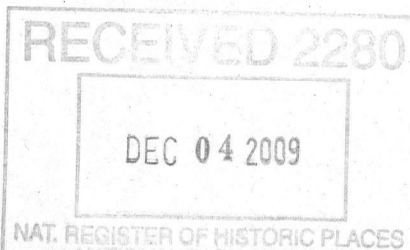


United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

1227



This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Trinity Methodist Church

other name/site number Springfield Baptist Church (current); United Methodist Church; Associate Presbyterian Church

2. Location

street & town 8 Mattie Cooper Square not for publication
city or town City of Beacon vicinity
state New York code NY county Dutchess code 027 zip code 12508

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this 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 meets does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)
Rudolph A. Pierpont / DSHPD 11/23/09
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

State of 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 certifying official/Title Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

- I hereby certify that the 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: _____)

Edson H. Beall _____
Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(check as many boxes as apply)

Category of Property
(check only one box)

Number of Resources within Property
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

public-local

private

public-State

public-Federal

district

building(s)

site

structure

object

Contributing

Noncontributing

1

0

buildings

0

0

sites

0

1

structures

0

0

objects

1

1

Total

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

**Number of contributing resources previously listed
in the National Register**

6. Function or Use

Historic Function

(Enter categories from instructions)

RELIGION: religious facility

Current Function

(Enter categories from instructions)

RELIGION: religious facility

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

LATE VICTORIAN: Gothic, Queen Anne, Romanesque

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation STONE

walls BRICK

roof ASPHALT, METAL SLATE

other GLASS, WOOD

Narrative Description

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

See Continuation Sheets-

Property Name *Trinity Methodist Church*
Location *City of Beacon, Dutchess County, New York*

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7. Narrative Description

Location & Setting

The former Trinity Methodist Church—since 1972 the Springfield Baptist Church—is located on Mattie Cooper Square (formerly Church Street) in the City of Beacon, Dutchess County, New York. This location places the building and its associated parcel east of New York Route 9D; north of Main Street; south of Oak Street; and west of North Elm Street. The front of the building is approached from Main Street via Digger Phelps Court (formerly Cottage Place), with a large open parking area located on the church's west side, the former location of a residential property. The immediate neighborhood is characterized by residential properties, typically mid to late 19th century in date, excepting Main Street to the south, which is largely characterized by commercial properties; to the immediate south, across Mattie Cooper Square, is a two-and-one-half story residence of Late Victorian form, which once functioned as the church's parsonage; it has not been included in the nomination due to modern alterations, and is currently utilized as Springfield Baptist Church's youth school. The nominated parcel is flat, largely open and planted with grass, with minimal landscape elements save for ornamental plantings clustered along the church's façade. A chain-link fence (non-contributing) aligns a portion of the church parcel, on its eastern perimeter, while a concrete walkway leads from the front sidewalk along the east side of the building, accessing entrances on the tower and likewise the curving entrance vestibule on that side. At one time the northwest corner of the parcel contained a frame horse shed and small automobile garage, neither of which is extant. The nomination includes one contributing resource, the church.

Overview

This masonry religious edifice reflects a complex construction chronology, beginning with its original construction c. 1849 as the Associate Presbyterian Church, and subsequent aggrandizement and improvement at various junctures of the 19th century by Trinity Methodist Church, most notably in 1864, 1887, 1891, and 1895. In essence the building began as a relatively simple and self-contained brick masonry meetinghouse, of the type characteristic of the mid-19th century towards the end of the popularity of the Greek Revival style, and subsequently was expanded to accommodate the increasing religious and social needs of its Methodist congregation, the work of the later 19th century primarily recalling the influence of the Gothic Revival and Romanesque Revival styles. The last major improvement campaign was undertaken in 1961, and since 1972 the edifice has served the worship needs of Springfield Baptist Church. The church consists of a large nave with steeply pitched roof and a rear block, the latter historically accommodating a Sunday school and lecture room, creating a T-shaped footprint, with rounded entrance vestibules occupying the junction of these sections; the façade, meanwhile, is defined by an offset multi-stage bell tower with spire and single-story entrance block with a rounded corner with conical roof. The only non-historic addition to the building's footprint postdating 1895 is the current frame kitchen wing off the rear of the chapel, a feature which fails to appear on the 1947 Sanborn Fire Insurance map. The building is laid up in brick masonry in common bond, with both brownstone and bluestone dressings, along with limited terra cotta elements and likewise moulded wood cornices; foundations and footings are mortared stone but brick above grade. Roofing consists of a combination of slate, standing-seam metal and asphalt: slate shingles survive on the east roof pitches and spire, metal is used on the conical roof of the entrance block, while asphalt covers the remaining surfaces. Window openings are fitted with stained glass of late 19th and early 20th century vintage, excepting small, secondary windows, which have clear glazing; apertures higher up in the building are fitted with wood louvers. The interior is currently given over to the worship space, with an associated entrance vestibule that now houses two

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rest rooms; a fellowship hall, in the rear addition, which likewise includes the pastor's office and a pantry—this area once housed the Sunday school and lecture areas; and a non-historic wing which extends northward from the chapel block. There is additionally office and storage space in a second floor area on the east side of chapel block, along with a balcony opening on the fellowship hall, and in the basement of the rear addition recreation and meeting rooms installed in the 1950s.

