



Trinity Lutheran Church  
Name of Property

Orangeburg County, South Carolina  
County and State

**5. Classification**

**Ownership of Property**

(Check as many boxes as apply)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

**Category of Property**

(Check only one box)

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

**Number of Resources within Property**

(Do not include previously listed resources)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	buildings
_____	_____	sites
_____	_____	structures
_____	_____	objects
<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	Total

Name of related multiple property listing  
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)  
N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed  
in the National Register:  
None

**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions)

Category: Religion  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Subcategory: Religious Facility

**Current Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions)

Category: Religious Facility  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Subcategory: Religious Facility

**7. Description**

**Architectural Classification**

(Enter categories from instructions)

Late Gothic Revival  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Materials**

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation	<u>Concrete</u>
walls	<u>Granite</u>
roof	<u>Slate</u>
other	<u>Limestone</u>
	<u>Cast Stone</u>

**Narrative Description**

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

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**8. Statement of Significance**

**Applicable National Register Criteria**

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing)

- A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield information important in prehistory or history.

**Criteria Considerations**

(Mark "X" in all the boxes that apply.)

- a owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- b removed from its original location.
- c a birthplace or a 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)

Architecture

**Period of Significance**

1914-1915

**Significant Dates**

1914-1915

**Significant Person**

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

**Cultural Affiliation**

**Architect/Builder**

Johnson, J. Carroll [Urquhart & Johnson] - architect  
Summersett, W.B. - builder

**Narrative Statement of Significance**

Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

**9. Major Bibliographical References**

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

**Previous documentation on file (NPS):**

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested.
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # \_\_\_\_\_
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # \_\_\_\_\_

**Primary location of additional data:**

- State Historic Preservation Office
  - Other State agency
  - Federal agency
  - Local government
  - University
  - Other
- Name of repository:  
Trinity Lutheran Church, Elloree, SC

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**10. Geographical Data**

Acreage of Property 1.7 acres

**UTM References**

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

Zone Easting Northing  
 1 17 539746 3710270

\_\_\_ See continuation sheet.

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title Patsy A. Holman, church member [w/ assistance by Andy Chandler, National Register Staff, SHPO]  
 organization Trinity Lutheran Church date November 15, 2007  
 street & number PO Box 340 / 375 Hungerpillar Street telephone (803) 897-2322  
 city or town Elloree state SC zip code 29047

**Additional Documentation**

Submit the following items with the completed form:

**Continuation Sheets**

**Maps**

- A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- A sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

**Photographs**

Representative **black and white** photographs of the property.

**Additional items**

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

**Property Owner**

(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

name Trinity Lutheran Church c/o Mr. Charlie Jamieson, Chairman of Church Council  
 street & number PO Box 487 / 390 Hampton Street telephone 803-897-2668  
 city or town Elloree state SC zip code 29047

**Paperwork Reduction Act Statement:** This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended(16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.). **Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including the time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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Trinity Lutheran Church, located at 390 Hampton Street in Ellore, South Carolina, is a Late Gothic Revival edifice. Constructed from blue granite, mined in Winnsboro, South Carolina, the church was built in the shape of a cross. Laid in random courses, its walls feature sixteen granite and limestone buttresses, granite and cast stone parapets rising two feet above the gabled slate roof, contrasting mortar, and distinctive custom limestone arched door and window surrounds. Broad wooden eaves extend well beyond the walls and feature fascia boards and open rafter tails. These are the building's strongest architectural features. The church is eighty feet long, measuring from the back wall of the nave [Lexington Street facade] to the back wall of the chancel, forming the body of the cross. The distance between the terminal walls of the transepts is forty-four feet, delineating the arms of the cross. The nave measures thirty-one feet in width. The chancel is clearly discernable from the church's exterior, as it contains a slightly lower roofline that extends on both the Hampton Street elevation and inner [northwest] elevation nearly the full measure of the transepts.

The location of Trinity Lutheran Church is in the small, rural town of Ellore, twenty-two miles east of Orangeburg and some six miles southeast of Creston and Lone Star [both in Calhoun County], South Carolina. Ellore is in eastern Orangeburg County, with close proximity to Calhoun County. With an elevation of 174 feet above mean sea level, the terrain is flat. The Late Gothic Revival church is located on the north corner of Hampton and Lexington Streets. A parish building, built sixty years after the construction of the church, an addition to the parish building added in 1994 and a colonnade in 2000 linking the two buildings, are also on the property. Landscaping includes azaleas, boxwood, camellias and holly planted in beds around the walls of the church, parish building and colonnade. A large, old oak tree shades the main entryway on the Hampton Street façade.

