

TRINITY EPISCOPAL CHURCH, SEXTON'S HOUSE
708 S. Bethlehem Pike
Trinity Place
Ambler
Montgomery County
Pennsylvania

HABS NO. PA-6047-B

HABS
PA
46-AMB,
12B-

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, SEXTON'S HOUSE

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

Significance: The Trinity Episcopal Church, Sexton's House, 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 Sexton's House is two and one-half stories high, four bays wide and three bays deep. The walls are of locally quarried stone, rough cut and set in irregular rows. A pair of four-story high stone buttresses, possibly ornamental, is found at each corner of the building. The roof is pyramidal with parapeted gable-roofed dormers on all four sides. A central stone chimney projects from the roof peak.

A gothic arched, gable-roofed portico leads to the main door. The windows are all Gothic Revival style arches with wood lintels. A stone wall is connected to both sides of the front door archway creating a walk-way to the sidewalk.

History: Built in 1900, Trinity Episcopal Church, Sexton's House was constructed as part of a larger complex which included the Rectory (HABS No. 6047-A) 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. At the time of the church's consecration on February 3, 1901, 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. The Sexton's House is presently owned by Trinity Episcopal Church and occupied by resident Richard Maas.

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.