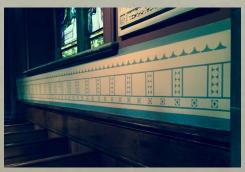
# THE HISTORIC STENCILING PROJECT

Trinity Episcopal Church on the New Haven Green









First Bay Completed, June, 2014

Exposure & Mock-up by Canning Studios

Line Painting Underway, Second Bay

Scallop Stencil Almost Done, Second Bay Ready for Rest of Stenciling, July, 2014

National Trust for

**Historic Preservation** 

This unique historic stenciling project is underway at Trinity Church, one of three churches on the New Haven Green, all included in the New Haven Green National Historic Landmark District. The Project is a dual grant-supported project focusing on the archaeological discovery and re-creation of a band of late 19thc ornamental stencils in Trinity's nave, i.e. sanctuary. Matching funding for this preservation has been provided by:

Department of Economic and Community Development

State Historic Preservation Office



Under these grants, Canning Studios came in April, 2014 and uncovered one repeat of this stencil band. Having received training from Canning Studios, MJ (Peg) Chambers, AIA, an architect with a specialty in Preservation, now leads parishioners, New Haveners and local high school students in replicating the patterning. All love the product of their labors!





# WHY TRINITY VALUES THIS PROJECT



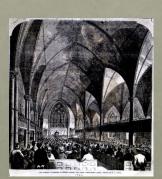
Portrait of Ithiel Town, oil on Canvas, Collection of Center Church On the Green, 1832

Trinity on the Green is celebrating its Bicentennial, as its cornerstone was laid in 1814 and its new building was consecrated in 1816. The Historic Stenciling Project is part of our celebration. To understand the importance of this stenciling project, a little needs to be known about the history of our 1814 building, designed by Ithiel Town who also designed Center Church on the Green at about the same time.

The next few slides introduce trinity's building history and then show the history of the interior decoration and ornamentation of the nave of Trinity's 1814 building. How did the interior evolve from its first nave to its present nave? Most importantly, how can this parish better honor with care and preserve this history? Re-creating the stencil band helps us begin to understand and appreciate afresh.



Trinity Interior in 1816, print, n.d New Haven Museum.



Trinity at the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, 1866



Trinity's Interior c 1884



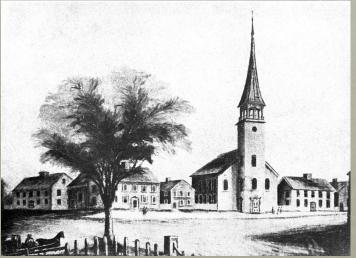
Trinity's Interior at the 100th Anniversary,



Trinity's Interior in 2013 (photo by John Kane)



# BEFORE ITHIEL TOWN TRINITY'S FIRST CHURCH



Trinity began as an Anglican house church around 1730. The parish had a diverse membership from its beginning.



Trinity 'off the Green' was built from 1753-1754 on the 3<sup>rd</sup> lot in on Church St from the SE corner of Church and Chapel Sts, purchased in 1752. A fellow named Thomas Davis may have been the carpenter/builder. It showed 'a peculiar style' according to Rev. Dr. Harry Croswell (rector, 1815-1858). Actually, its plan was sensitive to parishioners' needs, engaging all in seeing, hearing and reading the liturgy, reflecting Anglican trends of the time.



Later 19thc print based on the earlier print (above left)



attrib. to William Giles Munson, Collection of Trinity Church, oil on wood board, c. 1830

The first church survived the Revolution and was sold to a private buyer after 1816 with the deeded requirement to demolish the building. In an act of conciliation, as the separation of church and state became inevitable, the parish was invited to build on the Green in 1810.

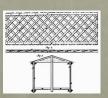
### ITHIEL'S IMPACT ON THE GREEN



E. View of the Public Square or Green in New Haven, Con, drawn and engraved by J.W. Barber, c. 1830



Late 20thc aerial view of the New Haven Green



Ithiel Town, Lattice Truss Patent Drawing, 1820, Yale Beineke Library

The rise of Ithiel's architectural impact on the New Haven Green shows his range of architectural vocabularies and clear passion for each project: Center Church (Classical), 1813; Trinity (Gothic), 1814; State House (Doric), 1827.

Profits from Ithiel's 1820 lattice truss covered bridge design patent affords him time for his love of the practice of architecture. He clearly delectates over details as they properly fit the whole.



