

1073

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NOV 16 1992

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

NATIONAL
REGISTER

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Church of the Immaculate Conception

other names/site number 8DU207

2. Location

street & number 121 East Duval Street n/a not for publication

city or town Jacksonville n/a vicinity

state Florida code FL county Duval code 031 zip code 32202

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Suzanne P. Walker / Deputy SHPO 11/12/92
 Signature of certifying official/Title Date

Florida Division of Historical Resources, Bureau of Historic Preservation
 State of Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

 Signature of certifying official/Title Date

 State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:

- entered in the National Register. See continuation sheet.
- determined eligible for the National Register. See continuation sheet.
- determined not eligible for the National Register.
- removed from the National Register.
- other, (explain:) _____

entered in the
National Register

Signature of the Keeper *Helena Byers* Date of Action 12/30/92

Church of the
Immaculate Conception
Name of Property

Duval Co., FL
County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

Category of Property
(Check only one box)

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Number of Resources within Property
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	buildings
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	sites
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	structures
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	objects
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	Total

Name of related multiple property listing
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

Historic Buildings of Downtown
Jacksonville, Florida

**Number of contributing resources previously listed
in the National Register**

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

Religion: Religious Facility

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

Religion: Religious Facility

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

Late Victorian: Gothic

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Stone: Limestone
walls Stone: Limestone

roof Ceramic Tile
other Wood
Glass

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A** Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B** Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C** Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D** Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B** removed from its original location.
- C** a birthplace or grave.
- D** a cemetery.
- E** a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F** a commemorative property.
- G** less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

Architecture

Period of Significance

1907-1910

Significant Dates

1907-1910

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

n/a

Cultural Affiliation

n/a

Architect/Builder

Hubbard, M.H., architect

Halsema-Woodcock Company, builder

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository:

Church of the
Immaculate Conception

Name of Property

Duval Co., FL

County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of Property Less than 1 acre

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

A 1

1	1	7
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4	3	7	0	2	1	0
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3	3	5	5	2	3	1	0
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Zone

Easting

Northing

2

3

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--	--	--	--	--	--	--

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

Zone

Easting

Northing

4

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Stephen Olausen/Barbara E. Mattick, Historic Sites Specialist

organization Bureau of Historic Preservation date November 1992

street & number R.A. Gray Blg., 500 S. Bronough Street telephone (904) 487-2333

city or town Tallahassee state Florida zip code 32399-0250

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

Additional items

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

name Church of the Immaculate Conception

street & number 121 E. Duval Street telephone _____

city or town Jacksonville state FL zip code 32202

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 *et seq.*).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

United States Department of the Interior
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Continuation SheetSection number 7 Page 1 Church of the Immaculate Conception, Jacksonville,
Duval Co., FL

SUMMARY

The Church of the Immaculate Conception, located at 121 East Duval Street, in the downtown area of Jacksonville, Florida, is a large, two-story, Late Gothic Revival building with a limestone exterior, elaborate traceried fenestration, and two spired towers. The vaulted interior also displays a great deal of Late Gothic architectural detail. The Church of the Immaculate Conception is the oldest Catholic congregation in Jacksonville, and one of two Late Gothic Revival churches in the downtown area. The ediface, built between 1907 and 1910, is one of the finest examples of Late Gothic Revival church architecture in Florida. The church contributes to the Historic Buildings of Downtown Jacksonville multiple property group under associated property type F.6, Historic Religious Buildings of Downtown Jacksonville, 1901-1927.

PRESENT AND ORIGINAL APPEARANCE**Setting**

The Church of the Immaculate Conception is located on the onehundred block of East Duval Street occupies lot 1 of block 26H in the Jax Harts Map Subdivision, Jacksonville, Florida. With its north facade fronting Duval Street, the building is a landmark surrounded by tall masonry buildings.