The main façade of the building, the southeast elevation, is at a twenty-four foot setback from Hampton Street. The main entrance, located on the southeast elevation of a buttressed and step-parapeted projecting pavilion on the Hampton Street elevation, near the corner with the Lexington Street façade, as well as the large Gothic arched window on the Lexington Street facade, feature custom cut limestone block surrounds that interlock into the granite wall stones, as each stone is of a different size. Each has a moulded dripstone. The large Gothic window of the Lexington Street facade consists of stained glass panels within wooden tracery forming three lancet arches within the larger Gothic frame. One small arched window is situated on the side of the choir stall to give light to the interior.

There are three doors leading from the exterior into the interior of the church. The six-paneled, rectangular double-leaf door of the main entrance features a blind arched panel above it with wooden Gothic tracery overlay. The large Gothic stained glass window of the northwest transept is similar in size to the Lexington Street facade window, with the exception that it has a granite surround and arch and limestone sill.

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There are eighteen stained glass windows in the sanctuary. The windows along each side of the building are paired, wood-framed segmental-arched stained glass panels within larger segmental granite arches. Granite buttresses divide each window bay. Six granite buttresses are on the church's southeast elevation. Two cornered buttresses are located on each side of the main entryway.

Three steps, grouped with windows and entrances on the building denoting the Trinity, lead to the main doorway. The buttresses and arches on all elevations of the structure also have custom cut limestone caps and deep sills. The buttresses are interlocked with custom cut limestone blocks, the sides of which have been rough-cut to complement the rough granite walls. The blue granite walls have been laid with heavy gray mortar. A stepped granite parapet with cast stone cap is the consistent treatment at the roofline of the Lexington Street facade, main entrance, transepts, nave and chancel walls. The Hampton Street transept elevation contains a shallow projecting one-story bay with small triple stained glass window, above which is a circular stained glass window with cut limestone surround. Small arched and rectangular windows provide light in the narthex and sacristy.

The southwest elevation on Lexington Street is a prominent façade. The building's setback is thirty-six feet from the street along this elevation. Above this elevation's stained glass window is a limestone quatrefoil-paneled lozenge. The parapet's cast stone cap is punctuated with kneelers, either limestone or cast stone quatrefoil-paneled blocks and a cast stone Celtic cross at the gable's apex. This wall features four buttresses: two on either side of the large stained glass window and two cornered ones at each corner. The church's cornerstone, with the date 1914 cut into it, is incorporated into corner buttress nearest the main entry pavilion.

An arched granite chimney that originally serviced the coal-driven furnace in the church's basement, rises from gabled parapet separating the nave and chancel. A small half door on this elevation leads to the basement.

The northeast elevation of the church, at the chancel's terminus, contains the building's two back doors, which lead into the chancel, sacristy and vestry. These doors are nine-paneled Gothic arched entries. The doors flank the large stained glass chancel window located high in the rear gabled wall. Two granite corner buttresses are located to either side of the rear chancel wall. A stone colonnade, linking the church and the parish building, runs independent of but the length of the northeast elevation.

The original windows of the church were obscure light amber glass. They were replaced with stained glass windows in 1952. Few alterations have been made to the exterior of the structure since it was built in 1914-1915. Wrought iron rails on either side of the three doors and a handicapped ramp for

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easier access to the church were added to one of the back doors when the rails were installed in 1994. In 2002 the double main entryway doors had to be replaced. The new doors were made of poplar and are painted red.

The interior of the church is also significant. The main entrance on the southeast (principal) elevation leads into the narthex. A pair of paneled oak doors, with a Gothic-traceried blind arch, leads from the narthex into the sanctuary. The walls throughout are plaster, and a large Gothic faceted plaster arch transitions from the sanctuary into the chancel. A heavy pine-beamed, bracketed truss system supports the roof and adorns the sanctuary's and transepts' ceilings. Purlins separate the truss beams from the pine beaded board ceiling, providing contrasting texture to the overall ceiling composition. Two ranks of pews, with a center aisle and narrow side aisles, are located on each side of the nave running from the back wall to the chancel. The floors and the pews are oak. The sideboards on each pew end are adorned with Gothic arch panels.

