Public Abstract

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Graduation Term:FS 2012

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Degree:PhD

Title:Identity through Style: The Transatlantic Dissemination of Anglican and Episcopalian neo-Gothic Church Architecture

In the nineteenth century Episcopalians used Gothic Revival architecture to define their status among Protestant denominations and secure their place in the United States of America. The discussion of neo-Gothic churches in America usually begins after the arrival of the English theological Oxford Movement in the 1830s. However, the political changes that occurred with the American Revolution, along with the early nineteenth-century American tensions between low and high church Episcopalian ideologies fostered a distinct American Episcopalian neo-Gothic church development. By examining Anglican and Episcopalian doctrine, churches and publications by Frank Wills and Richard Upjohn and English and American period publications, I show how and why neo-Gothic churches became identified with the Episcopal faith and its practice in the American landscape.