

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

For NPS use only
received
date entered

# National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*  
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

## 1. Name

historic Christ Episcopal Church

and/or common Christ Episcopal Church

## 2. Location

street & number 75 W. Van Buren St. N/A not for publication

city, town Joliet N/A vicinity of ~~congressional district~~

state Il. code 012 county Will code 197

## 3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<u>N/A</u>	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

## 4. Owner of Property

name The Vestry and Congregation of Christ Episcopal Church

street & number 75 W. Van Buren St.

city, town Joliet N/A vicinity of state Il.

## 5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Will County Recorder of Deeds

street & number 14 West Jefferson St.

city, town Joliet. state Il.

## 6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title \_\_\_\_\_ has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

date \_\_\_\_\_ federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records \_\_\_\_\_

city, town \_\_\_\_\_ state \_\_\_\_\_

## 7. Description

Condition  
 excellent  
 good  
 fair

deteriorated  
 ruins  
 unexposed

Check one  
 unaltered  
 altered

Check one  
 original site  
 moved date \_\_\_\_\_

### Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Church is located on the North East corner of Van Buren and Joliet Streets. The construction began in 1885 with the letting of the contract to F. S. Allen. The dimensions of the church being 120 ft. by 60 ft., with a seating capacity of 700. It also included a chapel at the west end connected to the main structure by a covered arch 50 ft. by 40 ft. The cost of the structure was about \$25,000.00. The dedication took place in January of 1887.

The exterior of the complex is constructed of native Joliet limestone. The original mortar was navy blue. The style was a mixture of European Gothic with hints of the new Romanesque. The parsonage is designed in Queen Anne. The facade of the church is a simple peaked facade with an exterior vestibule, which is in front of the supporting wall of the church. This vestibule has a central door and also doors at either end. The facade of the vestibule features a row of identical stained glass windows, which open and close for ventilation. The doors of the church are planked red oak as is most of the wood used thru out the church. The facade also features a bell tower at the junction of the parish hall and the church. The bell tower features a castillated turret. The parish house is attached at the other end of the parish hall. (photo 1) The floor of the vestibule is the original terra cotta and mosaic. The parish hall is a connector to the parish house by a row of open arches creating an open but protected walkway. The parish hall was remodeled in 1925. This was done by raising the peaked roof to create an entire second floor over the hall. The original windows of this area were arched and the roof was steeper.

The exterior of the parsonage differs from the original concept as shown in the Inland Architect February of 1885. The building as actually constructed is Queen Anne in design. It features a first floor with a Romanesque arch over the entrance. This first floor is constructed of Joliet limestone. The second story is cut shingle, and features a turret at one end. The roof is steeply pitched. There is one multicolored stained glass window in the top of the middle of the front facade.

The Interior of the church is virtually unchanged since the original construction. The ceiling is cross vaulted over the side aisles of the church. The main aisle over the nave is not vaulted. Instead an unuaual use of narrow red oak strips is used. The ceiling is highly peaked and the entire surface is covered with narrow red oak planking. The heavy crossties are also exposed beams of red oak. (photo 2) The walls also feature the generou use of hand carved wainscotting that extends nearly to the ceiling on the sides. There are large carved pillars along either side of the nave of the same red oak. The alter is also carved of solid red oak and is 22 1/2 ft. high and 9 ft. wide. The pews are the same solid red oak. There is a rose window above the entrance facade and stained glass windows line either side of the church. The communion rail is hand crafted brass and features a grape motif. The floors are terra cotta and mosaic. The main aisle has been replaced with carpet in the 1960's.

## 3. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/ humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

**Specific dates** 1885 1925 **Builder/Architect** F. S. Allen

### Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Christ Episcopal Church is of architectural significance because it is the work of a well known architect of the late 1800's and early 1900's. It is also an excellent example of European Gothic with the Romanesque highlights. The parsonage is an excellent example of Queen Anne and the use of cut wood shingles. It is also important that this structure has been virtually unchanged since its construction. It is also the parish church of the second oldest Episcopal parish in the diocese of Chicago.