Present Appearance

The Church of the Immaculate Conception exhibits a high degree of architectural ornamentation. General attributes of this Late Gothic Revival church are embodied in its cruciform groundplan, rough-faced Kentucky limestone exterior, carved stone detailing, and its lancet window and door openings used throughout the building. The south elevation is framed by a pair of polygonal spires that tower above the ridge of the steeply pitched frontfacing gable roof (Photo 1). The spires, one taller than the other, are topped by gold plated crosses. The west tower has a square base which rises to a belfry with louvered openings, and is finished with carved stone cornice detailing (Photo 2). The east tower is accentuated with an open belfry with carved stone pinnacles, tracery, and lancet openings (Photo 3). A grand lancet window with traceries and stained glass is centered in the front-facing gable end. Directly above it is a stone statue of the Virgin Mary and a carved stone cross at the

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Duval Co., FL

gable peak (Photo 4). The center and west tower entrances, both of which are recessed, have carved lancet surrounds with traceries and pinnacles (Photo 5). Strips of lancet windows flank the main entrance. Visible from the street are the transepts, located toward the rear of the building.

The west elevation is comprised of the bell tower, nave vestibule, a transept, the apse, sacristy, and vestibule. The bell tower has a lancet window located at the second story stair landing. A series of full height lancet windows finished with traceries and stained glass light the nave (Photo 6). Clerestory stained glass lancet windows, located just above the nave roof, rise to small cross gable structures (Photo 7). These windows cast light down onto the nave. Each of the cross gable structures is topped by a carved stone pinnacle. The projecting transept has a grand lancet window finished with stained glass and traceries. The sacristy has a hip roof and lancet window. A clerestory window is located just above the roof of the sacristy. The apse has a hip roof and a full-height lancet window. The vestibule has a one-story flat roof and small lancet windows.

The north elevation consists of an apse, the east and west transepts, the east and west sacristies, and a one-story vestibule which serves as an access to the altar and sacristies from the north (Photo 8). The semi-octagonal apse has three full-height lancet windows finished with stained glass. The sacristies, which flank the apse have hip roofs and lancet windows. A pair of chimneys, which ascend from the sacristy roofs, rise well above the eave line. The vestibule has a flat roof and is lighted by small lancet windows.

The east elevation has fenestration very similar to that of the west elevation. The first story has full-height lancet windows finished with traceries and stained glass which light the east nave (Photo 9). Clerestory stained glass lancet windows located just above the nave roof cast light into the central nave. The clerestory windows terminate in a small cross gable structure topped by a carved stone pinnacle. The west transept, which dominates the facade, has a grand lancet window with stained glass and traceries. A stone cross is located at the peak of the transept gable end.

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Section number 7 Page 3 Church of the Immaculate Conception, Jacksonville,
Duval Co., FL

Interior

Patrons enter the church through two doorways that open onto East Duval Street. The entrance foyer is carpeted. The walls exhibit fine gothic woodwork fashioned out of oak with a natural finish. A stair case in the west bell tower leads to the choir area and balcony (Photo 10). The stair is also constructed of oak and its balustrade and newel post display elegant gothic detailing. A second flight of stairs leads to the belfry and steeple.

A colonnade of traceried piers divides the sanctuary floor into the central nave and side aisles. The nave has a full-height vaulted ceiling with traceries that originate in the slender nave piers (Photo 11). Rosette skylights, located at the terminus of each ceiling vault, cast natural light into the nave. The south end of the nave has a balcony where the choir and pipe organ are located. The confessional booths are located directly below the balcony. Wooden pews line the center aisle of the nave. The floor is planked with tongue-and-groove oak. Other features include cast angels and statues of biblical figures all of which are painted in pastel colors (Photo 12). Painted-on design motifs are located near the pier capitals on the ceiling.

The east and west side aisles have wooden pews (Photo 13). The walls are embellished with full-height stained glass windows depicting biblical scenes. A series of molded reliefs depicting biblical events are attached to the exterior walls between each stained glass window (Photo 14).

The wooden pews of the central nave and side aisles extend into the east and west transepts. Grand stained glass windows at the end of each transept cast light into the crossing (Photos 15 & 16). High above the main floor, the transept is lined with trumpeting angels where the walls begin to arch into the ceiling (Photo 17). Secondary exits, located at the south wall of each transept, provide egress.

