

Site Inventory Form
State Historical Society of Iowa
 (December 1, 1999)

State Inventory No. 70-00146 New Supplemental
 Part of a district with known boundaries (enter inventory no.) _____
 Relationship: Contributing Noncontributing
 Contributes to a potential district with yet unknown boundaries
 National Register Status: (any that apply) Listed De-listed NHL DOE
 Review & Compliance No. _____
 Non-Extant (enter year) _____

1. Name of Property

historic name Trinity Episcopal Church
 other names/site number Field Site #: FS-111

2. Location

street & number 411 E. 2nd Street (211 Walnut St)
 city or town Muscatine vicinity, county Muscatine
 Legal Description: (If Rural) Township Name _____ Township No. _____ Range No. _____ Section _____ Quarter of Quarter _____
 (If Urban) Subdivision Original Town Block(s): 30 Lot(s): 1 & 2

3. State/Federal Agency Certification [Skip this Section]

4. National Park Service Certification [Skip this Section]

5. Classification

Category of Property (Check only one box)	Number of Resources within Property		
	If Non-Eligible Property	If Eligible Property, enter number of:	
	Enter number of:	Contributing	Noncontributing
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	_____ buildings	<u>1</u>	_____ buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> district	_____ sites	_____	_____ sites
<input type="checkbox"/> site	_____ structures	_____	_____ structures
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	_____ objects	_____	_____ objects
<input type="checkbox"/> object	_____ Total	<u>1</u>	_____ Total

Name of related project report or multiple property study (Enter "N/A" if the property is not part of a multiple property examination).
 Title _____ Historical Architectural Data Base Number _____

Historical and Architectural Survey and Evaluation of the Downtown Commercial District 70-013

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)	Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)
<u>06A01: Religion/religious facility/church</u>	<u>06A01: Religion/religious facility/church</u>
_____	_____
_____	_____

7. Description

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)	Materials (Enter categories from instructions)
<u>04B: Mid-19th Century/Gothic Revival</u>	foundation <u>04B: Stone</u>
_____	walls <u>04B: Stone/sandstone</u>
_____	roof <u>04E: Slate</u>
_____	other _____

Narrative Description (SEE CONTINUATION SHEETS, WHICH MUST BE COMPLETED)

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria (Mark "x" representing your opinion of eligibility after applying relevant National Register criteria)

<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> More Research Recommended	A	Property is associated with significant events.
<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> More Research Recommended	B	Property is associated with the lives of significant persons.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> More Research Recommended	C	Property has distinctive architectural characteristics.
<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> More Research Recommended	D	Property yields significant information in archaeology or history.

County Muscatine Address 411 E. 2nd Street Site Number 70-00146
City Muscatine District Number _____

Criteria Considerations

- A Owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B Removed from its original location.
- C A birthplace or grave.
- D A cemetery.
- E A reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F A commemorative property.
- G Less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions)

02: Architecture
27D: Religion/Episcopalian

Significant Dates

Construction date 1851 check if circa or estimated date
Other dates 1855

Significant Person

(Complete if National Register Criterion B is marked above)

Architect/Builder

Architect _____
Builder Frank Wills
Josiah Proctor Walton & J.W. Walton

Narrative Statement of Significance SEE CONTINUATION SHEETS, WHICH MUST BE COMPLETED

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography See continuation sheet for citations of the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form

10. Geographic Data

UTM References (OPTIONAL)

Zone	Easting	Northing	Zone	Easting	Northing
1	_____	_____	2	_____	_____
3	_____	_____	4	_____	_____

See continuation sheet for additional UTM references or comments

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Jim Rudisill, Planning & Community Development Coordinator (R.L. McCarley, consultant)
organization Muscatine Historic Preservation Commission date December 8, 2004
street & number 215 Sycamore telephone 563-264-1554
city or town Muscatine state Iowa zip code 52761

ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTATION (Submit the following items with the completed form)

FOR ALL PROPERTIES

- Map:** showing the property's location in a town/city or township.
- Site plan:** showing position of buildings and structures on the site in relation to public road(s).
- Photographs:** representative black and white photos. If the photos are taken as part of a survey for which the Society is to be curator of the negatives or color slides, a photo/catalog sheet needs to be included with the negatives/slides and the following needs to be provided below on this particular inventory site:

Roll/slide sheet # _____ Frame/slot # _____ Date Taken _____
Roll/slide sheet # _____ Frame/slot # _____ Date Taken _____
Roll/slide sheet # _____ Frame/slot # _____ Date Taken _____

- See continuation sheet or attached **photo & slide catalog sheet** for list of photo roll or slide entries.
- Photos/illustrations without negatives are also in this site inventory file.

