

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

DATA SHEET

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED DEC 19 1975

DATE ENTERED MAY 6 1976

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC

** Christ Church (Episcopal)

AND/OR COMMON

LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

526 North Oak

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Fort Meade

VICINITY OF

Sixth 8

STATE

Florida

CODE

12

COUNTY

Polk

CODE

105

CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT
			<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL
			<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY
			<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
			<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
			<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
			<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Diocese of South Florida

STREET & NUMBER

324 Interlachen Ave.

CITY, TOWN

Orlando

VICINITY OF

STATE

Florida

LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Polk County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Bartow

STATE

Florida

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

N/A

DATE

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Christ Church in Ft. Meade makes a significant departure from the Carpenter Gothic in its use of horizontal drop siding. Otherwise, this single-story, high-pitched, gable roof church is typical of this popular late nineteenth century style in Florida.

The east (main) facade is marked by a simple gable-roof porch with scissors truss in the pediment which is supported by chamfered posts and curved brackets and by a bell cot at the east end of the main roof crowned by a cross. The porch covers double V-jointed doors with a pointed arch above. The entrance is flanked by a pair of drop arched windows with leaded colored glass and pointed drip molds. An octagonal rose window of leaded colored glass is above the entrance.

The south facade has an entry similar to the one on the east, but with a larger porch having a steeper gable roof. The regular fenestration is composed of leaded windows identical to those in the east facade, but longer. Dominating this elevation is a three-story tower with a tin pavilion roof and open belfry topped by a cross. The roof is supported by square posts and curved braces which surround the belfry. The second story of the tower has drop arch louvers with drip molds, one on each elevation. A pent roof surrounds the tower at the top of the first story level. On the first story are paired windows and a small paneled door and canopy on the east side.

An apse projects from the west end of the church and in its south elevation is a small drop arch window with leaded colored glass and a pointed drip mold. This small window is repeated on the north elevation which also has a regular fenestration of windows identical to the ones on the south elevation. The west facade contains the apse which has a triple lancet window of leaded colored glass and a pointed drip mold over all three parts.

The interior of the church is plaster with wood trim. The exposed timbered ceiling has scissors trusses which are carried into the lower ceiling of the apse which is separated from the nave by a wood-trimmed drop arch. Nearly all of the furniture is original, having been collected from other churches in the diocese which had acquired them through various means in the past.

The execution of the Carpenter Gothic style in the building is very impressive even with the absence of the more typical board and batten siding.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES

1889

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

J. H. Weddell, architect
Thomas A. Atkins, builder

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Architecturally, Christ Church is important in showing how the influence of Carpenter Gothic was carried to all areas of Florida. The 1870's and 1880's were years of extensive growth in the Episcopal Church in Florida. Missions were established as soon as a small number of communicants could be organized. One of the first tasks which a new mission attempted was the construction of a church building. The predominant type of architecture which was adopted was Carpenter Gothic or a variation of the type. The style was brought to Florida by the many northern settlers and visitors who had already gained experience with the style in their home churches. The greatest influence was exerted by architects, missionaries, rectors, and bishops who had become convinced that Carpenter Gothic was an appropriate architecture for the church.

Christ Church is probably the oldest religious structure remaining in Polk County and has continued to be an active parish. The church is typical of the result of the movement mentioned above. Established in 1886, Christ Church grew from a small number of families to a substantial mission predominately peopled by English colonists who had recently settled in Ft. Meade as well as other areas of Polk County. The present building was built in 1889 under the direction of the Rev. J. H. Weddell of Tampa who also designed St. Andrews in that city in 1883. Thomas A. Atkins was listed as the builder.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

The Church Year (Jacksonville), July 17, 1889; October 30, 1889.

Cushman, Joseph D., Jr. A Goodly Heritage: The Episcopal Church in Florida, 1821-1892. Gainesville: University of Florida Press, 1965, pp. 135-136, 178-179, 196.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY less than one acre

UTM REFERENCES

A 1,7 4,2,1 5,0,5 3,0 6,9 81,5
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

B
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME/TITLE J. Rodney Little, Historic Preservationist
Phillip A. Werndli, Historic Sites Specialist

ORGANIZATION Division of Archives, History & Records Mgmt. DATE August, 1975
 STREET & NUMBER Dept. of State, The Capitol TELEPHONE 904-488-7365
 CITY OR TOWN Tallahassee STATE Florida

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL STATE LOCAL X

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE Robert Williams Robert Williams

TITLE Florida State Historic Preservation Officer DATE 12/10/75

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER	
<u>Noting</u> <u>[Signature]</u>	DATE <u>5/8/76</u>
DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION	DATE <u>5.6.76</u>
ATTEST: <u>[Signature]</u>	DATE
KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER	

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Christ Church (Episcopal)

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 9

PAGE 1

Lakeland Ledger, November 4, 1962.

Lee, J. V. "Early History of Christ Church," April 15, 1891.
In Old Record Book, Christ Church, Fort Meade, Florida.

Old View: Postcard of SW corner of Christ Church, n.d. Copy on
file in the Historic Preservation Section, Division of Archives,
History and Records Management, The Capitol, Tallahassee, Florida.