Two altars, located in the apse, are separated from the transept by an ornately carved marble communion rail (Photo 18). A simple marble altar is located in the apse and a more ornate altar is located behind it (Photo 19).

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Section number 8 Page 1 Church of the Immaculate Conception, Jacksonville,
Duval Co., FL

SUMMARY

The Church of the Immaculate Conception is one of seven churches constructed in downtown Jacksonville between 1903 and 1910. The church was designed by architect M.H. Hubbard and constructed by the Halsema-Woodcock Company. The Church of the Immaculate Conception is one of four Late Gothic Revival buildings constructed in downtown Jacksonville in the wake of the Great Fire of 1901. The church is significant under National Register Criterion C, at the local level, as one of the finest examples of Late Gothic Revival architecture in Florida. It contributes to the Historic Buildings of Downtown Jacksonville under historic context, Jacksonville Renaissance, 1901-1920 and associated property type F.6, Historic Religious Buildings of Downtown Jacksonville, 1901-1927.

HISTORICAL CONTEXT

The Church of the Immaculate Conception was initially organized in 1829 as a mission of the Catholic parish in Savannah, Georgia. Two buildings were constructed prior to the present edifice. The first building, constructed in 1847, was burned by Federal troops during the Civil War. The Great Fire of 1901 engulfed the second building which was completed in 1874. Under the leadership of Father Michael Maher, pastor of the church from 1902 until his death in 1925, the present church was built. Funds for the new building were raised within the Catholic Church on a national basis. The present building, constructed of roughfaced Kentucky limestone block, with carved limestone detailing, and stained glass windows, was constructed at a cost of \$160,000. Finished in 1910, additional touches were added until 1913. In 1979, it was "solemnly dedicated," meaning that it can never be purposefully demolished or used for any other purpose than a church, a distinction held by few Catholic churches.

ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE

Architect M.H. Hubbard, designed the Church of the Immaculate Conception in 1905. A year earlier, his plans for the Colonial Revival style Bethel Baptist Church, located at 1058 North Hogan Street, were completed. The Halsema-Woodcock Company, serving as builder, laid the foundation in 1907 and completed it in 1910. Dedicated in 1910, it took three more years to conclude the finishing touches. Hubbard, a native of

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Utica, New York, came to Jacksonville as many other architects did, in search of work after the Great Fire. Whether Hubbard stayed in Jacksonville or not needs to be documented.

Its tall spires, lancet windows, traceries, stained glass, rough faced limestone exterior, and interior detailing, distinguish the Church of the Immaculate Conception as one of the finest examples of Gothic architecture in Florida. The Gothic style was most popular in the United States between 1840 and 1870, although it remained a popular design for religious and educational buildings well into the twentieth century. Andrew Jackson Downing is said to have built the first example in America in 1832. The twentieth century variety of the gothic style is termed Late Gothic Revival because of its resurgence in popularity distinct from the period ending in the 1870s. The vertical nature of the style, characterized by pointed arches, traceried windows, pinnacles, slender piers, panelled stonework and the lofty steeple, is symbolic of a soaring ascent toward the heavens. These attributes are especially adaptable to church architecture.

Downtown Jacksonville boasts five examples of the Gothic style which fall in two classifications. St. Johns Episcopal Cathedral, located at the corner of East Duval and North Market Streets, Old Duval County Armory, located at 851 North Market Street, and Snyder Memorial Methodist Church, located at 226 North Laura Street, are Tudor Gothic. The others, classified as Late Gothic Revival, include the Taliferro Memorial Building, and the Church of the Immaculate Conception. The Tudor form uses the horizontally oriented crenelated parapet with battlements in place of lofty spires, evoking less emphasis on verticality.

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BIBLIOGRAPHY

Wood, Wayne W. Jacksonville's Architectural History,
Jacksonville, Florida, 1989.