FOR CERTAIN KINDS OF PROPERTIES, INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING AS WELL

- Farmstead & District:** (List of structures and buildings, known or estimated year built, and contributing or non-contributing status)
- Barn:**
 - A sketch of the frame/truss configuration in the form of drawing a typical middle bent of the barn.
 - A photograph of the loft showing the frame configuration along one side.
 - A sketch floor plan of the interior space arrangements along with the barn's exterior dimensions in feet.

State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) Use Only Below This Line

Concur with above survey opinion on National Register eligibility: Yes No More Research Recommended
 This is a locally designated property or part of a locally designated district.

Comments: _____

Evaluated by (name/title): _____ Date: _____

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7. Narrative Description

Trinity Episcopal Church is a sandstone Gothic Revival building that was constructed on a small, elevated lot in two phases between 1851 and 1855. The cellar walls and foundation were built in the fall of 1851 and the cornerstone was laid on November 11, 1851. The rest of the construction dragged on for about three years, with the dedicatory services for the new church finally held by Bishop Jackson Kemper on May 25, 1854. The construction of the stone church and a new pastor apparently sparked an increase in membership during the early 1850s and the congregation soon exceeded the capacity of the new church. Construction of two transepts to the north half of the original building was completed in 1855. The additional work created a cruciform design, with the original structure forming the nave and the apse and crossing completing the cross shape. The chancel was located in the north end (back) of the building.

A parish hall and Sunday School rooms were added to the back of the church in 1914-15. An opportunity to expand these facilities became available in 1945, when a fire destroyed the Muscatine Grand Opera House that set on the nearby corner lot west of the church. The lot was purchased, and in 1955 a one-story, brick and cement block parish hall and office area was constructed, creating the current footprint for the structure.

The nave is clearly defined by the steep sloping roof and the main historic entry is located in the southeast corner of the structure. The entrance location is another feature that does not follow strict ecclesiological standards, but may have been influenced by existing buildings on neighboring lots. The front façade is dominated by a full-height bell-cote that extends along the center of the wall. Two lancet windows are located on either side of the bell-cote, which contains a conglomerate of variously shaped openings. The first is a tall, narrow lancet window with dressed stone capstone, stained glass and tracery. Above this window is a squat, blind miter arch with a diamond-quatrefoil ornament at its center. The final opening is a smaller, round arch with capstones. A gable "roof" with a metal cross crowns the top. A gable-roofed entry extends from the west elevation in the southeast corner of the building. The south wall of the entry lengthens the front façade of the structure, but the west facing entry is the major feature from this perspective. A small cross is attached to the entryway's roof ridge above the wood door. Access to the entryway from Second Street is up a short flight of stone steps. A stone retaining wall runs along the front of the lot. An historic iron fence with lancet finials on each picket tops the wall.

Four stone buttresses are equally spaced along the west elevation wall, with a single lancet window centrally located within each bay established by the buttresses. Towards the north end of the west elevation, an 18' x 26' transept was constructed around 1854. A corresponding 18' x 28' transept was also constructed from the east elevation. Both transepts feature a centrally located wood door flanked by matching lancet windows on their south walls. The end wall of each transept also contains a tall, lancet window located in the center of each wall. The north walls of each transept have been covered by newer construction. However, it is assumed those walls originally included matching fenestration that would have complemented the transepts' south walls. The three exterior walls of the apse have also become hidden by newer construction. An 1881 interior photo that is reproduced in a church history shows three tall lancet windows located in the north wall of the apse (Coleman 1951: 25).

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The north walls of both transepts and all three walls of the apse were incorporated into the construction of a parish hall and Sunday school rooms from 1914 to 1915. The exterior of this addition has been parged, but it appears the structure may be of frame construction with a brick veneer. The design of the structure did not follow the Gothic Revival style of the original church, but a more Romanesque style with rounded window and door crowns. Originally three sets of windows were located on the west wall of the addition, but one set has been enclosed. In the northwest corner of the addition is an entry with a square transom. Above the door is a rounded crown. The north wall contains two existing windows and one that has been enclosed. There are also several enclosed basement openings, although some existing ventilation piping has been installed through both the basement and first floor enclosed openings.

