HISTORY

PROPERTY NAME: St. John A.M.E. Church

ATTN: Minister

HISTORIC NAME: In 1870, the congregation used the

name, "St. John Chapel"

STREET ADDRESS: 1516 5th Avenue

CITY: Columbus

COUNTY: Muscogee

PRESENT OWNER: St. John AME Church

CITY: Columbus

STATE: Georgia

ZIP CODE: 31901

CURRENT USE: Church

ACREAGE: Less than one acre

U.S.G.S. QUADRANGLE: Columbus GA-AL

U.T.M. REFERENCE: 16-689250-3594650

MAILING ADDRESS: 1516 5th Avenue

V.B.D. OR TAX MAP NUMBER: 17/16/3

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION AND PRESENT CONDITION: Victorian; one story tall on raised basement with one story round tower to north and two story square tower to south, rectangular floor plan, gable roof, one story classical revival front porch with pediment over projecting front entrance; stretcher bond brick construction, seamed metal roof; details consist of two string courses which visually divides the basement from the main floor, rounded arch window openings have tri-parte stained glass windows, front facade has three bays, the outer bays consist of the round tower with conical roof and the two story square tower with pyramidal roof and corbelling under the eaves, central bay has double leafed doors above which is a two part round arch stained glass window; property surrounded by (Cont

ORIGINAL OWNER: congregation

ORIGINAL USE: church

ARCHITECT/BUILDER:

HISTORIC ACREAGE:

.DATE(S) OF ALTERATIONS: 1908 addition of stained DATE OF CONSTRUCTION: 1870; basement glass windows, bathrooms, kitchen, and (Cont'd) erected 1890.

HISTORICAL NARRATIVE (FROM ORIGINS TO PRESENT): This sanctuary was built in 1870 and named, "St. John Chapel." This congregation, which later changed the church's name to "St. John A.M.E.," was an outgrowth of the mother church, "St. James A.M.E."

N.R. AREA(S) OF SIGNIFICANCE: Religion, Architecture

LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE: Local

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE (ARCHITECTURAL AND HISTORICAL): Architecture: This church is significant as a simple form of Victorian Gothic Church building as interpreted by the black community. The confusing cornerstone which claims the building was built in 1870 with the basement erected in 1890, suggests that this church was originally wooden and in 1890 it was raised, a basement added and it was bricked in. Evidence suggests it was re-bricked in 1908 at a second renovation. Its round tower and conical roof are one of a kind in Columbus. Religion: St John A.M.E. Church is significant for religious reasons, as its mother church, St. James A.M.E. is the second oldest church of the denomination in Georgia (St. Phillips in Savannah being the oldest). Thus, St. John A.M.E. is the second oldest A.M.E. congregation ORGANIZATION: a) Lower Chattahoochee APDC (Cont'd)

FORM PREPARED BY: a) Nancy Alexander Roger Harris

b) Historic Columbus Foundation

Janice P. Biggers ADDRESS: a) P.O. Box 1908, Cols., Ga. 31994

TELEPHONE NUMBER: b) 700 Broadway, Cols., Ga.

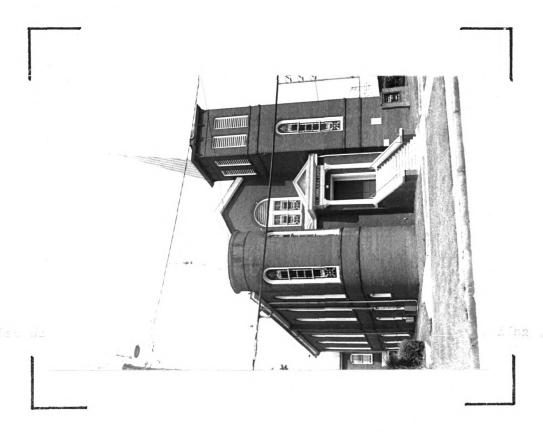
a) (404)324-4221 b) (404) 322-0756

REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS:

SOURCES OF INFORMATION: Unpublished "History of St. John A.M.E.," submitted by pastor, (a copy of this history is now in the files of Historic Columbus Foundation).

Cornerstone.

(Cont'd)



PHOTOGRAPHER:

F. Clason Kyle

DATE:

11 July 78

ROLL NO. 5

FRAME NO.33A 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.

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION: c. 1900 shotgun homes with car alignment service to the South; landscaping consists of a grass lawn; good condition.

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE: in Columbus.

SOURCES OF INFORMATION: see National Register nomination for St. James A.M.E. Church, Columbus, Georgia.

DATES OF ALTERATIONS: "choir stand"; post-1908 general renovation.