

MULTIPLE RESOURCES OF ANNISTON  
CALHOUN COUNTY, ALABAMA

Historic name:	Grace Episcopal Church	Owner:	Protestant Episcopal Church in
Common name:	Grace Episcopal Church		The Diocese of Alabama
			Grace Episcopal Parish
Address:	1000 Leighton Avenue		1000 Leighton Avenue
			Anniston, Alabama 36201
Acreage:	less than one acre	UTM:	16/608920/3724600

Verbal Boundary: Anniston City Land Company Map, Block 17, Lots 4 and 5 (measuring 205 feet fronting Tenth Street and 420 feet along Leighton Avenue).

Architectural Design: Gothic

Date of Construction: 1882-1885

Architect, builder: George Upjohn, architect; Simon Jewell, stonemason

Statement of Significance:

Criterion A - Social/Humanitarian

Grace Episcopal Church is significant for its association with the idea of "welfare capitalism" held by many industrialists, both North and South, during the later half of the 19th century. The construction of the church by the owners of the Woodstock Iron Company, Samuel Noble and Daniel Tyler, on company land is indicative of the idea of providing for the overall needs, both physical and spiritual, for workers and their families.

Criterion C - Architecture:

Grace Episcopal Church is significant architecturally as a fine local example of the use of the Gothic Revival style in religious architecture. The building is also significant as one of three churches, including Parker Memorial Baptist and St. Paul's Methodist Episcopal Church, constructed by English master stonemason Simon Jewell.

Description:

Grace Episcopal Church, situated on a half-city block on the west side of Leighton between Tenth and Eleventh Streets, is a well proportioned single-story Gothic Revival Church of random-coursed ashlar of beautifully cut native pink sandstone. The steeply pitched gabled roof is crowned by a stone cross. The sloping sides of the roof are pierced by a series of small gable forms, probably for ventilation. The clerestory features diamond-patterned stained-glass windows. A sloping roof covers each of the side aisles, the walls of which are punctuated by stained-glass windows set in distinctive framing of rock-face sandstone alternating white and native pinkish colored rocks.

A compound pointed arch marks the main entry in the gabled end. Above it is a large Catherine-Wheel window surrounded by alternately colored rocks. The main door is flanked by stone buttresses and lancet windows in the Rayonnant Style incorporating a cinquefoil form. To the right (east) is an attached sacristy with a pyramidal slate roof. The bell tower on the northeast side is topped with a battlemented parapet, and has paired pointed-arch openings on each face.

The interior carries out the theme of cedar, stone, and brass, according to the Biblical description of Solomon's temple. The knotty cedar which forms the greatest portion of the interior came from Tennessee, and for many years its fragrant scent pervaded the church. The floors are slate. A screen with wooden panels separates the narthex from the nave. The roof trusses and support beams are finished with a natural stain and original Gothic-influenced lanterns hang from the ceiling. The chancel, terminating in apse, is cedar sided, with three large stained-glass windows set in, the central one depicting Christ among the lillies. The altar is marble with brass enrichment.

The only modification to the church proper came during the 1950s when the nave was lengthened one bay and the narthex added. During the construction, each stone of the facade was numbered so it could be replaced exactly in the same place. Two other additions, which duplicate the form of the original building, with steep gable roofs and quarried sandstone walls, were constructed in 1958 and 1967.

