

TRINITY EPISCOPAL CHURCH, RECTORY
708 S. Bethlehem Pike
Trinity Place
Ambler
Montgomery County
Pennsylvania

HABS NO. PA-6047-A

HABS
PA
46-AMB,
12A-

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
P.O. Box 37127
Washington, D.C. 20013-7127

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

TRINITY EPISCOPAL CHURCH, RECTORY

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Location: 708 South Bethlehem Pike, Trinity Place, Ambler, Montgomery County, Pennsylvania.

Significance: The Trinity Episcopal Church, Rectory, part of a complex built by Richard Mattison to honor the memory of his deceased daughter, represents the extension of the influence of Dr. Mattison and the Keasbey & Mattison Company into the religious life of the company town of Ambler, Pennsylvania.

Description: The Rectory is a two and one-half story high, six bay by six bay structure of fourteen rooms. The stone walls are rough-cut and set in irregular courses. A wraparound porch with a stonewall and simple wooden posts is attached to the front and side facades. A one-story room and porch project out from the back (south) elevation under a single hipped roof. There is a tall stone chimney above the West gable. The windows are pointed stone arches. The building has a pyramidal roof with parapeted, gable-roofed, dormers on all four sides.

The interior is paneled with locally harvested oak which match the paneling of the original church. The building was planned with central heat and has no fireplaces.

History: Trinity Episcopal Church, Rectory was constructed in 1898 as part of a larger complex which included the Sexton's House (HABS No. 6047-B) and sheds for thirty carriages. This complex was commissioned by Dr. and Mrs. Richard V. Mattison as a memorial to their daughter Esther Victoria who had died as an infant. The church was consecrated on February 3, 1901. At this time the complex was donated by the Mattisons to the Pennsylvania Diocese. The local parish would retain control of the facilities by annually presenting the Diocese with a single red rose as rent. Mattison was never able to complete his promise to endow the buildings. As a result the parish struggled in the 1930s and 1940s with maintenance costs.

Finances improved under Rev. Charles E. Greene who was appointed rector in 1947. By the end of Rev. Greene's tenure the parish was self-supporting with an annual budget of \$10,000. Growth continued under Rev. John A. Schultz, pastor through the 1950s and 1960s. The 1970s were a period of declining membership balanced by increased support on the part of remaining members.

Sources: Ambler Gazette, 29 September 1983.
Hough, Dr. Mary P.H. Early History of Ambler.
Philadelphia: IMS America Ltd., 1936.

Historian: Tom Heard, HABS, Summer 1994