Danese, Emanuel. A History of the Church of the Immaculate
Conception: One Hundred and Twenty Five Years.
Jacksonville, FL: n.p., 1979.

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Section number 10 Page 1 Church of the Immaculate Conception, Jacksonville,
Duval Co., FL

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

All of lot 1, block 26H of Jax Hart's Map subdivision,
Jacksonville, Florida.

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

The boundary includes the one city lot that has been
historically associated with the main church building of the
Roman Catholic Church of the Immaculate Conception.

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Photographs 1 Church of the Immaculate Conception, Jacksonville,
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INVENTORY OF PHOTOGRAPHS

1. IMMACULATE CONCEPTION CATHOLIC CHURCH
2. JACKSONVILLE, FLORIDA
3. ROBERT BENNETT
4. 1991
5. HISTORIC PROPERTY ASSOCIATES
6. CHURCH OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION: LOOKING NORTHWEST
AT SOUTH ELEVATION
7. PHOTO NO. 1 OF 19

Numbers 1-5 are the same for the remaining photographs.

6. LOOKING NORTHWEST AT WEST BELFRY
7. PHOTO NO. 2 OF 19

6. LOOKING NORTH AT EAST BELFRY
7. PHOTO NO. 3 OF 19

6. LOOKING NORTH AT STATUE OF VIRGIN MARY AND CARVED CROSS
7. PHOTO NO. 4 OF 19

6. LOOKING NORTH AT CENTER ENTRANCE, SOUTH ELEVATION
7. PHOTO NO. 5 OF 19

6. LOOKING SOUTHEAST AT WEST ELEVATION
7. PHOTO NO. 6 OF 19

6. LOOKING NORTHEAST AT CLERESTORY WINDOWS AND WEST TRANSEPT
7. PHOTO NO. 7 OF 19

6. LOOKING SOUTHEAST AT NORTH ELEVATION
7. PHOTO NO. 8 OF 19

6. LOOKING NORTHWEST AT EAST ELEVATION
7. PHOTO NO. 9 OF 19

6. LOOKING NORTH AT INTERIOR STAIR IN WEST BELL TOWER
7. PHOTO NO. 10 OF 19

6. LOOKING NORTH AT INTERIOR OF CENTRAL NAVE AND CHANCEL
7. PHOTO NO. 11 OF 19

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Photographs 2 Church of the Immaculate Conception, Jacksonville,
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6. LOOKING WEST AT INTERIOR OF CENTRAL NAVE AND CAST ANGEL
STATUE

