

HISTORIC RESOURCES OF COLUMBUS, MUSCOGEE COUNTY, GEORGIA
 GEORGIA ARCHITECTURAL AND HISTORIC PROPERTIES SURVEY-INVENTORY FORM

NO. 429

I. IDENTIFICATION	<p>PROPERTY NAME: St. James (African Methodist Episcopal) Church STREET ADDRESS: 1002 6th Avenue HISTORIC NAME: "Girard Colored Mission" (name of congregation in 1867, before present church was CITY: Columbus COUNTY: Muscogee (CONT.)</p> <p>PRESENT OWNER: St. James A.M.E. Church c/o Rev. Daniel Jacobs, Pastor MAILING ADDRESS: 1002 6th Avenue CITY: Columbus STATE: Georgia ZIP CODE: 31901</p> <p>CURRENT USE: A.M.E. Church ACREAGE: Less than one acre</p> <p>U.S.G.S. QUADRANGLE: Columbus, GA-AL U.T.M. REFERENCE: 16-689415-3593600</p> <p>V.B.D. OR TAX MAP NUMBER: 18/20/4</p>
II. DESCRIPTION	<p>ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION AND PRESENT CONDITION: Victorian Gothic Revival; two stories tall on raised basement; rectangular plan, gable roof; granite block raised basement with solid brick construction on upper floors, slate roof; front facade details include central octagonal spire on square base projecting from central front, two flanking octagonal towers smaller in size, central entrance double leafed carved doors, rounded arch stained glass windows, buttressing, and heavy corbelling; interior is rectangular plan with semi-circular apse (later addition), balcony on second floor reached by spiral stairs located in narthex, parquet ceiling; situated among late Victorian residential area with commercial (CONT.)</p>
III. HISTORY	<p>ORIGINAL OWNER: Congregation (property granted to the church by an act of the Georgia Legislature in 1873.) ORIGINAL USE: A.M.E. Church ARCHITECT/BUILDER: HISTORIC ACREAGE:</p> <p>DATE OF CONSTRUCTION: Sanctuary was begun in 1875 and completed in 1876. DATE(S) OF ALTERATIONS: The center spire and the twin turrets on either side were added in 1886; HISTORICAL NARRATIVE (FROM ORIGINS TO PRESENT): This sanctuary was built between 1875 and 1876, although the congregation dates back to 1863. Built at a cost of \$20,000.00, this church has served its congregation continuously for the past 104 years. (CONT.)</p>
IV. SIGNIFICANCE	<p>N.R. AREA(S) OF SIGNIFICANCE: Religion, Local History, Architecture LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE: State Architecture</p> <p>STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE (ARCHITECTURAL AND HISTORICAL): Religion: St. James A.M.E. Church is significant for religious reasons, as it is the second oldest congregation of the denomination in Georgia (St. Phillips in Savannah being the oldest). Local History: Aside from being a major religious center for over 100 years, St. James A.M.E. Church has played a significant role in the social growth of Columbus' black community. Having one of the largest auditoriums available to blacks before and during the Civil Rights Movement, St. James A.M.E. served as a primary meeting place for most of the large black assemblies in the city. Architecture: This church is architecturally significant as the finest example of Victorian Gothic (CONT.)</p>
V. SOURCES	<p>FORM PREPARED BY: a) Nancy Alexander Roger Harris ORGANIZATION: a) Lower Chattahoochee APDC b) Janice P. Biggers b) Historic Columbus Foundation</p> <p>ADDRESS: a) P. O. Box 1908, Cols, GA 31994 TELEPHONE NUMBER: a) (404)324-4221 b) 700 Broadway, Cols, GA 31901 b) (404)322-0756</p> <p>REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS: Historic Structures Field Survey: Columbus-Muscogee County, Georgia. 1976 state survey, Historic Preservation Section, DNR, Atlanta, Georgia.</p> <p>SOURCES OF INFORMATION: Barbara Bogart and Margaret Laney Whitehead. City of Progress: A History of Columbus, Georgia. Columbus, Georgia: Columbus Office Supply Co., 1979, pp. 65-67.</p> <p>Information regarding history of St. James A.M.E. Church, submitted by Charlotte Frazier (CONT.)</p>



PHOTOGRAPHER: F. Clason Kyle

DATE: 11 July 1978

ROLL NO. 9 FRAME NO. 5 NEGATIVES FILED: Historic Columbus Foundation
700 Broadway

DIRECTION PHOTOGRAPHER FACING: East Columbus, Georgia 31901

USE SPACE BELOW FOR CONTINUATION FROM FRONT, SKETCH PLANS OR MAPS, ADDITIONAL COMMENTS, ETC.
HISTORIC NAME: built) "Old Ashbury" is also considered an early name for this church's congregation.

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION: encroachment, landscaped with grass, shrubbery and large trees; good condition.

DATES OF ALTERATIONS: a semi-circular apse containing an altar and a choir loft was added after 1886.

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE: Revival in Columbus, Georgia. Among its unique features, the building has three octagonal spires, extensive corbelling, and rounded arched window openings.

SOURCES OF INFORMATION: (information now in files of Historic Columbus Foundation.)

JUL 9 1980