Exterior

The façade is composed of three components forming an asymmetrical composition—the gable front portion of the nave, the offset bell tower, and the entrance block with rounded end and conical tower—facing roughly south. The main entrance is situated in the entrance block, consisting of double-leaf five-paneled doors set within a Gothic-arched aperture beneath a gable-form entrance hood with stylized consoles and moulded wood cornices; the entrance is flanked by Gothic-arched windows fitted with diamond-pane stained glass. The west side of the entrance block is curved, and fitted with a band of four windows, trabeated, fitted with Gothic-arched stained glass window inserts, diamond paned. The window bands are dressed with cut bluestone and there is likewise a bluestone water table. The south-facing facet of the tower meanwhile has a paired Gothic arched window at first-stage level; at the second stage—divided from the first by brick belt course—three lancets fitted with wood louvers in the second stage; and a belfry with a single large louvered opening, as on the other elevations. There is likewise a single lancet at the second stage of the tower on its east, west and north facets, and an entrance to the tower on the east side, recessed, with a gabled hood. Above the belfry rises an octagonal-shaped broached spire, clad with slate and terminated by an ornate wrought metal finial. Above the high sloping roof of the entrance block, which is clad with asphalt, are two large Gothic-arched apertures on the south wall of the nave, divided by an engaged brick chimney that rises through the cornice at the roof's apex, before being terminated by corbelling and a terra cotta cap; below cornice-level this chimney is embellished with a terra cotta gablet with a sunburst motif. The windows are dressed with bluestone, the heads fitted with terra cotta, the openings fitted with wood louvers. The raking cornices are moulded wood, the gable field fitted with wood clapboards.

The west elevation consists of the five symmetrically articulated window bays that bring light into the worship space; the four southernmost of these represent the original fenestration of the c. 1949 building, the remaining one being added with the extension of the building. These are trimmed with cut brownstone lintels and sills, with the transition between wall and roof marked by a moulded wood fascia and boxed cornice. The transition between the front and rear section, on both sides, is marked by curved entrance vestibules with engaged conical-shaped roofs; the entrance on this side has a replacement door approached by a wheelchair ramp with iron railing. Fenestration on the rear block consists of four evenly spaced bays, in which are aligned windows corresponding with the basement and main story. Those in the basement have segmental arched heads; two have two-light windows, one has an eight-light window, and one is boarded up. The large windows have bluestone sills and are Romanesque arched, with a rounded drip cap; stained glass will be described in the interior section. Above these are two tripartite apertures, with bluestone dressings, fitted with wood louvers. The raking cornices and cornice returns are moulded wood, the apex fitted with clapboard; a brick chimney rises from the roof ridge.

The east elevation is similar in conception, with five bays matching the treatment of the west elevation, and a rounded entrance vestibule—though with an entrance hood, somewhat like that on the façade—the door being original and of a five-panel type. There are two sets of paired windows at the first and second story level,

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Romanesque arched, with drip caps. Otherwise the treatments, including cornice returns and raking cornices, frame gable fields and tripartite upper apertures, match that of the opposite west elevation.

The rear elevation has four evenly spaced Romanesque windows that bring light into this area, though two have been partially covered by the frame kitchen extension. The latter extension is one bay deep by two bays wide, and has a shed roof.

Interior

The worship space largely reflects four construction and renovation campaigns, three historic and one non-historic, those being the 1891 and 1895 expansion and reworking of the space, resulting ultimately in an auditorium configuration, the others the 1944 and 1961 reworking of the space. Surviving from the 1895 campaign is the sloping floor treatment; curving, quarter-sawn oak pews with low-relief carved Gothic detailing on the ends; and the wainscot that aligns the walls, from sill level to floor. The plaster walls, by all indications, represent the original c. 1849 finish work, excepting on the far north side of this space, which was added in 1891. The curving dais likewise dates to 1891. The hanging lighting fixtures would appear to date to the 1944 renovation, while the 1961 work included the construction of a new platform on the existing dais.

So far as the entrance block is concerned, changes were rendered to it in 1961, among them the installation of acoustic tile on the ceiling and vinyl-asbestos flooring; the space has since been reconfigured to provide bathrooms at either end, though plaster wall and ceiling finish remains in place, as do wood chair rails and architraves. In the east bathroom, set within the original arch that defined the tower vestibule, is the carved marble tablet commemorating the construction of the tower and donation of the bell by Willie Kittredge.

The rounded east side vestibule leads into a generous entrance hall, where a closed stringer staircase provides access to second floor areas. The stair has a heavily moulded handrail with lathe-turned balusters, a moulded stringer board, and square-shaped newel posts with chamfering and low relief carving—the lower newel having an octagonal cap and bead-and-reel and other detailing; other details here include both bead-board walls and plaster walls above bead-board wainscot, moulded architraves with roundel corner blocks, and four paneled doors. All woodwork is deeply stained. The majority of this section, added in 1891, is given over to an area that was conceived for a Sunday school, and which now serves as a fellowship hall and includes a church office. Finishes include a plaster ceiling and plaster walls above bead-board wainscot; the floor is laid with vinyl-asbestos tile. Window openings are fitted with moulded wood architraves with roundel corner blocks. On the east side of the room is a balcony, and on the south side a built-out stage that includes the baptismal pool. Additional rooms here include a bathroom, storage area and a pantry; the kitchen addition is accessed via the pantry. Meanwhile the basement in this space contains recreation and meeting areas largely reflecting 1950s treatments, as this area was modified at that time. The area beneath the worship space is unfinished. Floor framing is visible and consists of large sawn members, spanning east to west, which are footed on intermediate brick piers; on these rest sawn joists, aligned north to south, with cross bridging.

Stained glass windows are of a variety of types and representative of multiple episodes. Those in the front vestibule have rectilinear borders surrounding a diamond-pane configuration, and date to the time of this addition. Those in the worship space are memorial windows. In the former Sunday school area the large windows are divided into paired lancets by a central mullion, and are likewise hung to allow the lower sash to

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be moveable. The bulk of the glazing is formed of translucent glass, diffusing the light, the lozenge between the heads of the two lancets being colored glass with a floral motif.

8. 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.)

Property is:

- A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B** removed from its original location.
- C** a birthplace or 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.

