

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM



1. NAME OF PROPERTY

HISTORIC NAME: Trinity English Lutheran Church

OTHER NAME/SITE NUMBER: Phase IV-East Dallas DAL/DA 50

2. LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER: 3100 Martin Luther King, Jr., Blvd.

CITY OR TOWN: Dallas

STATE: Texas

CODE: TX

COUNTY: Dallas

CODE: 113

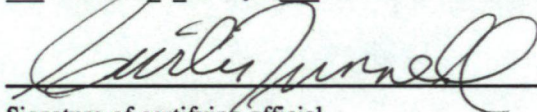
NOT FOR PUBLICATION: N/A

VICINITY: N/A

ZIP CODE: 75214

3. STATE/FEDERAL AGENCY CERTIFICATION

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this x nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property x meets does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide x locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)



Signature of certifying official

15 Feb 95

Date

State Historic Preservation Officer, Texas Historical Commission

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria.
(See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of commenting or other official

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. NATIONAL PARK SERVICE CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify that this property is:

☒ entered in the National Register

 See continuation sheet.

 determined eligible for the National Register

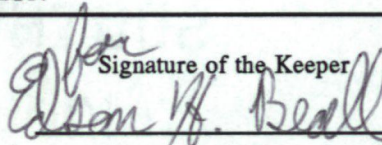
 See continuation sheet.

 determined not eligible for the National Register

 removed from the National Register

 other (explain):

Signature of the Keeper



Date of Action

3-23-95

Entered in the
National Register

5. CLASSIFICATION

OWNERSHIP OF PROPERTY: Private

CATEGORY OF PROPERTY: Building

NUMBER OF RESOURCES WITHIN PROPERTY:	CONTRIBUTING	NONCONTRIBUTING
	2	0 BUILDINGS
	0	0 SITES
	0	0 STRUCTURES
	0	0 OBJECTS
	2	0 TOTAL

NUMBER OF CONTRIBUTING RESOURCES PREVIOUSLY LISTED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER: 0

NAME OF RELATED MULTIPLE PROPERTY LISTING: Historic and Architectural Resources of East and South
Dallas, Dallas County, Texas

6. FUNCTION OR USE

HISTORIC FUNCTIONS: RELIGION: Religious Facility

CURRENT FUNCTIONS: RELIGION: Religious Facility

7. DESCRIPTION

ARCHITECTURAL CLASSIFICATION: LATE 19TH AND 20TH CENTURY REVIVALS: Late Gothic Revival

MATERIALS: FOUNDATION Brick
WALLS Brick
ROOF Asphalt
OTHER Concrete; Glass

NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION (see continuation sheets 7-5 through 7-6).

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RECEIVED 413

OMB Approval No. 1024-0018

FEB 22 1995

INTERAGENCY RESOURCES DIVISION

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

Trinity English Lutheran Church

Historic and Architectural Resources of
East and South Dallas - Dallas Co., TX

Description

The Trinity English Lutheran Church at 3100 Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard (MLK) is a large institutional building featuring Gothic Revival architectural detailing. The building, which utilizes load-bearing masonry construction, has brick exterior walls with English bonding, and a gabled roof with asphalt shingles. The facade faces northwest onto MLK, and is distinguished by large pointed-arched openings and a 2-story bell tower at the western corner. The church is situated in Chamberlain's Addition, a predominantly residential neighborhood that includes modestly sized frame bungalows built in the 1920s. The property also includes a 2-story Sunday School Building to the southeast of the sanctuary, which has a brick exterior finish similar to that used on the main building. This wing also incorporates Gothic Revival details. Both the sanctuary and Sunday School Building are in good condition, with few alterations. The only discernible physical change to the church is the enclosure of a window at the northwest side of the base of the tower. Both buildings are still used for church-related activities.

The Church occupies a 151 x 155.5 foot lot at the southeastern corner of MLK and Meadow Street. The land is slightly above street grade and is relatively level. The only landscaping features on the lot include a small stone retaining wall near the western corner of the property, and relatively small evergreen trees on the southwestern side. A paved parking lot, where the parsonage once stood, lies to the northeast of the sanctuary.

The church has a rectangular-shaped plan with a tower extension at the northwestern corner, with the front facing northwest onto MLK. The building has a half basement and load-bearing masonry construction. The exterior walls are of a dark red brick, and off-white cast stone is used as a decorative element on the window and door openings, on the nonstructural buttress, and in the parapets.

The facade of the church is distinguished by a large pointed-arched window with stained glass and an off-center 2-story bell tower. The primary entrance is set within a pointed arch at the base of this tower. Cast-stone coping caps the solid brick balustrade that extends from the sidewalk to the front entrance. The southwest and northeast side elevations have six vertical divisions. Decorative, non-structural buttresses highlight these side walls. The sanctuary windows are set within pointed-arched openings that have cast-stone keystones; windows to the basement mirror the rhythm of those at the upper level.

