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:
Lake View Drive and Weber Street

CITY OR TOWN:
Trenton (First Congressional District)

STATE: North Carolina

CODE: 37
COUNTY: Jones

CODE: 103

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)

- District
- Building
- Site
- Structure
- Object
- Public
- Private
- Public Acquisition:
  - In Process
  - Being Considered
- Occupation:
  - Occupied
  - Unoccupied
- Accessible to the Public:
  - Yes:
  - Restricted
  - Unrestricted

PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- Agricultural
- Commercial
- Educational
- Entertainment
- Government
- Industrial
- Military
- Museum
- Private Residence
- Religious
- Transportation
- Scientific
- Other (Specify)
- Comments

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
Wardens of Grace Episcopal Church

STREET AND NUMBER:
Lake View Drive

CITY OR TOWN:
Trenton

STATE: North Carolina

CODE: 37

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC:
Jones County Courthouse

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:
Trenton

STATE: North Carolina

CODE: 37

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:

DATE OF SURVEY:
- Federal
- State
- County
- Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:

STATE: North Carolina

CODE: 37
Grace Episcopal Church, a small rectangular building, derives its distinctive charm not only from its setting among large oaks hung with Spanish moss, but also from the special inventiveness of its form and detail. The board-and-batten structure, which rests on a low brick foundation, has a gable roof topped by a steeple. The south (main) gable end contains a central entrance flanked by triangular-headed windows with diamond-paned stained glass. The entrance contains a diagonally sheathed double door surmounted by a blind triangular arch. In the center of the gable is a triangular-headed louvered vent. These, like all the triangular-headed openings throughout the church, are accented by molded hoods with scalloped bargeboards.

The east and west sides are three bays long, with each bay marked by a triangular-headed window. The scallop design is repeated on the heavy cornice which returns on the gables. Below the cornice is a wide frieze board in the form of a corbel table. It has tiny arches that connect the tops of the battens, forming a continuous concave scallop motif. The north (rear) gable contains a central triangular-headed stained glass window.

Above the south gable is a square board-and-batten steeple that rises in three distinct stages. The simple lowest level forms a base for the second, which features a small triangular-headed louvered opening on each face. Both levels have scalloped cornices and friezes like those of the main roof. Above the second level is a slightly splayed pyramidal spire covered with imbricated shingles and topped by a wooden cross.

On the interior Grace Church is quite plain, exhibiting a simple center-aisle plan. Above a vertically sheathed wainscot the walls are finished with a wide band of horizontal sheathing below one of vertical sheathing. The coved ceiling is horizontally sheathed. The north (chancel) end features a single stained glass window above the altar, which is enclosed by a rounded rail supported by heavy turned balusters. To the left of the chancel in the northwest corner a curved, vertically sheathed partition forms the sacristy.
In May, 1885, the Reverend Israel Harding of St. Mary's Episcopal Church, Kinston, reported that he had officiated at two services in Trenton, North Carolina, and that "there is a good prospect of building a church there." According to church records, the first of these services was held with four or five communicants on March 28, 1885. In a remarkably short time—less than two months—the nucleus of a congregation was formed and a lot for the building of a church provided. L. P. Brogden and his wife, Laura, deeded part of town lot 45 to Bishop A. A. Watson and trustees, on May 18, 1885. Bishop Watson laid the cornerstone of the church within a week of the transaction.

In the same year Bishop Watson participated in the first service held December 15, in Grace Episcopal Church, Trenton, where "scarcely ten months before this ... the service of our Church was heard for the first time." When Grace Church was consecrated June 12, 1892, it had a congregation of about fifty souls.

This beautiful little church has been little altered since its construction, although a few minor repairs were made in 1966. It is distinguished by the particularly effective use of strict geometric massing in conjunction with the inherent verticality of board-and-batten walls and the repetition of scallop ornament.
9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Jones County Records, Jones County Courthouse, Trenton, North Carolina, Office of the Register of Deeds. (Subgroups: Deeds, Wills).

Jones County Records, State Department of Archives and History, Raleigh, North Carolina. (Subgroups: Deeds, Wills).

Journal of the Second Annual Convention of the Protestant Episcopal Church, Diocese of East Carolina. Wilmington, North Carolina: DeRossett and Meares, 1885.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

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APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: One Acre

11. FORM PREPARED BY

Survey and Planning Unit, John B. Wells, III, Supervisor
State Department of Archives and History
109 East Jones Street
Raleigh

DATE: May 18, 1971

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National [ ] State [ ] Local [x]

Name: H. G. Jones
Title: Director, State Department of Archives and History
Date: May 18, 1971

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

Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

ATTEST:

Keeper of The National Register
9. Bibliography

Journal of the Third Annual Convention of the Protestant Episcopal Church, Diocese of East Carolina. Wilmington, North Carolina: DeRossett and Meares, 1886.