Narrative Statement of Significance

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

Areas of Significance

(enter categories from instructions)

ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance

c. 1849- c. 1944

Significant Dates

c. 1849; c. 1860; c. 1864; c. 1874; c. 1887; c. 1891; c. 1895; c. 1944

Significant Persons

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)
N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Taylor, James; builder, 1849 section

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

(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: _____

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8. Narrative Statement of Significance

Overview

The former Trinity Methodist Church, since 1972 the Springfield Baptist Church, is a large-scale and eclectic example of 19th century ecclesiastical architecture in the City of Beacon, Dutchess County; the building in large measure portrays the expansion of this Methodist organization from the Civil War period until the turn of the 20th century, and the prevailing stylistic fashions and trends in design which guided church architecture during various expansion, aggrandizement and renovation campaigns. During the course of its history, the nominated building has been associated with Presbyterian, Dutch Reformed and Methodist congregations, and since 1972 has been home to Springfield Baptist Church, established c. 1946, marking it as an important edifice in the history of the city's religious life. It is an excellent example of the continued evolution of a religious building in the second half of the 19th century, reflecting both the progression of period architectural tastes and trends in interior design, as well the growth and expansion of the Methodist Episcopal Church—later Trinity Episcopal Church—during this period. Greek Revival, Gothic Revival, Romanesque Revival and to a lesser extent Queen Anne stylistic influence are all discernible, representative of the building's continued physical evolution. Likewise perceptible is the influence of the auditorium plan that gained wide acceptance in the later 19th century, with its emphasis on improving sight lines and acoustics in relation to the service, as expressed in a 1890s renovation and reconfiguration of the worship space. Though the worship space was significantly revamped in 1961 by the Methodist Church, near the end of that group's tenure, the building nevertheless maintains its original form, its period auditorium plan configuration and curving pews, and features and finishes representative of the various 19th century building campaigns.

Beacon Overview; Formation of the Associate Presbyterian Church & History of Trinity Methodist Church

The City of Beacon, incorporated in 1913 and named for the signal fires on the nearby hills which warned of the movements of British troops during the American Revolution, was formed from the smaller villages of Fishkill Landing and Matteawan. These two hamlets, along with nearby Fishkill, were the principal settlement areas in this region of southwestern Dutchess County at the turn of the 19th century. Growth here was first sustained by Hudson River-related enterprises, among them the river freighting business and commercial fishing, while early industrial pursuits capitalized on water power harnessed from Fishkill Creek, where mills had been established in the first half of the 18th century. By the mid-19th century foundries and other large industrial enterprises had been established here, joining earlier textile operations, and by the latter part of the century what would emerge as the City of Beacon was a major center of hat manufacture and perhaps the foremost in that regard in New York State. The Hudson River Railroad arrived in 1851 and the following decade the Dutchess & Columbia Railroad Company, providing expanded transportation infrastructure and augmenting the opportunities afforded by the Hudson River, the transportation importance of which was diminished by the advent of the railroads. Fishkill Landing, the portion of present-day Beacon in which the Trinity Methodist Church is located, remained a distinct entity from Matteawan at this time, with Fishkill Creek forming the boundary between them.

The nominated building's history, which is somewhat complex—particularly its physical evolution as a place of worship—was initiated c. 1849 with the construction of the “Brick Church” for the Associate Presbyterian Church, known otherwise as the “Dr. Harkness Church.” This Presbyterian group, led by

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Reverend Harkness, had by 1860 become disorganized and was no longer utilizing the building, which was instead being used as a temporary place of worship while the Reformed Dutch Church of Beacon was awaiting completion of their new edifice, being erected to the plans of F.C. Withers.¹ In 1860 it was purchased by the Methodist Episcopal Church of Fishkill Landing, who formally split into a distinct entity from the Methodists of Mattaewan in 1862, the year in which the latter group completed a new edifice of their own. It was not until 1914, following the formation of Beacon as a city, that the name Trinity Episcopal Church was adopted. Methodism had established a foothold here in the early 19th century, as the "Mattaewan Charge"—including the hamlets of Fishkill Landing and Mattaewan—were on a six-week Dutchess County circuit. Prior to 1819 meetings were being held in a stone house resided in at one time by John Tillott and his family, on the east side of Fishkill Creek, along with an adjacent house and barn once owned by the Ketchum family. By 1819 the meeting location was changed to a school house on the Old Road, now Verplanck Avenue, where a burying ground was established. In 1824 it was decided to establish a "station" in the area, served by a permanent minister and not a circuit rider, and shortly thereafter a frame building was erected on Main Street, east of Elm Street, in Fishkill Landing; this building was replaced in 1850 by a more permanent construct, subsequently sold in 1860 for use as a public hall—known variously as Mackin, Union or Swift's Hall—until being occupied by St. John's Catholic Church before being destroyed by fire in 1890. At the time of the sale of this property, offered for public auction by advertisement in December 1860, it had been resolved that the debts remaining against the church, after applying the proceeds of the sale, would be equally borne by the Fishkill Landing and Matteawan groups. The sale occurred only after a brief objection by J.P. DeWint, who was concerned with the use of the property in the future and its potential effect on the neighborhood.²

Beacon's Methodists, in later years known as the United Methodist Church of Beacon, maintained ownership of the building until 1972, at which time it was purchased by the Springfield Baptist Church, the history of which will be considered in a subsequent section.

