

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

For NPS use only
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. PAUL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

and/or common

2. Location

street & number Old York & Ashbourne Roads not for publication

city, town Elkins Park vicinity of _____ congressional district 13

state Pennsylvania code 42 county Montgomery code 091

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"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<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:

4. Owner of Property

name St. Paul's Episcopal Church

street & number Old York & Ashbourne Roads

city, town Elkins Park vicinity of _____ state PA 19117

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Montgomery County Courthouse

street & number Airy & Swede Streets

city, town Norristown state PA

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Pennsylvania Inventory
of Historic Places

has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date 7-14-80 federal state county local

depository for survey records Pennsylvania Historical & Museum Commission

city, town Harrisburg state Pennsylvania

7. Description

Condition

excellent
 good
 fair

deteriorated
 ruins
 unexposed

Check one

unaltered
 altered

Check one

original site
 moved date _____

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Upon consecration in 1861, the church consisted of a square structure of local gray stone beneath a pitched roof of slate, the same materials used in future enlargements. At one corner stood a stubby tower forming the entrance and supporting a thickset spire. The architect is unknown, but by plausible tradition, founder Jay Cooke himself conceived the original design.

Seven years later, the size of the church was doubled along its west-east axis, so that the steeple was now at midpoint on the long south side. In 1870, the imposing 60' high tower was erected at the northwest corner. The main entrance was transferred to the west end of the church, and the newer tower and older steeple coexisted into this century when the spire was removed. A transept was added to the church in 1883, not intersecting the nave but projecting a 20' square from the south side only. In 1891, the two-story parish house wing to the north side of the building was added. Gothic design with pointed doors and windows was retained, but in a less restic form, with the rubble masonry of the older part being directed into courses. Numerous convolutions apart, the church proper is approx. 50' wide by 120' deep, while the parish house wing, which is set back, extends 70' to the north.

Noted architect Horace Trumbauer made refinements to the church during the 1897-1924 period. During 1959-60, the then rector, James G. Ludwig III, formerly an architect, added a narthex to the west end of the church and made other revisions of such quality that they appear to have been there all along. An unobtrusive office suite was added at the northeast rear corner in 1972.

Under the hammerbeam ceiling, blocks of light tan stone line the nave, floored in red tile. Stained glass windows, including larger ones at front and rear, are ideal specimens of work from Tiffany Studios since they were given by the extraordinarily wealthy parishioners of the turn of the century. In 1912, in memory of his son and grandson lost aboard the Titanic, P.A.B. Widener had Trumbauer renovate the entire structure as well as add the chancel with its carved stone altar and corbels, fine woodwork, and floors in squares of stone alternately black and white. The parish house rooms also have spacious and handsome interiors, decorated with antique furniture.

Built in 1868, just to the north, the rectory (2½ stories, 48' wide by 62' deep) is of the same masonry as the church, and though Gothic in intent, a splendid Victorian residence. Behind, to the east, is a gingerbread stable of wood (single story plus loft, 34' wide by 28' deep). Much of the grounds are occupied by the cemetery, laid out in 1879 and enlarged in 1905. The marble mausoleum (12' wide by 16' deep) of Jay Cooke is surrounded by graves of many important citizens of the region. East of the church stands Jay Cooke Memorial, an auditorium building erected in 1906 (36' wide by 72' deep). Designed by Trumbauer, its buttressed stone walls contain at

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Montgomery Co.

Continuation sheet

Item number 7

Page 2

For NPS use only
received
date entered

the rear a sizable stained glass window of delicate tracery above a smaller gallery and at the front, a stage with Tudor arch forming the proscenium. Further east is the 1923 sexton's cottage (2 stories, 36' square) by Trumbauer, a charming Tudor house.

8. 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 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input 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 checked="" 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 1923 **Builder/Architect** Architect: Horace Trumbauer

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

St. Paul's Episcopal Church was begun around 1858 through the efforts of banking tycoon Jay Cooke, "Financier of the Civil War." Located in Elkins Park, a Philadelphia suburb originally constructed by and for the new industrial and commercial magnates, the Church had ties to several of the most outstanding. In addition, the buildings current appearance is largely attributable to architect, Horace Trumbauer, one of the most outstanding architects in his time.

Jay Cooke (1821-1905) began a Bible Class in his Elkins Park home in 1858 but soon identified the need for a church. He selected a site near his home on Old York Road, the main coach route between Philadelphia and New York. The Church was consecrated in 1861.