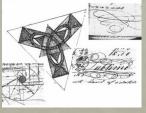
The Gothic Church, 1837, drawn by William H. Bartlett, hand-colored print published London, 1842



## ITHIEL ON THE GREEN AT TRINITY CHURCH

#### GOTHIC AND 'MODERN' ANGLICAN INFLUENCES

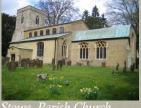
Sketches by Ithie From his math notebook, Yale, Beineke Lihrary





Asher Benjamin, Corinthian Capital with crocketts. 1806



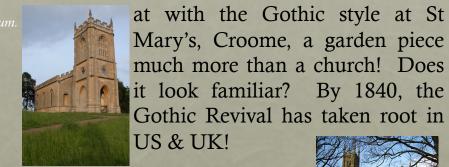


Stowe, Parish Church, 13<sup>th</sup>-14thc Buckinghamshire, UK

Ithiel loves to think form through and apply new ideas to his work:

He applied 2D geometric patterns he found visually satisfying to Trinity's nave ceiling apparently just with paint. Ithiel's broad interests were bolstered by his vast library. He surely knew well of ideas

simultaneously brewing in UK.



Capability Brown, St Mary's, Croome , UK, 1763

Holy Trinity Church, Cheshire, UK, 1838-1839 (Early Gothic Revival

Lancelot (Capability) Brown, a

Stowe's medieval country church (left) while working on the

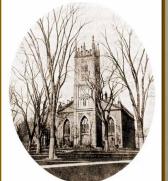
gardens at Stowe's great house. He later sought 'classic' perfection

British architect, married



Trinity on the Green,
Amos Doolittle print, 1817

from Trinity.



Trinity on the Green, 1813-1816, photo c. 1860 CHAMBERS Copyright © 2014



Trinity on the Green, photo before 1870 (Note the State House, demolished c. 1870). CT Historical Society

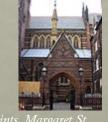
St Mary's at Croome is a Gothic garden 'folly,' reflecting a new Gothic sincerity. Fresh ideas are 'in the air' on both sides of the 'pond,' 1760-1830. In the US, the style, first purposefully used at Trinity, emblemizes the separation of church and state. In the UK, it is an antidote to urban church Classicism. Ithiel Town leads the 'charge' by distinguishing Classical Center Church

# ITHIEL'S DESIGN MAKES WAY

### EDWIN INSIDE ON THE GREEN AT TRINITY

Edwin's likely English sources in Oxford Movement Gothic





All Saints. Margaret St.





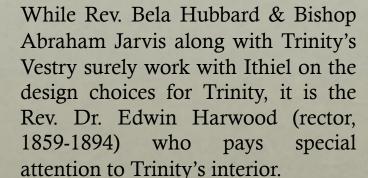
John Ruskin at Universitv Museum. Oxford. 1855-61



Trinity at 50 yrs, 1866 & (to right) 1816



Trinity's Interior c 1884 at end of Harwood's refinishing campaign



He traveled widely and saw English Oxford Movement ornament and decoration as a reflection of the Holy. By Trinity's 50th Anniversary, the refurbishing of the nave had begun, perhaps with 'frescoing' work

recorded in 1847 under the the rectorship of Harry Croswell. By 1884, Edwin's nave was done, along with the building of the chancel, new pew & gallery fronts, the completion in stone of the stone tower base and new windows. Ithiel's wood cluster columns with their floriated capitals were

thus given a new glory!



#### MORE ABOUT

#### EDWIN INSIDE ON THE GREEN AT TRINITY



Trinity on the Green, Amos Doolittle print, 1817

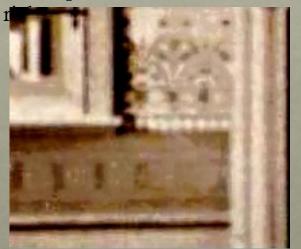


Trinity on the Green, as it looked in 1871 and still looks now

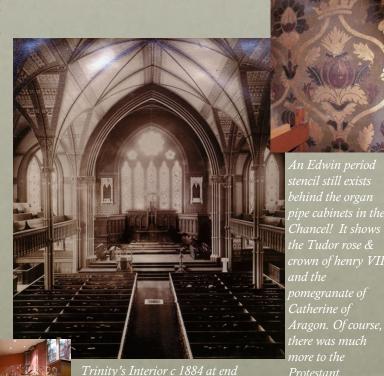


Edwin Harwood period ceiling with geometrically derived floral stencil motifs similar to those on the walls (detail above from 1884 photo on far right)

