



# History Starts Here

You are standing in front of one of the oldest Episcopal parishes in New York City. The Trinity Wall Street parish includes two historic buildings – Trinity Church and St. Paul's Chapel. Both are National Historic Landmarks.

## A BRIEF HISTORY

The parish of Trinity Church was originally founded in 1698 when New York was a British colony. Both Trinity and St. Paul's have been witness to the American Revolution, the birth of the nation, stock market crashes, victory parades, and numerous other changes in the growth and character of New York.

This is the third Trinity Church on this site. The first church was destroyed in New York's Great Fire of 1776, which is said to have burned more than 500 buildings. The second church was demolished due to structural problems. The current building was consecrated on Ascension Day in 1846.

## ARCHITECTURE

Trinity Church was designed by architect Richard Upjohn in the Gothic Revival style, an architectural movement that recalled the great cathedrals of Europe and Britain. Upjohn's work became influential, and he would design several other churches in New York and co-found the American Institute of Architects.

## TRINITY TODAY

Both Trinity Church and St. Paul's Chapel are active spiritual centers in the heart of Lower Manhattan and offer daily worship services, as well as regular concerts and events. In addition to its long history in New York, many people recognize Trinity Church for its starring role in the 2004 movie *National Treasure*. Although there's no treasure underneath the church, there are many things to see inside the church and in the churchyard, such as the final resting place and memorial of Alexander Hamilton.

## GUIDED TOURS

Free guided tours are given every day at 2pm. Tours begin inside at the front of the church near the eagle lectern.

Please be sure to visit St. Paul's Chapel, which features an exhibit about the chapel's mission work to recovery workers after September 11, 2001.