During that same year, Cooke opened his own banking firm in Philadelphia. Asked by Secretary of the Treasury, Salmon P. Chase, to relieve the nation's financial shortage incurred by the Civil War, Cooke put government bonds, to quote a contemporary, "in the face of the people of every household from Maine to California," using techniques that anticipated modern advertising. Succeeding phenomenally, he sold well over a billion dollars worth, multiplying his personal fortune. After the War, he converted the vast organization he had created into a general bank of first importance, with branches in New York and London. Collapse of the Northwest Pacific Railroad, however, caused his bank to close its doors, sparking the depression of 1873. In old age, he recovered much of his wealth before dying in Elkins Park. His extravagant mansion here has long since been demolished, so the church he founded and nurtured remains as his primary monument. The desk across which he dealt in Civil War bonds is housed there in an auditorium building named for him, and his marble mausoleum stands in the graveyard.

Elkins Park had come to be the principal residence for Philadelphia's newly rich, including traction magnates P.A.B. Widener (1834-1915) and William L. Elkins (1832-1903), for whom the town was eventually named. Many of these millionaires joined the church, enhancing it with such gifts as stained glass from the Tiffany Studios. One unique offering from 1924 was the church's own radio station, WIBG ("I Believe in God"), to broadcast the services; later sold, it became one of Philadelphia's leading commercial stations. The architect of numerous palaces in the neighborhood, Horace Trumbauer (1868-1938), a foremost figure in American architecture, added to the church or erected accompanying buildings six times, resulting in one of the loveliest English-style country churches in America.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Matthew Josephson, The Robber Barons. New York: Harcourt, Brace & Co., 1934. Church Archives
Ellis Paxson Oberholtzer, Jay Cooke, Financier of the Civil War. 2 volumes. Philadelphia: George W. Jacobs & Co., 1907

10. Geographical Data

Frederick Platt, The Architect of Horace Trumbauer (in preparation)

Acreeage of nominated property 3.4

Quadrangle name Germantown, PA

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UMT References

A

1	8	4	8	8	6	5	0	4	4	3	5	4	6	0
Zone			Easting					Northing						

B

Zone			Easting					Northing						

C

Zone			Easting					Northing						

D

Zone			Easting					Northing						

E

Zone			Easting					Northing						

F

Zone			Easting					Northing						

G

Zone			Easting					Northing						

H

Zone			Easting					Northing						

Verbal boundary description and justification

See Continuation Sheet

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 Frederick Platt

organization

date 7-3-80

street & number 2009 N. John Russell Circle

telephone 215-884-1437

city or town Elkins Park

state Pennsylvania 19117

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national state 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 Larry E. Tise, Executive Director
Pa. Historical & Museum Commission

date

For NPS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

date

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Montgomery Co.

Continuation sheet

Item number 10

For NPS use only

received

date entered

Page 1

Starting at the E corner of the intersection of Old York & Ashbourne Roads, the boundary runs 454.47' ES along Ashbourne Road, turns perpendicularly for 95' to the NE, turns perpendicularly for 45.90' to the NW, then turns perpendicularly to run NW for 219.56' to a spot 407.07' along a perpendicular SE from Old York Road, along which the property fronts, running 377.27' SW to Ashbourne Road. The nominated acreage is equivalent to the entire property of the church, because the whole has bearing upon its historical or architectural interest.



4439
290 000
FEET
0
SCALE IN MILES
.5
4438
3 MI.
CHELTENHAM
5'
4436
4435
(FRANKFORD)
5964 11 SE

Enfield Jr High Sch
I. E. L. D

La Salle High Sch

Laverock

Hill Crest

Radio Towers
Fires Sta
Radio Tower (WPHL-TV)

Wyncote

S. Dept of Agriculture Research Center

IVY HILL CEMETERY

Valley

St. Mary

Holy Cross Sch

Houston Sch

Playground

Edge Hill

Glenside Sch

BEAVER COLLEGE

HOLY SEPULCHRE CEMETERY

Cheltenham High Sch

Cedarbrook Country Club

Stadium

St. Raymonds Sch

Leeds Jr High Sch

Edmonds Sch

Temple Sinai Library

Pennypacker Sch

Cheltenham Cemetery

Cheltenham Cemetery

St. Athanasius Sch

National Cemetery

Glenside

Glenside Park

Tavony

Wyncote

Wyncote Sch

Wyncote Park

Cedarbrook

Cheltenham Hills

Lynwood Sch

St. Josephs Sch

Faith Theological Seminary

Dominican Retreat

Temple University (Tyler Sch of Art)

Russel Park

Temple Sinai Library

St. Athanasius Sch

JENKINTOWN

High Sch

Sta

Golf Course

Henry W Breyer Camp

Waller Park

Elkins Park

Cheltenham Sch

Temple Adath Jeshuran

Melrose Academy

Melrose Park Sch

Melrose Park Sch

Melrose Park Sch

Melrose Park Sch

Melrose Park Sch

Melrose Park Sch

U.S. Geological Survey Map
Germantown, Penn.

N4000-W7507.5/7.5

1967; revised 1973

AMS 5964 II SW - Series V831

Scale 1:24000