The floor plan reflects the exterior cruciform shape. The nave runs from the southwest elevation on Lexington Street to crossing of the transepts, symbolizing the base of the cross. The two choir stalls extend outward from the nave and are the arms of the cross, with the chancel on the northeast elevation being the head. The northwest choir stall contains a single rank of short pews and a large, triple lancet stained glass window within an overall Gothic arched window surround. An organ and a piano sit beyond a paneled wooden rail sectioning off this choir stall. A small Gothic arched door leads from the sacristy into the choir stall. A blind arched inset panel is located on the wall to the left [northwest] of the chancel arch. The southeast choir stall includes two short pews, a paneled altar within a plaster segmental arched inset containing a band of three small windows located high upon the wall in horizontal formation. A Gothic arched doorway, with traceried blind arched panel above is to the right [southeast] side of the chancel arch, leading into the vestry.

Three steps lead from the sanctuary to the chancel, which encompasses the altar, pulpit, lectern and two large clerical pulpit armchairs. Two Gothic arched doors on the side walls of the chancel lead into the sacristy on one side and the vestry on the other. The bottom front of the altar has three carved Gothic arched panels. The reredos features seven Gothic paneled arches, beneath the large chancel window. The pulpit, on the right [southeast] side in the front of the chancel, has five Gothic arched panels and six engaged Corinthian columns on its five closed sides. The lectern on the opposite [northwest] side of the chancel is carved in the shape of an eagle resting on an orb supported by a six-sided buttressed column. Two massive oak chairs are located on each side of the chancel doorways. The altar, pulpit, lectern, chairs and two hymn boards on each side of the chancel are made of oak. The marble baptismal font situated to the northwest side of the chancel, the altar, pulpit, lectern, armchairs, pews and one of the hymn boards are original to the church.

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Trinity Lutheran Church's edifice and interior are rich in symbolism, as attested to by the stained glass windows. These windows were installed in 1952 and are the symbols of important events portrayed in the Bible. The largest stained glass window in the sanctuary is located on the southwest elevation wall and covers half of the space of the wall. It is framed by a flamboyant Gothic arch. As the parishioners are seated they are able to see the chancel window, with three panels over the altar and reredos, enclosed in a flamboyant Gothic arch. The center panel depicts Jesus Christ in the garden of Gethsemane. A lamp is pictured on the left panel, and the bread and the chalice holding the wine is on the right panel. The large, three-paneled back window at the end of the nave is the other focal point and depicts Jesus knocking at the door. Three lower panels symbolize the Trinity. One side panel illustrates lilies, standing for the resurrection of the Lord. The other side panel contains a Luther Rose. A solar disc window with sixteen panels is situated over the right choir stall. On the southeast side wall of the nave are two pair of segmental arched windows. The pair closest to the chancel illustrates grapes, the fruit of the vine, and the companion window depicts the dove returning to the ark. The vine and the branches are delineated in the next pair of windows, with the cross, crown and palm branches in its companion window. The northwest wall contains three pair of segmental arched windows. The window closest to the chancel portrays a lamb. Its companion window depicts the morning star. The second pair shows a sheaf of grain, and the adjacent window pictures Noah's ark. The third set of windows depicts an open Bible, and its companion window portrays a lamb. Three windows were placed over the choir loft on this elevation. They illustrate the trumpet, faith, hope and charity, and an anchor. The large back window and the five arched windows on the side walls have stained glass memorial window panels under the windows.

This beautiful edifice is located one block from the main business block in Ellore. Hampton and Lexington Streets are residential in nature, and some church members walk to services at the church. Trinity Lutheran Church serves as a vital part of the community by providing meeting space for many town activities.

The freestanding parish building was built in 1947. A colonnade replacing the walkway was built in 2000. An addition to the parish building was added in 1994. The parish building and the colonnade are noncontributing resources.

Trinity Lutheran Church retains a remarkable degree of integrity on the exterior and the interior. Located in a rural area, this small granite church stands out among the buildings in Ellore, in the upper low country, and, indeed, in the structures of the state. It shows the dedication of the congregation, the architect and the builder to erect a structure, built to the glory of God, in which many generations will continue to worship.

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Trinity Lutheran Church, in the town of Ellore, South Carolina, in Orangeburg County, is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion C, for its significance in Architecture. This Late Gothic Revival building, constructed in 1914, is made of blue granite, which was mined in Winnsboro, South Carolina and has a slate roof. It is also significant as an excellent example of the ecclesiastical architecture of J. Carroll Johnson, well-known early twentieth century Columbia architect of the firm of Urquhart & Johnson. W. B. Summersett was the contractor. A number of other notable buildings in the midlands of South Carolina were designed by Urquhart & Johnson, and indeed by J. Carroll Johnson, James B. Urquhart or their respective successor firms. This excellent example of Gothic Revival parish church architecture has distinctive exterior and interior features, and a sophistication not often exhibited in rural farming communities of South Carolina.