The west wall of the 1914-15 addition and a small portion of the end wall of the west transept were covered during construction for another addition in 1955. This cement block and brick addition extended the 1914-15 parish hall/school to Walnut Street and provided additional room for parish activities. It was left in an unfinished stage on the interior until 1970, when the parish completed the project by establishing a library in the west room and office space along the south side. Fenestration included four reinforced, 3-sectioned, 4' x 8' glass windows in the north wall of the addition. There was also one basement window opening on this side. The west elevation contained a 15-lite glass window unit, under which were five granite inlays. The center inlay contained a Gothic cross etching, while the two end inlays had 1955 etched into them. Each lite in the glass window measured approximately 2' x 2'. The south section of the 1955 addition contained a set of steps leading up to double-unit metal and glass door that sets within an L-shaped cutout in the southwest corner of the addition. The wall that forms the west wall of the cutout and runs perpendicular to the wall section containing the entry door contains a 12-unit glass window. Each unit is approximately 2' x 2'. The remaining fenestration on the south wall of the 1955 addition contains two, three-unit windows.

The simple interior of the building has not been extensively altered since construction, though redecorated several times. A small entry hall is located at the back (south) of the church. A stairway sets along the west wall of the entry and provides access to a loft that stretches across the entire width of the nave. Organ pipes are located in the loft. Two bands of decorative molding mark the wall/ceiling junction and extend around the entire perimeter of the interior walls. Approximately five inches separates the larger top band from the narrower bottom band. The chancel sets under a four-sided lancet arch. A communion rail separates the chancel from the nave.

8. Narrative Statement of Significance

Trinity Episcopal Church was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1974 under Criteria A and C. The significance of Trinity Episcopal Church lies primarily in its architecture and its relationship to the Ecclesiological Movement in America. Designed by Frank Wills, it represents one of the earliest buildings constructed west of the Mississippi River as part of the Ecclesiological Movement in America. The Gothic Revival style of the original stone church contains several features characteristic of this movement, including a commitment to using higher quality material rather than inexpensive substitutes; easy identification of interior spaces from the outside; steep roof; properly sized chancel and similar

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elements. The interior also features a simple design that reinforces the style guidelines established by ecclesiology. It meets Criterion Consideration A.

In addition to its architecture and religious significance, the church also served as an important social and cultural focus in early Muscatine. In the later part of the 19th century, the church and its members provided an important social outlet for the community through its “sociables.” According to Coleman, these events especially impressed the local social reporters. “The ladies of Trinity guild have established an enviable reputation as entertainers, and more than fulfilling the more sanguinary expectations of their friends ... most charming of living pictures, 72 ladies whose handsome, tasty and novel costuming, representing the flower of Muscatine’s youth and beauty,” one local reporter wrote (Coleman 1951: 27).

Trinity Episcopal Church is a sandstone Gothic Revival building that was constructed on a small, elevated lot in two phases between 1851 and 1855. It replaced an earlier frame structure that had been constructed in 1841 on the same lot. The frame church was credited with being the first church building of any denomination in the county and the first Episcopal Church in Iowa (Richman 1911: 313-316). After its construction, the stone church was the site of the founding of the Diocese of Iowa; and the first Anglican bishop consecrated west of the Mississippi River received his anointment there in 1864 (Focus 1971: 5-7).

The new church was originally built after 16 local parish members subscribed \$1,250 and Rev. John B. Calhoun was sent east to solicit more donations. He secured an additional \$1,250 from these benefactors. During the eastern fundraising trip, Calhoun also obtained plans and specifications for the new church from noted New York architect Frank Wills. The cellar walls and foundation were built in the fall of 1851 and the cornerstone was laid on November 11, 1851. The rest of the construction dragged on for about three years, with the dedicatory services for the new church finally held by Bishop Jackson Kemper on May 25, 1854. The September 16, 1853 issue of the Muscatine Journal described the new church as “a very substantial edifice. It is built of stone in the Gothic style, and has an uncouth appearance on the outside, but the interior is elegantly furnished. The windows are of stained glass, ornamented with appropriate devices. A fine organ has been set up in the church as an auxiliary to the choir. The entire structure cost about \$3000.” (Coleman 1951: 17).