Architectural Analysis: Associate Presbyterian Church, Original Construction Campaign, c. 1849; Trinity Methodist Church, Expansion & Improvement Campaigns, c. 1860- c. 1961

The physical evolution of this building is rather complex, and as such an annotated list of known changes has been included as an appendix, along with this analysis. The earliest portion of the existing building was erected c. 1849 for the Associate Presbyterian Church, and was described as such:

[The Associate Presbyterian Church] was a very plain edifice, about forty feet wide by sixty feet deep. It had been substantially built by the late James Taylor, and others. There was a gallery across the front, entered by stairways on either side, under the gallery.³

It was likewise noted that the church at that time was heated by a single stove, serviced by a massive chimney that, by this account, "towered up far above the church roof making it look like a factory."⁴

¹1861-1961: 100th Anniversary, *Trinity Methodist Church, Beacon, New York* (1961), "Past Days," not paginated. The author of this somewhat detailed history was not noted; included was a letter of congratulation from Governor Nelson A. Rockefeller.

² Ibid.

³ Ibid; a search of the 1860 census for revealed a James Taylor, age 43, residing in Fishkill and noted as a "laborer," though it is not known whether this is the same Taylor mentioned in this source.

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The above description and surviving exterior features suggest that in its first incarnation the building was of the characteristic mid-19th century meetinghouse type, as built during the popularity of the Greek Revival style—in essence a gable-front masonry building with a medium-pitched roof and trabeated window and door openings, largely self-contained. Walls were brick masonry, laid up in common bond on the flanks, the large window apertures having cut brownstone sills and lintels, rectangular in shape. The description of the interior likewise suggests a characteristic Protestant meetinghouse arrangement, the plan divided into entrance vestibule and worship space, the latter having pews aligned perpendicular to the longer flank walls and a gallery on the south side, the interior arrangement predicated on the clear sight lines to the liturgical area, the worship space well-lighted by the flank windows. Such a building did not require the expertise of an architect, but instead could be effectively built by a capable mason in association with other building tradesmen; thus the term “Bricklayer Greek Revival.”

The acquisition of the building by the Methodists 1860 initiated a long period of occupancy by that group, and likewise a series of 19th century improvement campaigns that witnessed the physical evolution of the building to largely reflect its current exterior appearance and form. Immediately upon their purchasing the property, the gallery cited above was removed and the doors of what were box pews were removed; in the next few years other minor modifications were rendered, including the installation of a melodeon and a new stove.⁵ In 1864 the first significant improvement campaign was embarked upon, at which time a Sunday school room was built—later razed to accommodate a subsequent improvement—two new stove chimneys added, a vestry room erected, and a new higher pitched roof installed. The latter feature is indicative of the influence of the Gothic Revival style, which by the Civil War period had gained broad appeal outside the ranks of the Episcopal Church, where the influence of the Ecclesiological movement—and the work of architect Richard Upjohn, among others, inspired by medieval English models—had significantly influenced antebellum religious design. Sources indicate the new roof was installed to “improve the appearance of the church,”⁶ and as such appears to have been an aesthetic, and not functional, alteration; the original roof remains in place below it.

More changes followed in the 1870s, among them the removal of an older pulpit and construction of a new dais, along with the installation of a new organ. In 1875 the church briefly considered the construction of a new building, having done so but a few years prior at the behest of Pastor W.G. Browning, however these plans were abandoned shortly thereafter, likely as too costly, and later that year the worship space was revamped with work including the frescoing of walls and ceilings. In 1882 a new frame parsonage was built, the older building offered for sale once it was completed.⁷

The period from 1887 to 1895 saw three major building campaigns that largely brought the building to its current appearance and footprint. In 1887 the façade assumed its current form, with the addition of an offset bell tower and entrance block; the slender tower is formed of three stages and a broached spire, with Gothic-arched apertures including slender lancets punctuating the middle stage. The entrance block, meanwhile, was terminated by a rounded end trimmed with bluestone dressings, the rounded end corresponding with a small conical roof. The treatment of the upper Gothic-arched

⁴ Ibid

⁵ Ibid

⁶ Ibid

⁷ Ibid

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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

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apertures of the front wall of the nave—utilizing both bluestone and terra cotta—as well as the terra cotta gablet with sunflower motif that is present in the chimney, all likewise appear to be changes rendered at this time. The tower alludes to Gothic Revival sources, the other details reflecting Late Victorian eclecticism, and in some instances Queen Anne influence. According to the centennial history of the church, from which much of the history in this nomination has been drawn, the steeple was built by a Canadian shipbuilder, the bell in the belfry below donated by Charles M. Kittredge in memory of his son.⁸

In 1891, following the purchase of a rear lot, the original c. 1849 building was extended by 15' at the rear and a large addition likewise made, the ridge of the latter feature's steeply pitched roof aligned perpendicular to that of the existing building, to form a T-shaped footprint. The rear section housed the congregation's Sunday school facilities, a lecture room and a kitchen, and likewise a finished basement that, in the 1950s, was converted into recreation and meeting rooms. The larger fenestration on the west elevation of the chapel is Romanesque-arched, with small tripartite apertures above, fitted with wood louvers; the transition between the body of the church and the rear addition is marked by half-round entrance vestibules on both flanks. The fenestration of the east side of the rear addition is likewise Romanesque, however consisting of smaller paired window groupings at the first and second story level, indicative of the presence of second floor rooms on the interior of this side. This work was rendered in brick masonry with bluestone dressings. Interior work related to this period included a Late Victorian period stair corresponding with the east entrance into the rear section, of the closer stringer type, with a bead-board dado along the wall, turned balusters and a heavy moulded handrail. Other characteristic finishes here include moulded wood architraves with roundel corner blocks and paneled doors, all richly stained.