Trinity Lutheran Church was organized on August 19, 1849. The Amelia Section of Orangeburg and Calhoun Counties was settled by German-Swiss Lutheran emigrants who arrived in Charleston then later moved to the midlands. They brought with them their heritage and traditions, which included the architecture of their church buildings. In this area of South Carolina, sparsely populated at the time, Trinity Lutheran Church was established, drawing membership and support from St. Matthews Lutheran Church in Creston and Pine Grove Lutheran Church in Lone Star. At the time the church was organized, there were enough Lutheran German-Swiss families living in the eastern part of Orangeburg County and lower Calhoun County to band together to form a church. Trinity Lutheran Church built its first building, made of cypress logs, two miles south of present day Ellore, on the old Moncks Corner Road, now South Carolina Highway 6. A population shift brought about a swap of church buildings with the Methodists on October 2, 1880. This shift moved the congregation of Trinity Lutheran Church to a wooden frame building located two miles northeast of Ellore. The Trinity Lutheran Church Cemetery, presently used and maintained by the congregation, marks the spot of this church. In 1886 Ellore was incorporated as a town. The town founder, William J. Snider, whose ancestors were German Lutherans, offered to give a lot to Trinity Lutheran Church in the new town of Ellore. The congregation voted to accept Mr. Snider's offer. A frame church was built on the north corner of Hampton and Lexington Streets. It was dedicated on May 5, 1889. This church was struck by lightning and burned in June 1913. At that time the population of Ellore was 506. Today the town of Ellore has a population of 842.

On April 9, 1914, the cornerstone of the present house of worship was laid. The first service was held in the new church on Palm Sunday, April 5, 1915. The German Lutheran congregation was determined to build a church that fire could not destroy. A number of church members mortgaged their property to contribute to the building of a church out of blue granite. The congregation also insisted on a slate roof. With only a few exceptions the 1914 sanctuary has not been altered since its construction. The South Carolina Synod met in this church in convention in December 1918. The

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congregation felt the need to erect a parish building on the church property in 1947. The parish building, at this time, was not connected to the granite church. In 1973 a covered walkway was built linking the church and the parish building. In 1994 an addition was made to the parish building and in 2000 a new colonnade was added. New residents moving to the area, and living in Santee and in developments on Lake Marion, have joined the descendents of the builders of the granite church in its worship services.

Architecturally, the 1914 granite church demonstrates a structure seldom seen in rural church architecture in the early twentieth century. It reflects the stone churches that the German-Swiss emigrants had known in Europe. After occupying three previous wooden church buildings, the church requested that the architect design a structure to last. Built in the shape of a cross, with its buttresses, flamboyant arches, parapets and custom cut limestone blocks, it has provided a lasting church home for those who live in the Ellore area. Trinity Lutheran Church's granite structure is an excellent example of Late Gothic Revival architecture.

Designed by Columbia architect J. Carroll Johnson, a partner in the firm of Urquhart & Johnson, the church represents well the church architecture carried out by this firm. Consisting either of James B. Urquhart individually or in association with J. Carroll Johnson, Urquhart & Johnson is known to have provided plans for a number of buildings connected with the Lutheran denomination in the midlands of South Carolina. These include Lutheran Church of the Ascension in Eau Claire [now Columbia] in 1912, the United Lutheran Publication House at 1617 Sumter Street in Columbia [1912], St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Columbia [1913], and the American Lutheran Survey Publishing Building [later Eau Claire Town Hall] in 1913 [National Register-listed]. Later, in 1931 Urquhart served as supervising architect for the construction of Ebenezer Lutheran Church in Columbia, an inspiring design made by the firm of Thomas, Martin & Kilpatrick of Philadelphia. Johnson, well-known as the long time architect for the University of South Carolina, also designed such buildings in Columbia as the Gresham Hotel [1911, demolished], the Consolidated Building [1912], Lorick & Lowrance [1913-14], Logan School [1912], Columbia High School [1915], as well as Columbia's Ridgewood Country Club [1915-16] and Masonic Temple [1915], both demolished. In Ellore, he also provided designs for the Bank of Ellore, Ellore Methodist Church, a cotton warehouse for the Ellore Warehouse Company [all in 1914], and Ellore High School [1915]. He designed a number of residences in Columbia, as well as several buildings at the University of South Carolina, including Thornwell dormitory [1912], Sloan College [1927], South Caroliniana Library's wings [1927], the old Field House [1926-27], Melton Observatory [1927-28], the School of Education [1930], Sims Dormitory [1939], Petigru College [old Law School, 1949], LeConte College [1952], and Osborne Administration Building [1951-52]. Elsewhere in the state, he designed churches, schools, banks, office buildings, public buildings, and many residences in such South Carolina towns as Lancaster, Chester, Kershaw, Camden, Bishopville, Hartsville, Darlington, Lexington, Batesburg, Bamberg, Saluda, Sumter and Union.