F. (Frank)S. (Shaver) Allen was Born in 1860 in Galesburg, Il., the son of one of the founders of that city. He left Galesburg in his late teens. He reappeared in Chicago in 1882-83 as a practicing architect in that city. His offices were in the Metropolitan Block Building. He was not known to be affiliated with any other architects. Research has been able to discover any of his work in Chicago. In 1884 Mr. Allen moved to Streator. He was living there when he recieved the comission for Christ Episcopal Church in Joliet. He had been very active in Streator having designed Christ Church, the Catholic Church, the City Hall, his own home, a skating rink and several other buildings. He competed in competition for Christ Episcopal Church, as was the common practice of that time. His design was featured in the Inland Architect of February of 1885. There were some changes from the conceptual drawing to the actual completion.

Christ Church was first of the Allen buildings in Joliet. He moved her in 1887. He designed many buildings here. He had the contract for most of the grade schools, and for the first concepts of a new high school which instaad became a grade school. He did, however, as his last building in Joliet actually design the Joliet Township High School. He also designed many local homes and and commercial buildings. He also designed structures in many other places while he resided in Joliet Many of which are on the National Register. Among the other places include the Sioux City High School, Sioux City Iowa (National Register) the Racine School, Racine Wisconsin (National Register) the Port Washington Wisconsin School, and buildings in southern Illinois, M<sup>s</sup>ssouri, and New Jersey. He resided in Joliet until the completion of Joliet Township High and then moved to the Pasadena-Altadena area of California.

While he resided in California he designed many buildings in the west and south west. These include, but are not limited to the San Diego High School (National Register Demolished), high school and state

**United States Department of the Interior  
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
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college in San Jose, California, high schools in Covina and San Pedro, California. There are also many other schools and buildings too numerous to mention.

Mr. Allen practiced architecture in sole practice until 1915 when he discontinued practice to open a music store. He died in California 8/26/1930. His works are listed in many architectural guides to the south west. He became one of the leaders in California not only for his Collegiate Gothic, but also a leader in the development of the Mission Revival Style of architecture.

Christ Episcopal Church is such an excellent example of this architect's work of that period in his life. The architect was only 24 years old when he began the plans for this complex. It is also virtually untouched. Although nearly 100 years have passed the parish has done very little to the church except for excellent maintenance. The church could even be recognized from the drawing. Just this last year the church underwent a \$50,000.00 house cleaning, which consisted of the cleaning of the wood and painting of the few plaster areas. It must be understood that nearly the entire interior of the church is red oak and had not been touched for years and required extremely careful work.

Religiously the congregation was formed in 1865. At that time there were only 5 Episcopal parishes in Illinois. Many important families have belonged to the congregation thru the years. This is the third home of the parish. All of the Episcopal Bishops have visited this church since its construction.

## C. Major Bibliographical References

The Inland Architect and Builder Feb. 1885 page 15  
Joliet Daily Republican Monday Jan. 24, 1887  
Joliet Sun Monday Jan. 24, 1887  
Private Collection of Andrea Magosky 608 Morgan St. Joliet, IL

## 10. Geographical Data

Acree of nominated property 1/4

Quadrangle name \_\_\_\_\_

Quadrangle scale \_\_\_\_\_

UMT References

A 

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Zone Easting Northing

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Zone Easting Northing

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D 

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E 

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F 

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G 

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Verbal boundary description and justification

The North East corner of Van Buren and Joliet Sts. and one quarter of that block running east to the alley and north to the alley being the boundaries

