Form 10-300  
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE  

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM  

(Type all entries – complete applicable sections)  

1. NAME  
COMMON:  
Grace Episcopal Church  
AND/OR HISTORIC:  

2. LOCATION  
STREET AND NUMBER:  
819 Madison Street  
CITY OR TOWN:  
Syracuse  
STATE:  
New York  
CODE:  
36  
COUNTY:  
Onondaga  
CODE:  
067  

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

PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)  
☐ Agricultural  ☑ Government  
☐ Industrial  ☐ Private Residence  
☐ Military  ☑ Religious  
☐ Educational  ☐ Museum  
☐ Entertainment  ☐ Scientific  
☐ Transportation  ☐ Comments  

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY  
OWNER'S NAME:  
Grace Episcopal Church  c/o Walter N. Welsh  
STREET AND NUMBER:  
418 University Avenue  
CITY OR TOWN:  
Syracuse  
STATE:  
New York  
CODE:  
36  

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION  
COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC:  
Onondaga County Courthouse  
STREET AND NUMBER:  
CITY OR TOWN:  
Syracuse  
STATE:  
New York  
CODE:  
36  

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS  
TITLE OF SURVEY:  
Architecture Worth Saving in Onondaga County  
DATE OF SURVEY:  1963-1969  
☐ Federal  ☑ State  ☑ County  ☐ Local  
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:  
Historic American Buildings Survey  
STREET AND NUMBER:  
National Park Service  
CITY OR TOWN:  
Washington, D.C.  
STATE:  
CODE:  
11  
Rep:  James M. Hanley  34th District
Grace Episcopal Church is located on the northwest corner of University Avenue and Madison Street in a residential area near Syracuse University. Although details are based on English Gothic models, they are freely adapted. The Rock-faced limestone building laid in Random Ashlar with bush-hammered trim is unmistakably of the nineteenth century. The building constructed in 1876-77 is approximately 40ft X 100 ft., exclusive of two-story tower and entrance porches and is gable roofed. On the main (east) front there is a projecting gabled entrance porch with a Tudor-arched doorway with stone and brick mouldings. Above the entrance is a Rose window framed within a pointed (two centered) relieving arch. A finial with cross is on the front gable. At the south corner of the east front there is a square two-story tower with angle buttresses at the corners. Originally the tower was four stories but the upper ones were removed in the 1930's. The tower has thus been altered from a dominant element to a secondary one but it is still well proportioned with respect to the main body of the building. At the southwest corner there is a gabled side entrance vestibule which resembles a small transept. The church's roof is covered with slate in patterns and there is ornamental iron cresting along the ridge. On each side of the nave roof there are four small triangular dormers.

The interior plan is that of a five-bay unaisled nave with a narrower chancel (at the west end) terminating in a polygonal apse. At each side of the chancel there is a small bay; that on the north side occupied by the original pipe organ, and that on the south side serving as a passageway to the south entrance and to the newer parish house west of the church.

Significant interior features include the six exposed timber hamber-beam trusses which support the roof. In recent years they have been reinforced with iron tie rods at the spring line. The windows have pointed arches and wooden central mullions. Seven of the windows retain their original plain glass with colored borders and symbols at the crown. The other windows contain colored glass of several periods. The chancel has high, arcaded wainscot which appears to be mahogany. In the 1890's there was some stenciling on the plaster walls and ceiling which is now gone. The interior was renovated and decorated around 1891.
Grace Episcopal Church constructed in 1876-77 was designed by Horatio Nelson White (1814-1892), an architect closely associated with the growth of the city of Syracuse. This architect designed about one hundred churches and Grace Church is one of his best. It is well proportioned and detailed and the details are subordinated to the over-all effect more successfully than in most buildings of its period.

History:
On November 10, 1868 the Diocese of Central New York (Episcopal) was organized. Grace Church became the diocese's first new parish when it was organized on March 27, 1871. In 1876 the Diocese received gifts, largely from the Schermerhorn family of New York City to construct the church building. White was its architect. He had been designing buildings in Syracuse since 1853 and by 1876 had designed important civic and ecclesiastical buildings including the Onondaga County Court House (1857), Onondaga County Savings Bank Building (1867-1869), and Hall of Languages, Syracuse University (1871-1873).

Contracts were let for construction of the building in February 1876 and the cornerstone was laid on June 15, 1876. The church was consecrated on February 7, 1877. It was then on the fringe of settlement and served as one of several nuclei about which the neighborhood developed. The church has a constant, but non official, relationship to Syracuse University. Now, it will take an important place in an urban redevelopment area.
## 9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

See Continuation Sheet

## 10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

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**APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY:**

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## 11. FORM PREPARED BY

**NAME AND TITLE:**

Harley J. Mckee  Professor Emeritus  and T. Robins Brown

**ORGANIZATION:**

Syracuse University / Research Assistant

**STREET AND NUMBER:**

Syracuse University Campus/NYS Historic Trust  S.Swan St. Bldg

**CITY OR TOWN:**

Syracuse / Albany

**STATE:**

New York

**CODE:**

36

## 12. STATE LIASON 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 ☐  Local ☑

**Name**

**Title**

**Date**

## NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

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

**Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation**

**Date**

**ATTEST:**

Keeper of The National Register

**Date**
Number 9.

Architecture Worth Saving in Onondaga County. Syracuse: Syracuse University Press, 1964, pp. 139, 140.


Syracuse University. Historical Manuscripts Archives.
1. NAME
   COMMON: Grace Episcopal Church
   AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION
   STREET AND NUMBER: 819 Madison Street
   CITY OR TOWN: Syracuse
   STATE: New York
   CODE: 36
   COUNTY: Onondaga
   CODE: 067

3. MAP REFERENCE
   SOURCE: USGS 7.5 Minute Series, Syracuse West Quadrangle
   SCALE: 1:24000
   DATE: 1958

4. REQUIREMENTS
   TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS
   1. Property boundaries where required.
   2. North arrow.
   3. Latitude and longitude reference.
INTERIOR VIEW LOOKING WEST

GRACE EPISCOPAL CHURCH, ILHANUCA, N.Y.
Grace Episcopal Church
819 Madison St.
Syracuse, Onondaga Co., N.Y.

Photo by: Mark Peckham, 1995.
Neg. at: Div. for H.P., Waterford, N.Y.
View: South facade of parish hall.

Grace Episcopal Church
819 Madison St.
Syracuse, Onondaga Co., N.Y.

Photo by: Mark Peckham, 1995.
Neg. at: Div. for H.P., Waterford, N.Y.
View: South elevation of church.

Grace Episcopal Church
819 Madison St.
Syracuse, Onondaga Co., N.Y.

Photo by: Mark Peckham, 1995.
Neg. at: Div. for H.P., Waterford, N.Y.
View: East facade of church.

Grace Episcopal Church
819 Madison St.
Syracuse, Onondaga Co., N.Y.

Photo by: Mark Peckham, 1995.
Neg. at: Div. for H.P., Waterford, N.Y.
View: North elevation of church; memorial garden.
Grace Episcopal Church
819 Madison St.
Syracuse, Onondaga Co., N.Y.

Photo by Mark Peckham, 1995.
Neg. at: D.v. for A.P. Waterford, N.Y.

View: West elevation of parish hall.
Grace Episcopal Church
819 Madison St.
Syracuse, Onondaga Co., N.Y.
Photo by: Kathy Kennedy, 1995.
Neg. at: Grace Church, Syracuse.
View: Interior of parish hall.