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**Select Bibliography**

- Chandler, Andrew W. "Dialogue With The Past': J. Carroll Johnson, Architect, and the University of South Carolina, 1912-1956," unpublished master's thesis, University of South Carolina, 1993.
- Edgar, Walter. *South Carolina, A History*. Columbia: University of South Carolina Press, 1998.
- \_\_\_\_\_, ed. *The South Carolina Encyclopedia*. Columbia: University of South Carolina Press, 2006.
- Felkel, Ethlyn. Interview by Patsy A. Holman, 3 October 2007, Elloree, S.C.
- Holman, Patsy A., Beverly R. Ulmer, and Celia S. Ulmer. *Cotton Fields to Golf Courses: A Pictorial History of Elloree and Santee, South Carolina*. Virginia Beach: The Donning Company Publishers, 2004.
- Holman, Robert E. and Patsy A. Holman. *Elloree, A Short History*. Orangeburg: Bill Wise Printers, 1986.
- McCollough, Paul G. (Committee Chairman). *A History of the Lutheran Church in South Carolina*. Columbia: The South Carolina Synod of the Lutheran Church in America, 1971.
- Park, James B., Editor. *A History of the Lutheran Church in South Carolina 1971 – 1987*. Columbia: The South Carolina Synod of the Lutheran Church in America, 1988.
- One Hundred Twenty-fifth Anniversary of Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church*. Elloree: Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church, 1974.
- Trinity Lutheran Church 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration*. Elloree: Trinity Lutheran Church, 1999.

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**Verbal Property Description**

The boundary of the Trinity Lutheran Church is delineated as parcel 12 on the accompanying Orangeburg County Tax Map # 0286-05-02-012, containing 1.7 acres and drawn at a scale of 1" = 44'.

**Verbal Boundary Justification**

The nominated acreage contains the sanctuary of Trinity Lutheran Church. It also contains the Parish Building and colonnade linking the church and Parish Building, which are noncontributing resources.

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The following information is the same for each of the photographs:

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Location of Property: 390 Hampton Street, Elloree  
Orangeburg County, South Carolina  
Location of Original Negatives: Trinity Lutheran Church  
390 Hampton Street  
Elloree, South Carolina 29047

Historic Photographs from the J. Carroll Johnson Collection, South Caroliniana Library,  
University of South Carolina, Columbia, S.C.

Name of Photographer: Unknown

1. Historic Photograph, Lexington Street Elevation, ca. 1915
2. Historic Photograph, Hampton Street Elevation, ca. 1915
3. Historic Photograph, Hampton Street Elevation, ca. 1915
4. Historic Photograph, Architect J. Carroll Johnson and 3 Unidentified Men, ca. 1915
5. Historic Photograph, Architect J. Carroll Johnson, ca. 1920

Name of Photographer: Jerry A. Fogle  
Date of Photographs: 5 November 2007

6. Lexington Street (main) elevation
7. Hampton Street elevation showing covered walkway connector
8. Main entrance
9. West elevation
10. Rear elevation with covered walkway connector to parish building
11. Hampton Street transept elevation
12. Northwest transept (choir stall) elevation
13. Detail of corner buttress (Hampton Street transept) and parapet wall  
dividing chancel and sanctuary roof
14. Vestry entrance at rear
15. Buttress, detail of limestone cap
16. Chimney cap, detail
17. Sanctuary entrance from narthex
18. Sanctuary, view toward chancel
19. Sanctuary, view toward chancel

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20. Sanctuary, view from pulpit
21. Choir stall
22. Choir stall, window and ceiling
23. Interior of southeast transept
24. Window, Lexington Street (main) elevation
25. Altar, reredos, and altar window
26. Pulpit
27. Eagle lectern
28. Baptismal font and choir area
29. Pew end detail
30. 1947 parish building (noncontributing)