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state IL code \_\_\_\_\_ county \_\_\_\_\_ code \_\_\_\_\_

state \_\_\_\_\_ code \_\_\_\_\_ county \_\_\_\_\_ code \_\_\_\_\_

## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Andrea Magosky

organization For the Vestry of Christ Church date 4/1/82

street & number 608 Morgan St. telephone 815-723-3052

city or town Joliet, IL 60436 state IL

## 12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national  state  local

As the designated State Historic Preservation 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.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature \_\_\_\_\_

title \_\_\_\_\_ date \_\_\_\_\_

For NPS use only

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

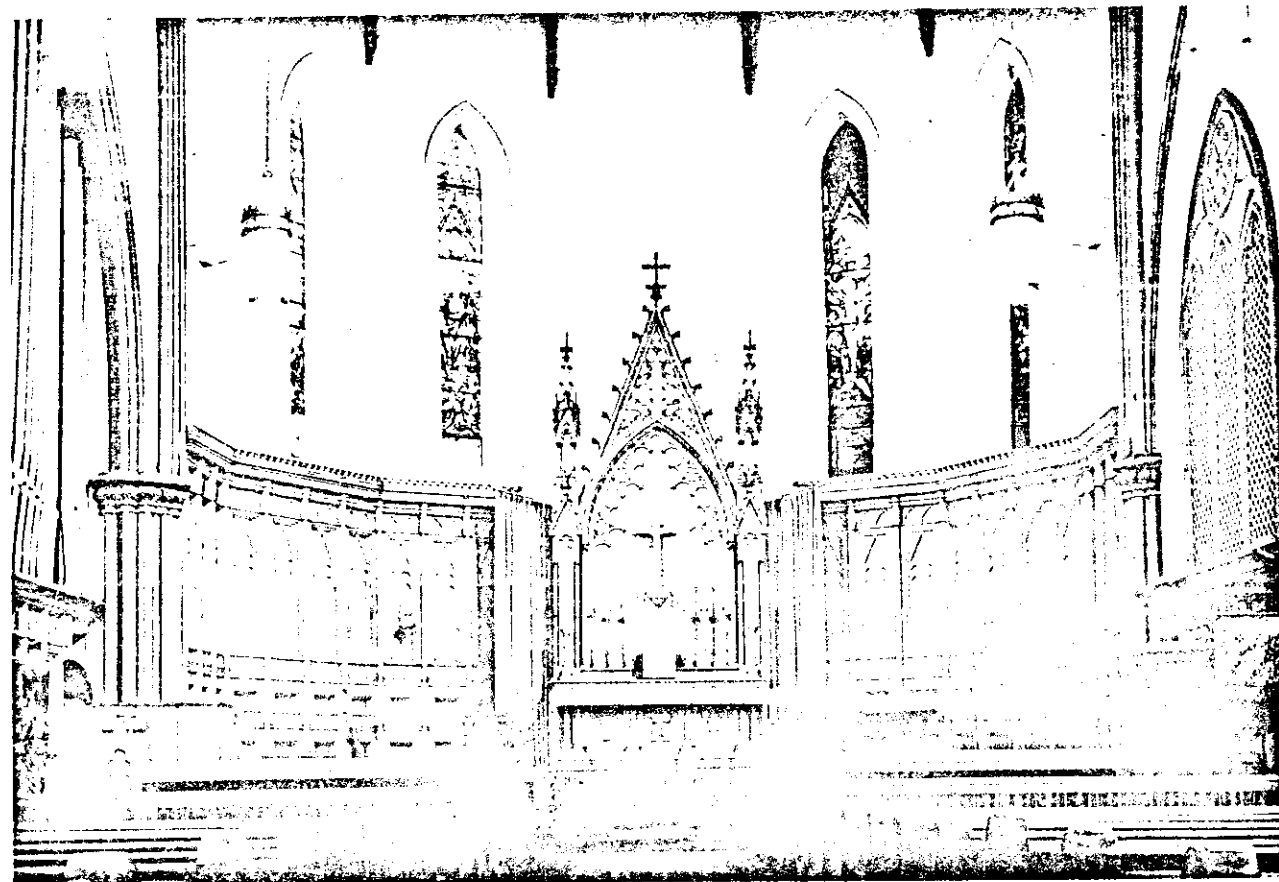
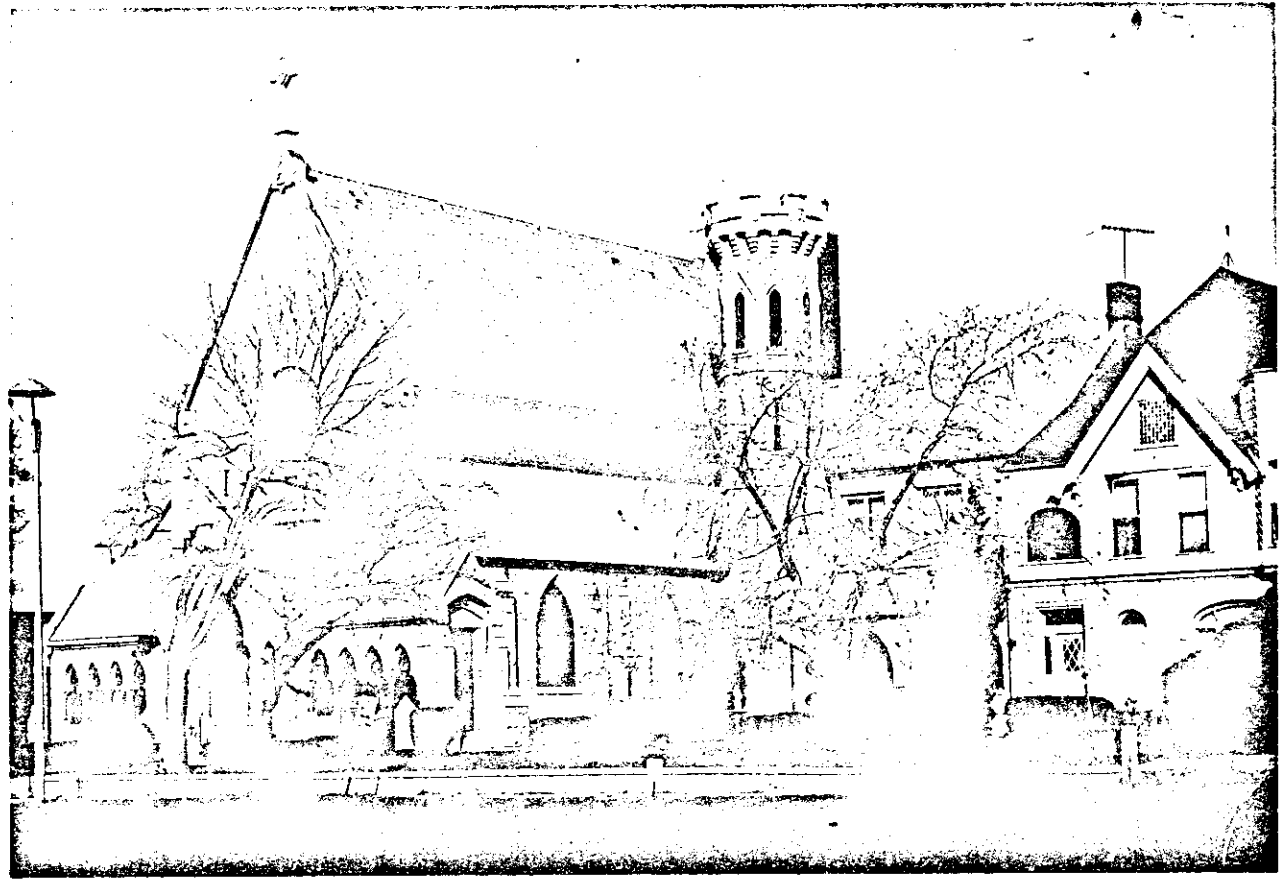
date \_\_\_\_\_

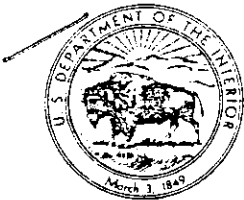
Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date \_\_\_\_\_

Chief of Registration





# United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20240

AUG 17 1982

IN REPLY REFER TO:

The Director of the National Park Service is pleased to inform you that the following properties have been entered in the National Register of Historic Places during the week beginning August 8 and ending August 14, 1982. For further information call (202) 272-3504.

