Form 10-300
(Rev. 6-72)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY – NOMINATION FORM

Type all entries - complete applicable sections

STATE:	INDIANA
COUNTY:	MARION
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY DATE	JUL 10 1973

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

1. NAME

COMMON: Christ Church Cathedral

AND/OR HISTORIC: Christ Church

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER: 131 Monument Circle

CITY OR TOWN: Indianapolis

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT: Indiana Eleventh District

STATE: Indiana — CODE: 15

COUNTY: Marion — CODE: 097

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP		STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
☐ District ☒ Building ☐ Site ☐ Structure ☐ Object	☐ Public ☒ Private ☐ Both	Public Acquisition: ☐ In Process ☐ Being Considered	☒ Occupied ☐ Unoccupied ☐ Preservation work in progress	Yes: ☐ Restricted ☒ Unrestricted ☐ No

PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

☐ Agricultural	☐ Government	☐ Park	☐ Transportation
☐ Commercial	☐ Industrial	☐ Private Residence	☐ Other (Specify)
☐ Educational	☐ Military	☒ Religious	
☐ Entertainment	☐ Museum	☐ Scientific	

NATIONAL REGISTER RECEIVED MAY 2 6 1973

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME: Christ Protestant Episcopal Church of Indianapolis

STREET AND NUMBER: 131 Monument Circle

CITY OR TOWN: Indianapolis — STATE: Indiana — CODE: 18

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.: Marion County Recorder's Office

STREET AND NUMBER: City-County Building, 200 East Washington Street

CITY OR TOWN: Indianapolis — STATE: Indiana — CODE: 18

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY: Historic American Building Survey National Park Service

DATE OF SURVEY: ☒ Federal ☐ State ☐ County ☐ Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: Above and Library of Congress

STREET AND NUMBER: Capitol Hill

CITY OR TOWN: Washington, D.C. — STATE: — CODE: 08

STATE | COUNTY | ENTRY NUMBER | DATE

JUL 10 1973

MAY 30 1973
NATIONAL REGISTER

(Check One)

☐ Excellent ☐ Good ☐ Fair ☐ Deteriorated ☐ Ruins ☐ Unexposed

CONDITION

(Check One)

☐ Altered ☐ Unaltered

(Check One)

☐ Moved ☒ Original Site

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

1. The first services held in Christ Church began at 10:30 a.m. Sunday, November 18, 1838. The original building was 29 by 43 feet of wood in Gothic style, with a gallery and portico; the stairs to the gallery rising from the portico; which seated, in sixty pews, three hundred persons and fifty in the gallery. See attached print and plans: (Exhibit A & B)

2. The present church cornerstone was laid on the site of the prior church on June 24, 1857 and occupied for services October 24, 1858. William Tinsley was the architect, and the style is Gothic Cathedral, cruciform in plan, with the sanctuary in the east end. The main facade faces west and that, as well as both transept ends have three tall, narrow, lance-like windows. In each of the three gables above, three windows are a bullseye with the trefoil cusping. The tower on the southwest corner is capped by a graceful octagonal spire. (not added for ten years). The exterior is of rough limestone with more finished buttresses and coins. The nave is of exquisite proportions and well lighted by tall, Gothic windows. The peaked roof is supported by gracefully interlaced curved trusses supported on the lower ends on stone corbels and tied together by sturdy beams. The ceiling was originally painted light blue. There was no middle aisle and central pews entered from the sides. Above the altar were two panels with words taken from "Sanctus."

With the Angels	Holy, Holy, Holy
and	Lord
Archangles	God of Hosts
And all the	Heaven and Earth
Company of Heaven	Are Full
We Laud	Of Thy Glory
and	Glory be to Thee
Magnify	O Lord
Thy Glorious Name	Most High

There were places for twenty in the choir which formed for the entry in an old-world-looking sacristy, illuminated with leaded glass windows to the north of the chancel.