7. PHOTO NO. 12 OF 19

6. LOOKING SOUTH AT INTERIOR OF EAST NAVE AISLE

7. PHOTO NO. 13 OF 19

6. LOOKING NORTHEAST AT INTERIOR OF EAST NAVE AISLE AND RELIEF
PANEL

7. PHOTO NO. 14 OF 19

6. LOOKING EAST AT INTERIOR OF EAST TRANSEPT

7. PHOTO NO. 15 OF 19

6. LOOKING WEST AT INTERIOR OF WEST TRANSEPT

7. PHOTO NO. 16 OF 19

6. LOOKING SOUTH AT INTERIOR OF EAST TRANSEPT AT CAST ANGEL
STATUE

7. PHOTO NO. 17 OF 19

6. LOOKING NORTHEAST AT INTERIOR OF ALTAR AT MARBLE
COMMUNION RAIL

7. PHOTO NO. 18 OF 19

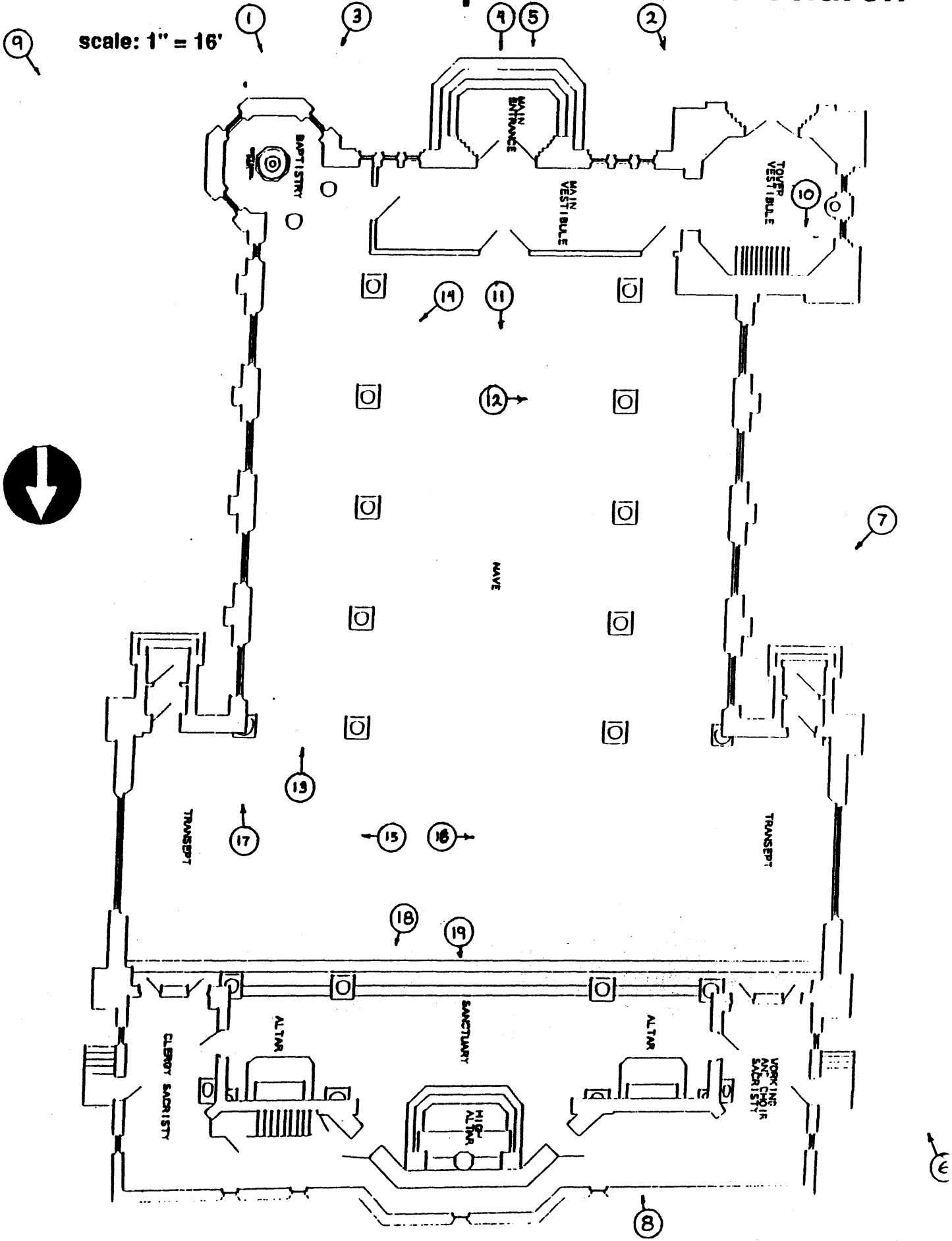
6. LOOKING NORTH AT INTERIOR OF ALTAR AT MARBLE ALTAR