Church history points to a June 29, 1853 convention of pastors who met in Muscatine as the beginning point for the creation of the first Episcopalian diocese in Iowa. The convention resulted in a petition that was sent to Bishop Kemper who set another meeting in August to consider the proposal. Tradition holds that meeting was held at Trinity Church and eventually led to a vote in 1854 that created the diocese (Coleman 1951: 16-17).

The design of the original stone church building was strongly influenced by the Ecclesiological Movement that originated in England in the 1830s. Frank Wills, who was born in England in 1819, was the leading spokesman for ecclesiology in North America from 1845, when he immigrated to Canada, until he died in 1857. Ecclesiology drew its inspiration from medieval Gothic style parish churches. Prior to the influence of ecclesiology, church architects of the 18th and early 19th centuries practiced a less dogmatic Gothic style.

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The architectural shift to ecclesiology reflected the larger movement from the secular to a more doctrinal view of Christianity that was then occurring (NYLPC 1980).

As one of the leading proponents of ecclesiology, Wills exerted a strong influence over this development through his association with the New York Ecclesiological Society. His articles frequently appeared in its journal. The Society was especially concerned with the introduction of good design to American ecclesiastical architecture. This was especially apparent with the material used in the construction of a church. The Society condemned the use of inexpensive material to imitate more costly materials. Plaster that was painted to resemble stone or used to create false ribs and vaults became a special target for ecclesiology proponents (NYLPC 1980).

A well-designed ecclesiological church also expressed each interior portion of the building on the exterior in a clear and straightforward manner. The nave, side aisles, chancel, porch, transepts and other interior spaces would be easily identified on the exterior. Such a church would also demonstrate the correct orientation on an east-west axis, a steep roof, a properly sized chancel, fully-developed transepts rather than short, stubby features and the placement of the entrance porch on the southwest corner. The key issue however was honest design and construction (NYLPC 1980). Though all these elements are not present in this church, it demonstrates a significant number of these key features.

The original Parish Register books are kept in the church office, with a record of members updated by hand. Old entries were crossed out when a person stopped attending or noted "removed" if they moved or died. The Parish Register of 1853 to 1863 is the first known volume of church records. It contains records of Holy Baptism, Confirmation, Communicants, Families & Single Persons connected to the church, Marriages, Deaths and some other notations of special church events. Volume Two of Trinity Church covers the period of January 1864 to 15 April 1899. The chapters include; Families Connected to the Church, Holy Baptism, Confirmation, Communicants, Marriages and Burials.

The church was redecorated in 1894. The church was redecorated in the style of the times with walls and ceiling of various shades of green, blue, buff and gold. Two kneeling angels were painted on either side of the altar. According to a description printed in a church history, "the parishioners were surrounded by hymns of praise to the Lord from the canticle "Benedicite" on the frieze below the cornice" ("A History of Trinity Episcopal Church" 1979, 18). In addition to this work, new pews, the oak altar, pulpit, lectern and other items were also installed throughout this time.

A parish hall and Sunday School rooms were added to the back of the church in 1914-15. A second redecorating effort occurred in 1939. Church architect John Neal Tilton was commissioned to supervise this work. The 1884 organ was rebuilt and its pipes placed in lofts over both ends of the transepts. The oak furniture from the work done in the 1890s was retained, along with the lettering from the Benedicite. A new coat of paint covered the kneeling angels, but in the right light, the figures could still be seen ("A History of Trinity Episcopal Church" 1979, 19).

In 1945, the neighboring Grand Opera House burned to the ground, but Trinity's slate roof prevented it from catching on fire. The parish purchased the corner lot to add a parish hall. In 1955, a one-story, brick

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and cement block parish hall and office area was constructed, creating the current footprint for the structure ("Trinity Episcopal Church" 2005).

In 1971, a new organ and a freestanding altar were the focus of extensive redecorating. In 1989, on the celebration of Trinity's 150-year mission, the parish raised funds for a significant church-wide physical restoration project to preserve the historic Trinity Church, now a National Historic Register site. This work stretched over a three-year period and included stabilization of the stone walls, repair of the slate roof and interior work ("Trinity Episcopal Church" 2005). Trinity Church has remained an important social and cultural influence on the Muscatine area for more than 165 years. It continues to serve the Episcopal residents of Muscatine.