3. W and J. Lamb, Architects, New York, and Vonnegut and Bohn of Indianapolis, as supervising architects completed the lichgate, deepened chancel, and the Parish House on the west end of the Church. The middle aisle was added along with complete redecoration of the interior. Only minor changes have been made subsequent to 1900.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

8. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- [ ] Pre-Columbian
- [ ] 15th Century
- [ ] 16th Century
- [ ] 17th Century
- [ ] 18th Century
- [x] 19th Century
- [ ] 20th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) 1857

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- Aboriginal
  - [ ] Prehistoric
  - [x] Historic
- [ ] Agriculture
- [x] Architecture
- [ ] Art
- [ ] Commerce
- [ ] Communications
- [ ] Conservation
- [ ] Education
- [ ] Engineering
- [ ] Industry
- [ ] Invention
- [ ] Landscape Architecture
- [ ] Literature
- [ ] Military
- [ ] Music
- [ ] Political
- [x] Religion/Philosophy
- [ ] Science
- [ ] Sculpture
- [ ] Social/Humanitarian
- [ ] Theater
- [ ] Transportation
- [ ] Urban Planning
- [ ] Other (Specify)

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STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

I The parish of Christ Church, in the town of Indianapolis, Township of Center, County of Marion, was organized on July 13, 1837, and on May 7, 1938, built one of five churches to be located on the Circle.

II The first service was held on Sunday morning, the 18th of November, 1838.

III The present church being designed by William Tinsley, architect, who had previously won recognition for his plan for Northwestern Christian University, Indianapolis, Indiana, the Center Hall at Wabash College, Crawfordsville, Indiana, and Ascension Hall of Kenyon College at Gambier, Ohio. Christ Church, at Indianapolis, is considered his finest ecclesiastical building in America.

IV The cornerstone for the present church was laid on the 24th day of June, 1857, and the final cost of the church being approximately Thirty-two Thousand Seven Hundred Fifty Dollars.

V Other churches previously located on the Circle were the First Presbyterian Church, the Wesley Chapel of the Methodist, Second Presbyterian, and the Plymouth Congregational Church. The Methodist left in 1859, First Presbyterian in 1866, Second Presbyterian in the fall of 1867, and the Congregational in 1884, leaving Christ Church as the only continuously active church located on the Circle in Downtown Indianapolis.

Christ Church has been a continuous and active member of the Indianapolis community during its entire existence and has been the place of worship for many of the prominent citizens of Indianapolis. It is now designated as the Cathedral for Episcopal Diocese of Indianapolis. The Parish has spanned the era of a pioneer town to a booming industrial metropolis. With minor modifications, remains as it was originally built in 1857.

VI The Cathedral is open seven days a week to the public, and funds are available for its maintenance and display as a historical site.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

See Continuation Sheet

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY						OR	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	°	'	"	°	'	"	39 °	46 '	09 "	86 °	09 '	28 "
NE	°	'	"	°	'	"						
SE	°	'	"	°	'	"						
SW	°	'	"	°	'	"						

UTM 16/572165 4402260

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 0.25 acres

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE

NATIONAL REGISTER MAY 30 1978

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: Jerry M. Burton, Attorney at Law

ORGANIZATION: Johnson & Weaver

DATE: MAY 17, 1978

STREET AND NUMBER: 600 Union Federal Building

CITY OR TOWN: Indianapolis

STATE: Indiana

CODE: 18

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

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:

National [ ] State [X] Local [X]

Name: [signature]

Title: Indiana State Liaison Officer

Date: May 24, 1978

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

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

[signature]

Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date: 7/10/78

ATTEST:

[signature]

Keeper of the National Register

Date: July 6, 1978

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

Form 10-300a
(July 1969)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	
INDIANA	
COUNTY	
COUNTY	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
82 10 1973	

(Number all entries)

(1) Indiana Journal (Indianapolis) Nov. 17, 1878, p. 3, Col. 4
(1) Little Church on the Circle, pp. 52, 53, 1957, Eli Lilly, Publ. Christ Protestant Episcopal Church
(2) Indianapolis Daily Journal, June 24, 1857, p.2, Cols. 2-4
(2) Little Church on the Circle, p. 132, 133, and 134, Supra
(3) Little Church on the Circle, p. 259, Supra
(I) W. R. Holloway, Indianapolis, A Historical and Statistical Sketch of the Railroad City (Indianapolis Journal Print, 1870, p. 203)
(II) Indiana Journal (Indianapolis) Nov. 17, 1838, p. 3, Col. 4
(III) Little Church on the Circle, p. 108, 120, 121, Supra
(IV) Little Church on the Circle, p. 127, Supra
(V) Little Church on the Circle, p. 25, Supra

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