STATE, County, Vicinity, Property, Address, (date listed)

ARKANSAS, Washington County, Fayetteville, Hemingway House and Barn, 3310 Old Missouri Rd. (08/12/82)

CONNECTICUT, Fairfield County, Ridgefield, Branchville Railroad Tenement, Old Main Highway (08/12/82)

GEORGIA, Elbert County, Elberton, Elberton Residential Historic District, Roughly bounded by Elber Oliver, Adams, Thomas, Edwards, and Heard Sts. (08/11/82)

GEORGIA, Twiggs County, Jeffersonville vicinity, Chapman, John, Plantation, SE of Jeffersonville or GA 96 (08/11/82)

IDAHO, Idaho County, Riggins vicinity, Aitken Barn, SW of Riggins on US 95 (08/09/82)

ILLINOIS, Adams County, Quincy, Wood, Ernest M., Office and Studio, 126 N. 8th St. (08/12/82)

ILLINOIS, Cook County, Blue Island, Young, Joshua P., House, 2445 High St. (08/12/82)

ILLINOIS, Cook County, Wilmette, Bailey — Michelet House, 1028 Sheridan Rd. (08/12/82)

ILLINOIS, Kane County, Elgin, Pelton, Ora, House, 214 S. State St. (08/12/82)

ILLINOIS, Peoria County, Peoria, Pere Marquette Hotel, 501 Main St. (08/12/82)

ILLINOIS, Tazewell County, Pekin, Pekin Theatre, 21-29 S. Capitol St. (08/12/82)

ILLINOIS, Will County, Joliet, Christ Episcopal Church, 75 W. Van Buren St. (08/12/82)

ILLINOIS, Will County, Joliet, Joliet Township High School, 201 E. Jefferson St. (08/12/82)

KENTUCKY, Jefferson County, Louisville, Belknap, William R., School, 1800 Sils Ave. (08/12/82)

KENTUCKY, Jefferson County, Louisville, Rauchfuss Houses, 837-847 S. Brook St. (08/12/82)

KENTUCKY, Jefferson County, Louisville, Republic Building, 429 W. Muhammad Ali Blvd. (08/12/82)

KENTUCKY, Jefferson County, Louisville, Stewart's Dry Goods Company Building, 501 S. 4th Ave. (08/12/82)

KENTUCKY, Jefferson County, Louisville, Theater Building, 625-33 S. 4th Ave. (08/12/82)

LOUISIANA, Ascension Parish, Donaldsonville, Landry Tomb, Ascension Catholic Church Cemetery, S Vincent and Claiborne Sts. (08/11/82)

LOUISIANA, Ascension Parish, Donaldsonville, Lemann Store, 314 Mississippi St. (08/11/82)

LOUISIANA, Avovelles Parish, Marksville, Joffrion House, 605 N. Monroe (08/11/82)

LOUISIANA, Bossier Parish, Elm Grove vicinity, Cashpoint Plantation House, N of Elm Grove off LA 71 (08/11/82)

LOUISIANA, Caldwell Parish, Columbia, First United Methodist Church, LA 165 and Church St. (08/12/82)

LOUISIANA, Iberville Parish, Rosedale, Church of the Nativity, Laurel St. (08/11/82)

LOUISIANA, Orleans Parish, New Orleans, Orpheum Theatre, 125-129 University Pl. (08/11/82)

LOUISIANA, St. Landry Parish, Grand Coteau vicinity, Frozard Plantation House, S of Grand Coteau off LA 93 (08/12/82)

LOUISIANA, St. Landry Parish, Grand Coteau, Burleigh House, Burleigh Lane (08/11/82)