Finally, in 1895, attention was again turned to modifying the interior, with particular attention paid to the worship space and its functionality; this area had been expanded with the 1891 addition, at which time a curving dais was installed. It appears the sloping floor and the curving, quarter-sawn oak slip pews were among the primary features of this renovation, along with the installation of bead-board wainscot. Such arrangements became popular in American ecclesiastical design in the second half of the 19th century, in essence a semi-circular seating arrangement with aisles radiating outward from the liturgical center, not unlike the layout of an amphitheater, in concert with a sloping floor. This plan proved a functional modification of the traditional linear meetinghouse arrangement, inspired by the increasing spatial needs of urban congregations and the influence of revivalism. The Broadway Tabernacle in New York City, built c. 1836 for a Congregational society, is thought to have been the first American example utilizing an amphitheater-type arrangement.⁹ Notwithstanding examples such as the Plymouth Congregational Church in Brooklyn, 1849, this type of auditorium arrangement gained its greatest popularity in the post-Civil War period. Among those advocating for circular interior arrangements was the architect Lawrence Valk, in his 1873 book *The New Form of Plan for Churches*.¹⁰ Valk contended that regardless of the style chosen, the circular seating plan offered a functionally sound

⁸ Ibid

⁹ Ibid, 58-59.

¹⁰ Lawrence B. Valk, *The New Form of Plan for Churches* (New York: Holt Brothers, 1873).

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alternative to traditional and ritual-based plans. The earlier pews were removed at this time, and donated to the local American Methodist Episcopal Zion church.¹¹

Significant interior changes were again rendered to the building in 1944 and 1961, the latter corresponding with the Methodist church's centennial anniversary; these are noted in the appendix section. In essence the church, as built c. 1849 and modified in various campaigns ending in 1895, represents the aggrandizement of a mid-19th century Protestant meetinghouse characteristic of the period into a relatively large-scale urban house of worship, influenced by Gothic Revival and Romanesque Revival stylistic precedents, and on the interior by the auditorium plan advocated by Valk, among others. The rear addition housed the church's Sunday school programming and lecture hall, with a kitchen area to support social functions. Most all church functions, both religious and social, and excepting those housed in the parsonage, were satisfied within this single building as opposed to multiple constructs.

Later History: Springfield Baptist Church, 1946-present

Springfield Baptist Church was started as a storefront mission in November 1945 by Mattie O. F. Cooper (1891-1990), an ordained minister serving on the evangelist board of the Walker Memorial Baptist Church, and the first black woman to serve as a Baptist Minister in New York State. Cooper's efforts attracted the attention of new residents arriving in Beacon from the South, along with those not yet affiliated with an existing church. Springfield Baptist Church was incorporated in 1946, and beginning in 1947 utilized a vacant Central Hudson Gas and Electric Company gas house on Beekman Street as a house of worship, using limited funds for improvements such as a gas-fired furnace. In 1969, no longer encumbered by a mortgage, a new house of worship was desired. On May 14, 1972, the congregation walked from the former gas house on Beekman Street to the former Trinity Methodist Church, which it has purchased, beginning its ongoing tenure with the nominated building. Springfield Baptist Church has proved a good steward to the church, mindful of its multi-layered history and service to other Beacon congregations, and for the most part has only made interior changes directly related to liturgical needs in association with their faith.

¹¹*Trinity Methodist Church, "Past Days."*

Property Name *Trinity Methodist Church*
Location *City of Beacon, Dutchess County, New York*

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number 9 Page 1

9. Major Bibliographical References

1861-1961: 100th Anniversary, Trinity Methodist Church, Beacon, New York. 1961.

Valk, Lawrence B. *The New Form of Plan for Churches.* New York: Holt Brothers, 1873.

Trinity Methodist Church
Name of Property

Dutchess County, New York
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property Less than one acre

UTM References

(Place additional boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

1 18 585710 4595689
Zone Easting Northing

2
Zone Easting Northing

3
Zone Easting Northing

4
Zone Easting Northing

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 William E. Krattinger

organization NYS OPRHP, Field Services Bureau

date July 2009

street & number Peebles Island State Park

telephone (518) 237-8643, ext. 3265

city or town Waterford

state NY zip code 12866

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 & 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 SHPO or FPO.)

name/title Terry Clark & Reverend Ronald O. Perry, Sr., contacts; Springfield Methodist Church

street & number 8 Mattie Cooper Square

telephone _____

city or town Beacon

state NY zip code 12508

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 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 Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

Property Name *Trinity Methodist Church*
Location *City of Beacon, Dutchess County, New York*

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number 10 Page 1

10. Geographical Data

Verbal Boundary Description

The boundary for the Trinity Methodist Church National Register of Historic Places nomination is shown as a solid black outline on the composite aerial/tax map, entitled "Trinity Methodist Church, City of Beacon, Dutchess County, New York," included with this nomination.

Boundary Justification

The boundary for the nomination, which includes less than one acre of land, has been drawn to coincide with the current legal tax parcel. All of this land is historically related to the nominated resource and its cited period of significance.

Property Name *Trinity Methodist Church*
Location *City of Beacon, Dutchess County, New York*