9. Major Bibliographical References

"A History of Trinity Episcopal Church, 1839-1979," Muscatine, Iowa, p. 18-19

Coleman, Carroll, (supervisor): *The Story of Trinity Episcopal Church, 1839-1951*. Iowa City: Economy Advertising Company, 1951.

The Ecclesiological Society. Frank Wills. Accessed online at www.ecclsoc.org/wills.html.

Iowa Democratic Enquirer. "Episcopal Church," Newspaper Microfiche Collection, Musser Public Library, Muscatine: November 15, 1851

Jensen, Julie. *Muscatine Saves The West's Oldest Episcopal Church*. Muscatine, IA: Focus (Publisher Unknown), November 28, 1971.

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New York City Landmarks Preservation Commission. *Saint James Episcopal Church Landmark Determination*. New York City, NY, 1980.

Philadelphia Architects and Buildings. Frank Wills (1822-1856). Accessed online at www.philadephiabuildings.org.

Richman, Irving B. *History of Muscatine County (Vol. 1)*. Chicago: S.J. Clarke Publishing Co., 1911.

State Historical Society of Iowa. "Iowa Site Inventory Forms/National Register Of Historic Places Inventory – Nomination Form." Des Moines, 1974.

"Trinity Episcopal Church," Church website, 2005, URL: www.machlink.net/~trinity/index.php

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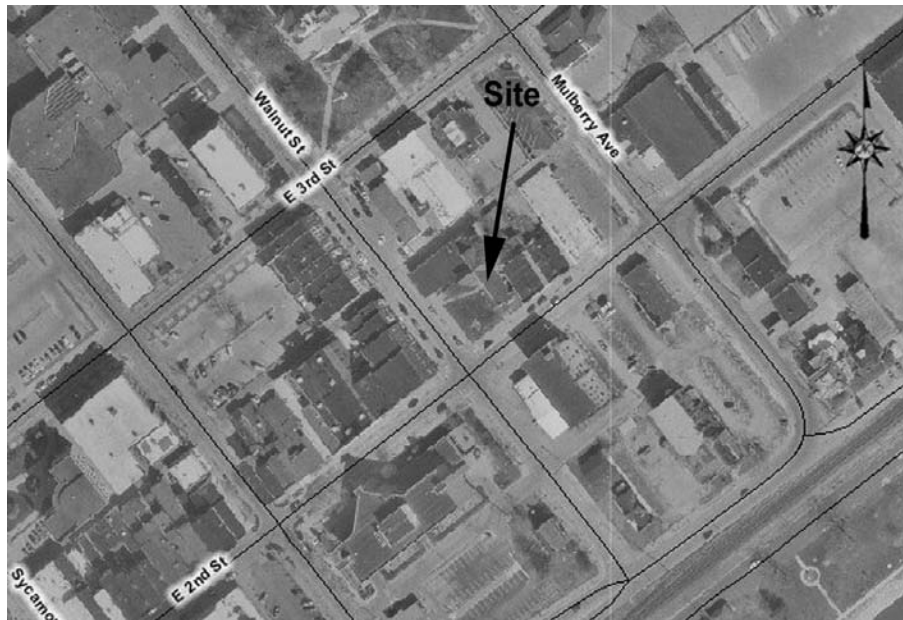
Muscatine
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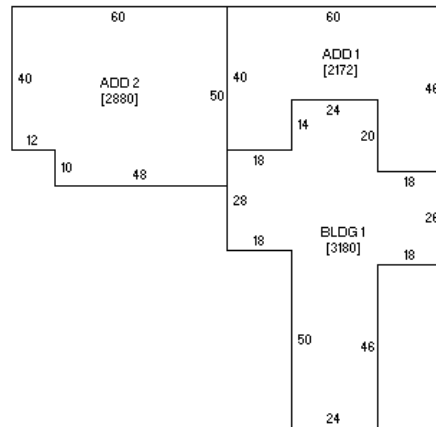
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Walton, J.P. *History of Trinity Episcopal Church, Muscatine, Iowa 1839-1892*. Muscatine, IA: Journal, 1892.

Location Map



Plan (from assessor's office)



(front)

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Photograph of building (digital image)