As mentioned in the last slide, Rev. Harwood saw to removing Ithiel's rotting 1815 wood crenellations and wood tower top. He then prompted adding the final stone tier and pinnacles to Ithiel's original stone tower base. He also brought about the decoration of the entire nave: See the captions below and to the



Detail of stencil band we have uncovered and are recreating between top of stringcourse and bottom of sill. Note second band up; it's floral. (detail above from 1884 photo to right)



This photo is our primary

documentary source. (above)

Tudor roses and tulips form the imagery on the brass 'fence' of Trinity's 2010 Columbarium are an homage to Rev. Edwin Harwood's nave!



Reformation in

King's antics! (above)

England than the

CHAMBERS

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## ITHIEL'S DESIGN CONTINUES TO MAKE WAY

#### FOR

#### TRINITY AT 100 YEARS AND TODAY AT 200 YEARS



has been completely replaced!

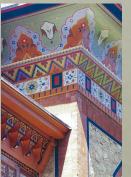
Trinity's Interior in 2013 In the last 100 years, we have added stairwells, dug and later refurbished the Robert Orr, AIA, Elevator Enclosure, Undercroft, made an 2010 (photo by John Kane) accessible path and added Columbarium. Trinity's Accessible Our spirit grows 2010. Duo Dickinson, AIA through change! MJ (Peg) Chambers, AIA, Columbarium 2010 (photo at left by John Kane; photo above by MJ Chambers)

MI CHAMBERS

# MORE ABOUT THE ART & ARCHEOLOGY OF STENCILING CANNING STUDIOS

#### COMES TO TRINITY AND HELPS TRINITY

#### RECREATE A BIT OF EDWIN INSIDE



High Victorian stencils (above) on the exterior of Olana, the home of artist Frederick Edwin Church, overlooking



Stencils from the 19thc and earlier were formed of copper (above), vellum or parchment cut by hand Here the stencil is taped to the wall as the color it represents is about to be applied.



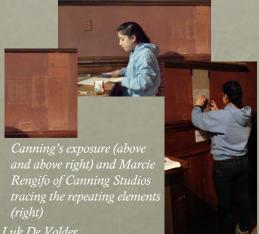


Ager new stentilis made, it is reapplied to the sheet rocked wall (left).

Same plastic stencil (as in above left) applied to reconstructed late 19thc color scheme



Pattern Discovered, with David Riccio from Canning, Peg Chambers, the Rev Luk De Volder, Brian De Piero (videographer) and Libby Earle







Canning Studios uncovers original stencils by peeling away layers of paint (above left) at the Roman Catholic cathedral in Norwich, CT. A mock-up was made (above right), and stencils were produced to match the original.

Canning Studios came Trinity in April, 2014 and uncovered one original stencil band dating to Rev. Harwood's period and completed by 1884. Samples were taken, and the colors of the stencil elements were analyzed microscopically. Tracings were then made, put into a CAD format and cut by machine into accurate mylar stencils.

Please play the video clip (mouse over above left) to see the moment the pattern revealed itself! To our delight, the organist practicing accompanies us.



# POSSIBILITIES & PROGRESS PHOTOS OF THE HISTORIC STENCILING PROJECT



Pattern Discovered, with David Riccio from Canning, Peg Chambers, the Rev Luk De Volder, Brian De Piero (videographer) and Libby Earle

First stencil applied by Segger family children (above and to right)

Check in again at the end of 2014 and see what else we have done as the Historic Stenciling Project comes to completion.

The stencil elements proved to be simple geometries, all of one dark color against a lighter ground. From the photographic document, we know the next stencil band above consists of natural floral elements, seemingly of many colors. Platonic abstraction seems to support Aristotelian nature! How that relates to the Oxford Movement is another story for another presentation.

Starting in late April, 2014, parishioners and New Haveners learn to become stencilers, as we celebrate our first 200 years in our very historic and much loved place of worship. Enjoy our photo gallery (below) and listen to the discussion in the video clip (to the left). One day we may be able to reveal that next floral tier and recreate it as well!

and recreate it as well!

The Soper-Davis family focuses on the vertical stencil pattern (left, above and right)