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Photographs

Photographs

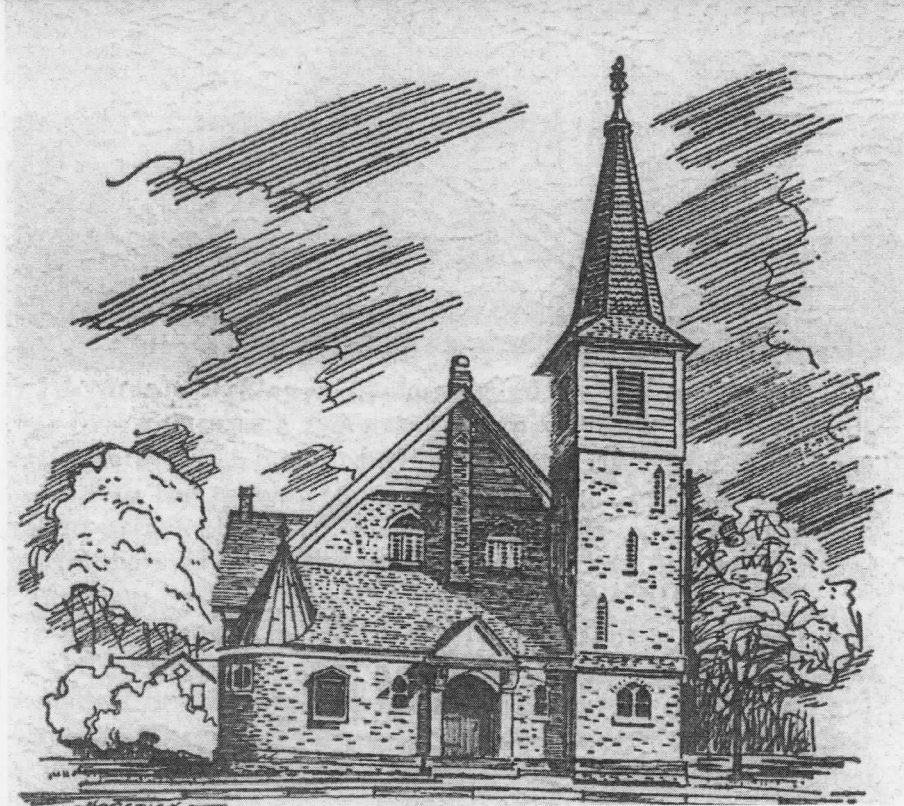
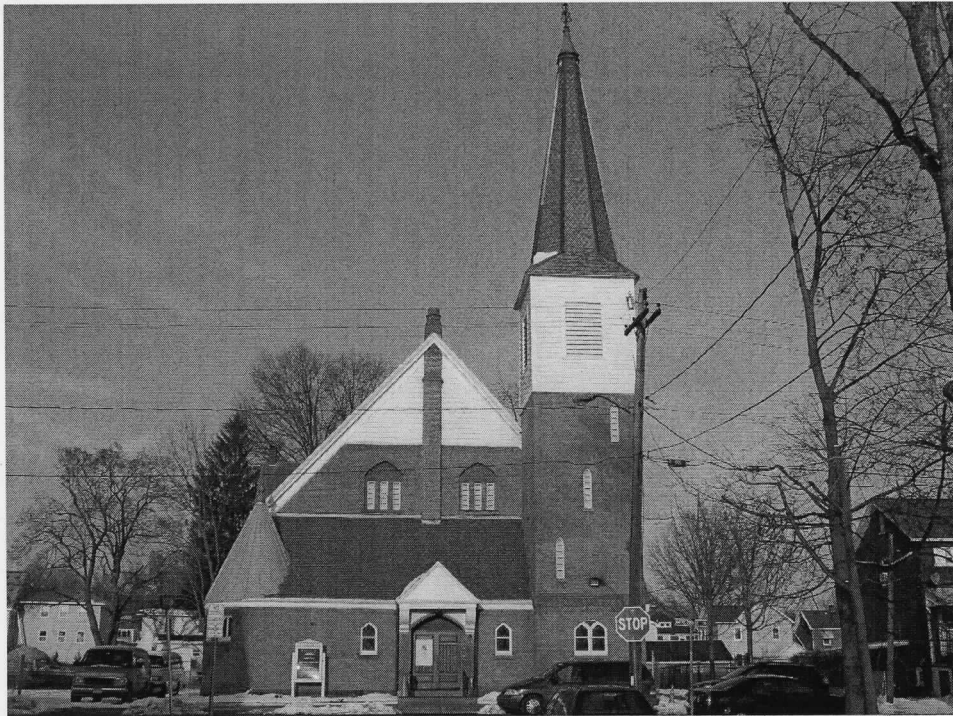
Photographs by William E. Krattinger, January 2009

1. Exterior, façade, view looking north
2. Exterior, façade showing vestibule tower & bell tower
3. Exterior, west elevation, showing characteristic treatments and rounded entrance vestibule
4. Exterior, west elevation of c. 1891 addition
5. Interior, worship space, view north towards dais
6. Interior, worship space, pew end detail
7. Interior, c. 1891 addition, staircase detail
8. Interior, c. 1891 addition, view west

Property Name *Trinity Methodist Church*
Location *City of Beacon, Dutchess County, New York*