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The Sunday School Building, erected independently of the church, is a prominent feature of the site, and is significant in its own right. Architectural detailing is suggestive of the Gothic Revival style, including the pointed-arched openings and the buttresses on the facade, which fronts onto Meadow Street. The building has a rectangular plan, a steeply-pitched hipped roof, and brick construction. The walls are composed of brick which closely resembles that used on the sanctuary. The symmetrical front has a 3-part configuration, with a slightly projecting center bay framing the main entrance. The building's metal casement windows appear to be original.

8. STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

APPLICABLE NATIONAL REGISTER CRITERIA

- ☐ **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 VALUE, 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: A

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE: Architecture

PERIOD OF SIGNIFICANCE: c. 1922

SIGNIFICANT DATES: c. 1922

SIGNIFICANT PERSON: N/A

CULTURAL AFFILIATION: N/A

ARCHITECT/BUILDER: unknown

NARRATIVE STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE (see continuation sheets 8-7 through 8-9).

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHIC REFERENCES

BIBLIOGRAPHY (see Section I).

PREVIOUS DOCUMENTATION ON FILE (NPS): N/A

- ☐ 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 (*Texas Historical Commission*)
- ☐ Other state agency
- ☐ Federal agency
- ☐ Local government
- ☐ University
- ☐ Other -- Specify Repository:

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Historic and Architectural Resources of
East and South Dallas - Dallas Co., TX

Significance

Trinity English Lutheran Church, a late Gothic Revival style institutional building and its associated Sunday School building, is possibly the least-altered and best-preserved historic neighborhood church in all of South Dallas. The sanctuary was constructed around 1925 on property associated with the Trinity English Lutheran congregation since 1908 when its first frame church was built on the site of the present Sunday School building. The brick Sunday School building, at the rear of the church lot facing Meadow Street, was built shortly after the completion of the sanctuary. Although Trinity Lutheran Church is the oldest English-speaking Lutheran church in Dallas, it is nominated under Criterion C in the area of Architecture at the local level. It is associated with the historic context, The Development of East and South Dallas: 1872-1945.

The Lutheran Church, which is the state church of Sweden, was often associated with Scandinavian or German immigrants in America who wished to worship in their native languages. During the late-19th and early-20th centuries, some immigrant groups formed their own communities in Texas where their native language was spoken almost exclusively at home, at school, in church and in business, through several generations. In cities like Dallas, however, where the dominant culture and business demands encouraged the use of English, most native-language Lutheran churches changed to English during the second generations, as was the case with Emanuel Lutheran Church (formerly Swedish Imanuel Lutheran Church), in East Dallas. Among certain American congregations, particularly those comprised of immigrants from different European countries as well as American converts, English was used exclusively. These churches were part of the Missouri Synod, an American variant of Lutheranism, and the word "English" was often part of the church name to indicate its use in the services. Although its early membership was composed largely of Scandinavians, Trinity English Lutheran Church was part of the Missouri Synod (Missouri in Texas: A History of the Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod in Texas 1855-1941: 1941:92) and is the oldest English-speaking Lutheran church in Dallas.

The first Lutheran Church associated with the Missouri Synod in Dallas was the old Zion Lutheran Church, established in 1874 in the central city. Dallas' phenomenal growth, from a population of 42,638 in 1900, to 158,976 in 1920, coupled with a surge of European immigrants during the same period, encouraged Zion Church to open a new mission on Meadow Street near its intersection with Forest Avenue (now Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.), the major crosstown streetcar line in South Dallas (Missouri in Texas, 1941:92). The location served the tradesmen, craftsmen and working-class families who settled in the

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moderately-priced neighborhoods of South Park (1898) and Chamberlain's Addition. Although city directories did not indicate nationality, many of the family names in the vicinity of the church appear to be Germanic or Scandinavian in origin, such as Carl Bernhard, C. B. Christensen and Nels Hansen (City directories, 1905-1915). A history of the Missouri Synod in Texas stated that English, rather than German, was used because the early congregation was primarily Scandinavian. This doesn't explain why they didn't use Swedish or Norwegian, however, except that the Missouri Synod was a uniquely American branch of the Lutheran Church and predisposed to the use of English as a method of assimilating their communicants into American society.