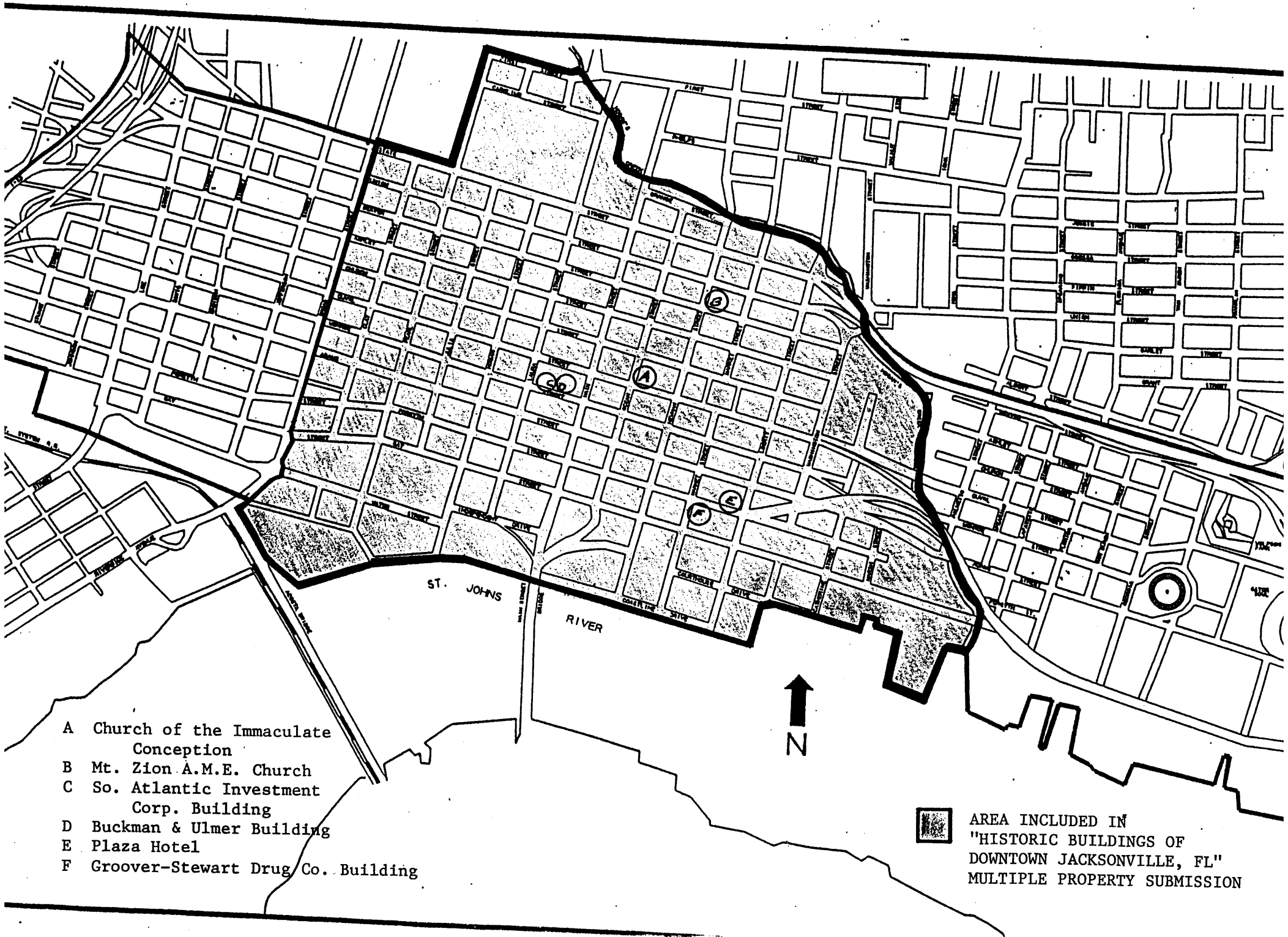
7. PHOTO NO. 19 OF 19

PHOTOGRAPH KEY


Immaculate Conception Catholic Church

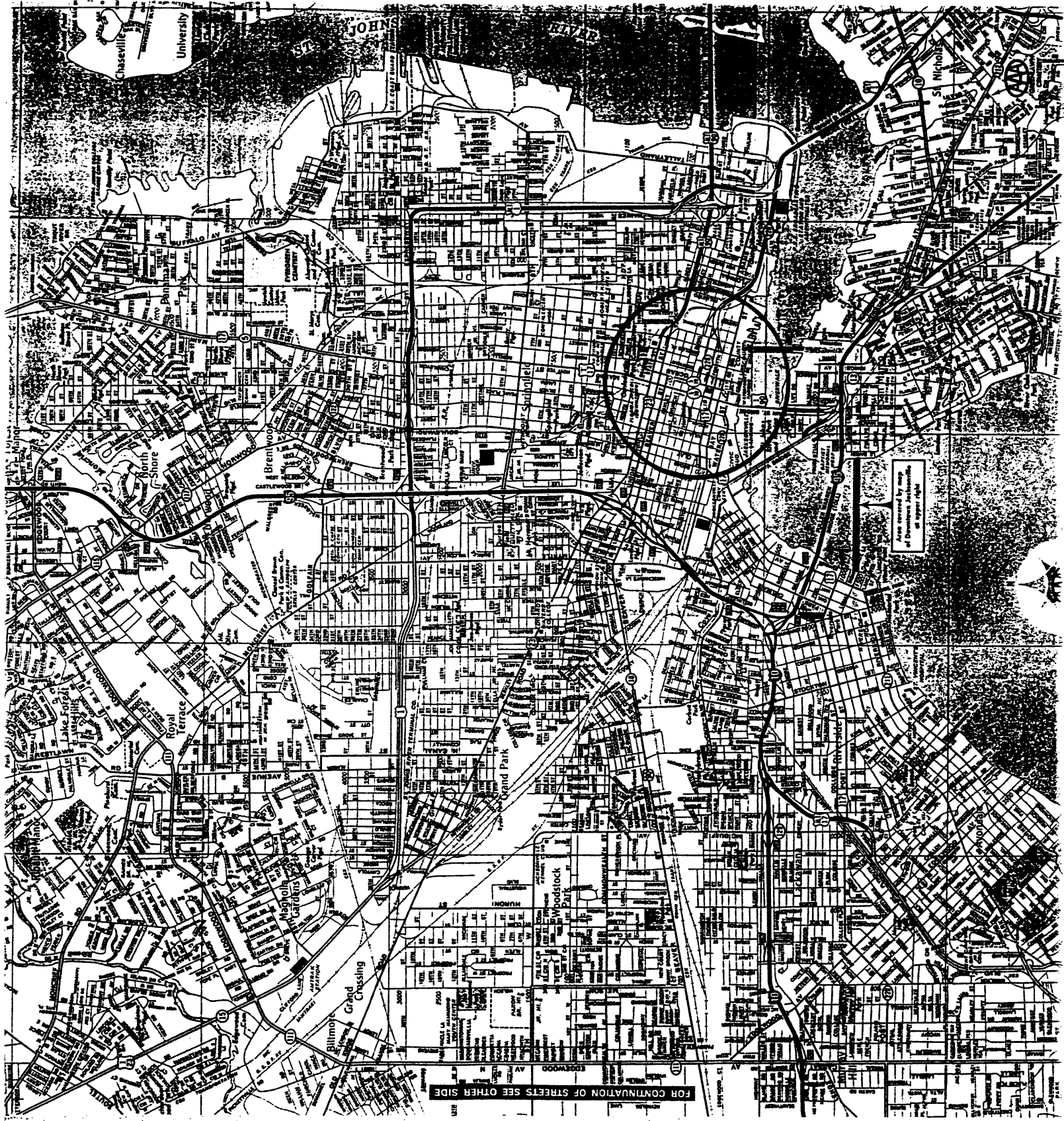
scale: 1" = 16'





- A Church of the Immaculate Conception
- B Mt. Zion A.M.E. Church
- C So. Atlantic Investment Corp. Building
- D Buckman & Ulmer Building
- E Plaza Hotel
- F Groover-Stewart Drug Co. Building


 AREA INCLUDED IN
 "HISTORIC BUILDINGS OF
 DOWNTOWN JACKSONVILLE, FL"
 MULTIPLE PROPERTY SUBMISSION



LOCATOR MAP

HISTORIC BUILDINGS OF DOWNTOWN JACKSONVILLE, FLORIDA

MULTIPLE PROPERTY SUBMISSION