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Appendix

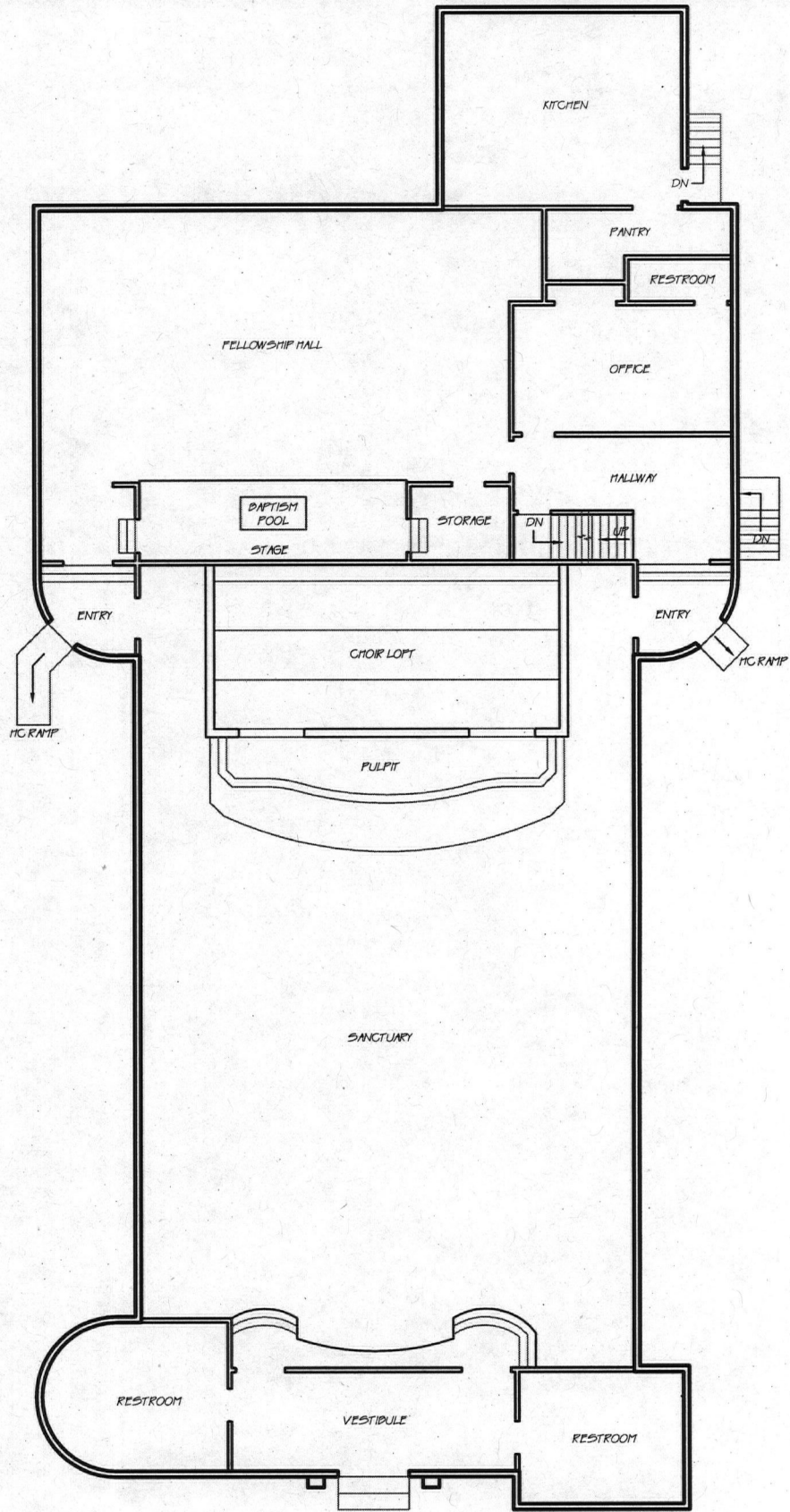


Comparative Analysis: Existing Conditions (above) in relation to c. 1961 appearance



Trinity Methodist Church, City of Beacon, Dutchess County, New York

Boundary shown as solid black outline
Scale: 1" is equal to approximately 60'



SPRINGFIELD BAPTIST CHURCH
 8 MATTIE COOPER SQUARE
 BEACON, NEW YORK 12590

FIRST FLOOR LAYOUT
 NOT TO SCALE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY NAME: Trinity Methodist Church

MULTIPLE NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: NEW YORK, Dutchess

DATE RECEIVED: 12/04/09 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 12/29/09
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 1/13/10 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 1/18/10
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 09001227

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 1.12.10 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

**Entered in
The National Register
of
Historic Places**

RECOM./CRITERIA _____

REVIEWER _____ DISCIPLINE _____

TELEPHONE _____ DATE _____

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

If a nomination is returned to the nominating authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the NPS.



TRINITY METHODIST CHURCH
BEACON, DUTCHESS CO. NY

#1



TRINITY METHODIST CHURCH
BEACON, DUTCHESS CO. NY
#2



TRINITY METHODIST CHURCH
BEACON, DUTCHESS CO. NY

#3



TRINITY METHODIST CHURCH
BEACON, DUTCHESS CO. NY
#4



TRINITY METHODIST CHURCH
BEACON, DUTCHESS CO. NY

5



TRINITY METHODIST CHURCH
BEACON, PUTCHESS COUNTY, NY
#6



TRINITY METHODIST CHURCH
HAGAN, DUTCHESS CO. NY

1



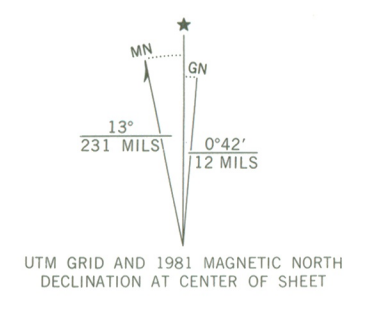
TRINITY METHODIST CHURCH
BEAON, DUTCHESS CO. NY

#8



TRINITY METHODIST CHURCH
& MATTIE COOPER SCHOOL
BEACON, DUTCHESS CO. NY
WAPPINGERS FALLS QUA. 1:24000
18/ 585110 4595689

Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey
Control by USGS and NOS/NOAA
Topography by photogrammetric methods from aerial photographs
taken 1955. Field checked 1956
Hydrography compiled from NOS charts 282 (1954) and 283 (1954)
This information is not intended for navigational purposes
Polyconic projection. 10,000-foot grid ticks based on New York
coordinate system, east zone. 1000-meter Universal Transverse
Mercator grid ticks, zone 18, shown in blue. 1927 North
American Datum. To place on the predicted North American
Datum 1983 move the projection lines 6 meters south
and 35 meters west as shown by dashed corner ticks
Fine red dashed lines indicate selected fence and field lines where
generally visible on aerial photographs. This information is uncorrected
Red tint indicates area in which only landmark buildings are shown
There may be private inholdings within the boundaries of
the National or State reservations shown on this map