The first church was a 1-story frame building built in 1908 at 3106 Mays (changed to Meadow about 1915), at the rear of a large corner on which a parsonage (1914, later demolished) and the current church building (1925) would be built. The congregation grew so rapidly that the church was self-sustaining within two years of its establishment (*Missouri in Texas*, 1941:124). The first pastor was Rev. Arthur H. Kaub but another pastor, Rev. W. F. Klindworth, had the most lasting effect on the congregation. Klindworth, a native of Washington County, began his ministry in 1907 and came to Trinity Lutheran Church in 1918 where he remained for 39 years. At the close of his 39th year at Trinity Lutheran, which also marked his 50 years as a Lutheran minister, Klindworth stepped down from the pulpit. Klindworth was credited with establishing the Lone Star District of the International Walther League (now Luther League), Texas' first Lutheran youth organization, from Trinity Lutheran in 1920 (*Dallas Morning News* (DMN), October 12, 1947 and June, 14, 1951). Under Klindworth's pastorate, Trinity English Lutheran Church helped found other Lutheran churches in Dallas, including Hope Lutheran Mission and Grace Lutheran Church (*Times Herald*, November 4, 1951).

Under Klindworth's leadership, the new church was built around 1925, followed by the Sunday School building on the site of the old frame building. An architect's 1947 rendering depicted proposed changes to the church complex that would contain 19 additional Sunday School rooms and an auditorium to cost \$50,000. The changes were not implemented as anticipated, leaving both buildings virtually intact. Pastor Klindworth discussed the changes that had taken place in the church's old South Dallas neighborhood when he stepped down from the pulpit in 1957. Klindworth indicated that the church might relocate because its once-residential neighborhood was rapidly being transformed into a commercial zone and parishioners were moving away. In 1960, the congregation moved to a new church in North Dallas, at Gaston and Loving Avenues (DMN, November 12, 1960: 3-7).

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Trinity Lutheran Church was taken over by the congregation of Mt. Olive Lutheran Church, an African-American congregation that formed in 1940 and came to be known as a driving force for Civil Rights. Shortly after Trinity Lutheran congregation left the site, Pastor Mark Herbener came to lead the now-integrated church and continue the fight for Civil Rights. Former Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC) staff member, Peter Johnson, and Dallas City Plan commissioner Charlotte Ragsdale recalled that "the beginning of real social change started in Mt. Olive Lutheran Church" under Mark Herbener, who allowed organizations like the SCLC; the Black Citizens for Justice, Law and Order; the Dallas Block Partnership; and the Student Non-violent Co-ordinating Committee meet in the church. The church also initiated day-care programs for low-income working mothers, a food pantry to feed the hungry, a clothing ministry, and a housing program to help the poor in South Dallas.

Although Trinity Lutheran Church is known today for its social contributions to the South Dallas communities it serves, its nomination to the National Register is based on its noteworthy late Gothic Revival architecture. Though this style was used often on ecclesiastical buildings of the early 20th century, the Trinity Lutheran Church and its Sunday School Building are noteworthy examples because they are virtually unaltered and retain much of their historic character and integrity.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF PROPERTY: less than one acre

DA 50 See Map 1

UTM REFERENCES	Zone	Easting	Northing	Zone	Easting	Northing
1	14	709400	3628040	3	##	#####
2	##	#####	#####	4	##	#####

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION Chamberlain's Addition, Block: 1350, Lot: 1-3

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION Nomination includes all property historically associated with the resource.

11. FORM PREPARED BY (with assistance from Dwayne Jones, THC)

NAME/TITLE: Daniel Hardy/Terri Myers

ORGANIZATION: Hardy-Heck-Moore **DATE:** 7/91; 9/94

STREET & NUMBER: 2112 Rio Grande Street **TELEPHONE:** (512) 478-8014

CITY OR TOWN: Austin **STATE:** TX **ZIP CODE:** 78705

ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTATION

CONTINUATION SHEETS

MAPS

PHOTOGRAPHS

ADDITIONAL ITEMS

PROPERTY OWNER

NAME Mt. Olive Lutheran

STREET & NUMBER 3010 Meadow Street **TELEPHONE** N/A

CITY OR TOWN Dallas **STATE** TX **ZIP CODE** 75215

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY NAME: Trinity English Lutheran Church

MULTIPLE NAME: East and South Dallas MPS

STATE & COUNTY: TEXAS, Dallas

DATE RECEIVED: 2/22/95 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 3/07/95
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 3/23/95 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 4/08/95
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 95000319

NOMINATOR: STATE

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

APPEAL: N DATA PROBLEM: N LANDSCAPE: N LESS THAN 50 YEARS: N
OTHER: N PDIL: N PERIOD: N PROGRAM UNAPPROVED: N
REQUEST: N SAMPLE: N SLR DRAFT: N NATIONAL: N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

☒ ACCEPT ☐ RETURN ☐ REJECT 3.23.95 DATE Entered in the
National Register

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

RECOM./CRITERIA _____

REVIEWER _____ DISCIPLINE _____

TELEPHONE _____ DATE _____

DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y/N see attached SLR Y/N



TRINITY ENGLISH LUTHERAN CHURCH
3100 MARTIN LUTHER KING
DALLAS, DALLAS CO., TEXAS

PHOTOGRAPH 13 of 69

Please refer to the map in the
Multiple Property Cover Sheet
for this property

Multiple Property Cover Sheet Reference Number: 64500635