#### Historical Summary:

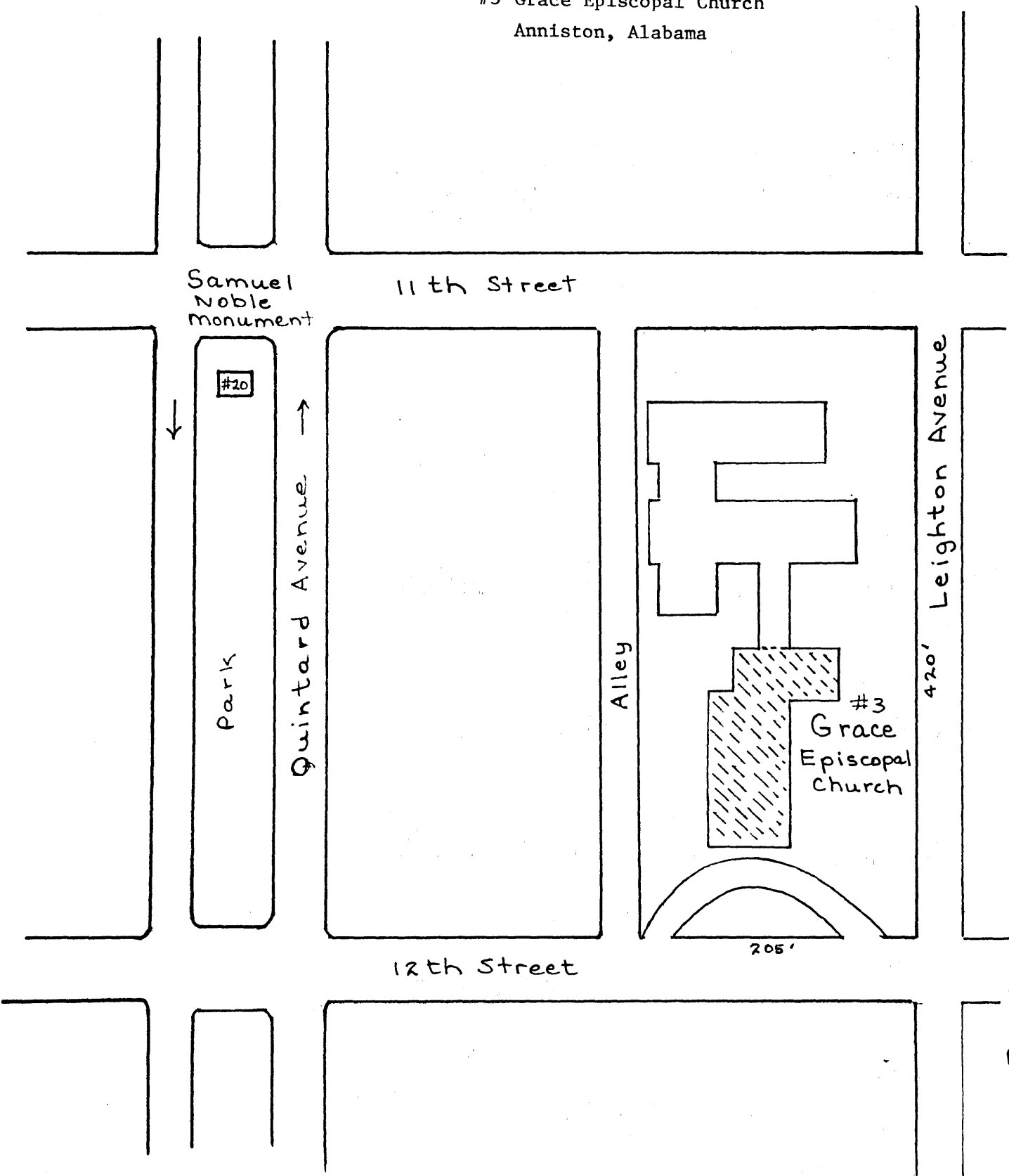
Grace Episcopal Church was planned and built by the town's founders, Samuel Noble and General Daniel Tyler, on a corner lot owned by the Woodstock Iron Company. They donated the property and the church building to the Diocese of Alabama when the church was consecrated in May 1886.

Plans for the church were drawn by architect George Upjohn. The design was adapted from a memorial church in Highland Falls, New York, which Tyler had admired when he was a student at West Point between 1816 and 1819. At the time of Tyler's death on November 30, 1882, only the foundation of the church had been completed, but the general's funeral was conducted within those walls.

Those taking part in the construction included Simon Jewell, the English master stonemason, whose toolmark was the deep vermiculation of the sandstone, and Charles Milton Noble, the mechanical engineer of the family.

The congregation, the first Episcopalian one in Anniston, was organized in 1874.

Rough Sketch Map  
#20 Samuel Noble Monument and  
#3 Grace Episcopal Church  
Anniston, Alabama



Samuel Noble Monument

11th Street

Park

Quintard Avenue

Alley

Leighton Avenue  
420'

#3  
Grace Episcopal Church

12th Street

205'