SCALE 1:24 000
1000 0 1000 2000 3000 4000 5000 6000 7000 FEET
1 5 0 1 KILOMETER

CONTOUR INTERVAL 10 FEET
NATIONAL GEODETIC VERTICAL DATUM OF 1929
DEPTH CURVES AND SOUNDINGS IN FEET—DATUM IS MEAN LOW WATER
THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE TWO DATUMS IS VARIABLE
SHORELINE SHOWN REPRESENTS THE APPROXIMATE LINE OF MEAN HIGH WATER
THE MEAN RANGE OF TIDE IS APPROXIMATELY 2.9 FEET
THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS
FOR SALE BY U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY
DENVER, COLORADO 80225, OR RESTON, VIRGINIA 22092
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST



ROAD CLASSIFICATION
Primary highway, hard surface
Secondary highway, hard surface
Light-duty road, hard or improved surface
Interstate Route
U.S. Route
State Route

WAPPINGERS FALLS, N. Y.
N4130—W7352.5/7.5
1956
PHOTOREVISED 1981
DMA 6267 III SW—SERIES W821

Revisions shown in purple and woodland compiled from
aerial photographs taken 1981 and other sources. This
information not field checked. Map edited 1981
Purple tint indicates extension of urban areas



**New York State Office of Parks,
Recreation and Historic Preservation**

Historic Preservation Field Services Bureau • Peebles Island, PO Box 189, Waterford, New York 12188-0189

518-237-8643

www.nysparks.com

DEC 04 2009

RECEIVED 2280

DEC 04 2009

NAT. REGIS. HISTORIC PLACES
SERVICE

David A. Paterson
Governor

Carol Ash
Commissioner

December 2, 2009

Ms. Alexis Abernathy
National Park Service
National Register of Historic Places
1201 Eye St. NW
8th Floor
Washington, D.C. 20005

Re: Transmittal of National Register
Nominations

Dear Ms. Abernathy:

I am pleased to transmit one new multiple property context and four new National Register nominations to be considered for listing by the Keeper of the National Register as follows:

Stone Arch Bridges of the Village of Cornwall-on-Hudson, Orange Co., NY (MPDF)

Component 1:

Dock Hill Road Extension Stone Arch Bridge, Cornwall-on-Hudson, Orange Co., NY

Trinity Methodist Church, Beacon, Dutchess Co., NY

Balmville Cemetery, Balmville, Orange Co., NY

Masonic Temple, Newport Lodge No. 455 F & AM, Newport, Herkimer Co., NY

Thank you for your assistance in processing these proposals. Please feel free to call on me at 518-237-8643 ext. 3258 if any questions arise.

Sincerely,

Mark L. Peckham
National Register
Program Coordinator

enclosures

SPRINGFIELD BAPTIST CHURCH, c. 1972-present

Formerly Associate Presbyterian Church, c. 1849-60; Trinity Methodist Church, 1860-c. 1972

Physical history & related events regarding the church facility now utilized by Springfield Baptist Church

- c. 1849 Brick meetinghouse constructed for Associate Presbyterian Church; "Dr. Harkness Church" or "Brick Church." A gabled brick building measuring approximately 40' in width by 60' in depth.
- c. 1860 Methodist Episcopal Church of Fishing Landing purchases existing and vacated meetinghouse noted above, which was utilized temporarily by the Reformed Dutch Church. Gallery in front of worship space removed shortly thereafter. Existing chimney mass removed or altered shortly thereafter, doors of box pews removed.
- c. 1861, the old Methodist church, a frame building on Main Street, put up for sale. Built in 1850, it replaced an earlier meetinghouse erected on the same site in 1824.
- c. 1862 the Matteawan Methodist Church is completed, as Beacon Methodists split into two distinct entities with Trinity Methodist Church occupying the nominated building.
- c. 1862 Melodeon purchased, stove fitted in lobby.
- c. 1864 First significant improvement campaign. A Sunday School room was built (later razed & replaced); two stove chimneys were built, one on each side of the church; a vestry room was erected; a new, higher pitched roof was erected above that of the earlier meetinghouse.
- c. 1874 Older pulpit removed and a dais constructed; old organ sold and new one installed.
- c. 1875 overtures toward erection of new church; plans never advanced.
- c. 1875 Improvements made, including the frescoping of the sanctuary.
- c. 1876 New shingle roof installed.
- c. 1882 New frame Parsonage built; old parsonage offered for sale.
- c. 1887 Second significant improvement campaign; new tower and vestibule added; horse sheds erected at rear of complex (razed).
- c. 1891 Third significant improvement campaign; Building extended 15' at rear; new chapel built; new pipe organ installed, which included the building of a new platform and dais.
- c. 1895 Fourth significant improvement campaign; new pews, cushions, carpet, alter rail and wainscot; old pews were donated to the AME Zion Church as a gift.

1913 City of Beacon formed from Matteawan and Fishkill; corporate name of Church changed to Trinity Methodist Episcopal Church of Beacon.

c. 1944

Auditorium extensively remodeled; roof “renewed”; organ was “completely overhauled”; the Sanctuary redecorated and new lighting fixtures installed; the church school was changed, including the enclosing the balcony; a stage built in the lecture room; kitchen modernized

c. 1946 Mattie Cooper, the first African American minister in New York State, establishes the Springfield Baptist Church as a mission, operating from a leased store. The former gas works on Beekman Street serves as an early church facility.

c. 1955

Church school basement converted into a recreation and meeting room.

c. 1961

Significant interior modifications made; Acoustical tile installed in narthex; vinyl asbestos tile flooring installed; walls re-decorated; alcove in the west end furnished as a Reception room. In the sanctuary the chancel area was re-styled with a new curving dais; and a new lectern, pulpit and baptismal font installed; organ pipes covered with frame-stretched fabric; brass railing and velvet curtains removed from choir stall; heating grilles removed from aisles (part of earlier central heating system) and smaller ones installed; new carpet laid and pew cushions refurbished; painting.

c. 1972

Springfield Baptist Church established in the former Trinity Methodist Episcopal Church.