2

3

4

Center

End

Interior

Irregular

Cluster

Elaborate

STORIES: 1

2

3

4

ATTACHMENTS:

Wings

Ell

Shed

1950

Wing

PORCHES: 1

2

3

4

PORTICO

Balcony

FACADE: Gable end: Front/side Ornament

Entrance: Side Front: Center/Side Details:

Windows: Spacing: Regular/Irregular Identical/Varied

Corners: Plain Pilasters Quoins Cornerboards

5. Indicate location of building in relation to  
nearest cross streets and other buildings

6. Footage of structure from street

Property has feet frontage on street

Recorder

P.L.W.

For

MHC

Photo #

Date

8/31/71

SEE REVERSE SIDE



RELATION OF SURROUNDING STRUCTURE

- 1. Outbuildings \_\_\_\_\_
- 2. Landscape Features: Agriculture Open Wooded Garden: Formal/Informal  
Predominant features \_\_\_\_\_  
Landscape architect \_\_\_\_\_
- 3. Neighboring Structures  
Style: Colonial Federal Greek Revival Gothic Revival Italian Villa Lombard Rom.  
Venetian Gothic Mansard Richardsonian Modern  
Use: Residential Commercial Religious Conditions: Excellent Good Fair Deteriorated

GIVE A BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF HISTORIC IMPORTANCE OF SITE (Refer and elaborate on theme circled on front of form)

ROOF: \_\_\_\_\_  
WALLS: \_\_\_\_\_  
FLOORING: \_\_\_\_\_  
FOUNDATION/BASEMENT: \_\_\_\_\_  
DESCRIPTION

BIBLIOGRAPHY AND/OR REFERENCE

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_  
NAME: \_\_\_\_\_  
ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_  
CITY: \_\_\_\_\_  
STATE: \_\_\_\_\_  
ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_  
DATE: \_\_\_\_\_  
NAME: \_\_\_\_\_  
ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_  
CITY: \_\_\_\_\_  
STATE: \_\_\_\_\_  
ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

RESTRICTIONS

Original Owner: \_\_\_\_\_  
Deed Information: Book Number \_\_\_\_\_ Page \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_ Registry of Deeds

CON. 396

# INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
MASSACHUSETTS ARCHIVES BUILDING  
220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD  
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Town

Property Address

Concord 67-29 Elm St

Area(s)

Form No.

CON 396

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY  
DIVISION OF INSPECTION  
PLAN RECORD

CASE *B* RACK *10* APART. *94* NO. *80468*

BUILDING *Trinity Church* STORIES

CITY OR TOWN *Concord* STREET *Elm*

TO BE USED FOR *religious purposes* CLASS *IV*

OWNER *Trinity Church, Elm St., Concord*

ARCHITECT *Belluschi & Anderson Beckwith & Halble, 11 Beacon Street, Boston, Mass.*

CERTIFICATE APPROVAL—SPECIFICATION REQUIREMENTS—REFERRED

DATE *November 15, 1961*

INSPECTOR *Charles T. Beaupre*

FORM BU. 1-5W-2-29-525610

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY  
DIVISION OF INSPECTION  
PLAN RECORD alt.

CASE *B* RACK *2* APART. *1* NO. *33267*

BUILDING *Trinity Church* STORIES *1 & B.*

CITY OR TOWN *Concord* STREET *Elm St.*

TO BE USED FOR *place of worship* CLASS

OWNER *Trustees of Trinity Church*

ARCHITECT *Frank S. Owen*

CERTIFICATE APPROVAL—SPECIFICATION REQUIREMENTS—REFERRED

DATE *5/25/48*

INSPECTOR *J. A. Gleason*

Form BU. 1-2m-10-'36 No. 8932