

United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

JAN 1983
RECEIVED



See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic Episcopal Church of the Advent

and/or common Cathedral Church of the Advent

2. Location

street & number Southeast corner, 20th Street and 6th Avenue North N/A not for publication

city, town Birmingham N/A vicinity of congressional district 6

state Alabama code 01 county Jefferson code 073

3. 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"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
	N/A	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Cathedral Church of the Advent

street & number 2019 6th Avenue North

city, town Birmingham N/A vicinity of state Alabama

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Jefferson County Courth House

street & number 716 North 21st Street

city, town Birmingham state Alabama

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

Jefferson County Historic Sites Survey; Downtown Birmingham Historic Sites Survey
title has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date 1972, 1976; 1977 federal state county local

depository for survey records Jefferson Co. Historical Commission; Birmingham Historical Society

city, town Birmingham state Alabama

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input checked="" 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

The Cathedral Church of the Advent is built in the English Gothic style of gray sandstone. It is anchored on its prominent corner site by a square crenellated bell tower. In the center of the main facade is a deeply recessed porch, reached by a broad flight of stairs and articulated by oblong columns with foliated capitals supporting pointed Gothic arches. Behind it rises a broad gable wall into which are set stained-glass lancet windows. Immediately to the south, projecting to align with the porch arcade, a gable wall and windows are repeated at a smaller scale. The rock-faced random sandstone of the facade provides a richly textured surface that contrasts with the smooth stone moldings of the arched openings. The outer walls are constructed with abutments. A Parish Hall, of similar style, was attached to the north wall around 1911 and is integral to the main body of the building.

The interior of the cathedral is entirely open, without supporting columns, and has been richly furnished through the years, as stained-glass windows, paneling, lanterns, carved doors, and other furnishings were given as memorials.

Immediately south of the cathedral is the Rector's Garden, a landscaped retreat off the city's main thoroughfare, 20th Street. It was dedicated in 1960. Notable features include live-oak trees, statues of St. Teresa of the Flowers, St. Catherine of Alexandria, and St. Patrick, a handsome handcrafted iron gate, and seasonal plantings. There are three other smaller gardens in the cathedral complex: the Advent Memorial Garden off 6th Avenue, in which stands a carved wood statue of St. Francis, the Children's Garden north of the sanctuary along 6th Avenue, and the Roof Garden beside the east gate entrance to the Rector's Garden.

To the south of the Rector's Garden is Carpenter House (c. 1953), faced in sandstone like the cathedral with a gable wall and balcony facing 20th Street. It houses the offices of the Episcopal Diocese of Alabama. West of the cathedral, facing 6th Avenue, are the parish hall, Clingman Commons (c. 1978); Jemison Hall (c. 1930s), a building in the Art Deco style which was purchased for offices and classrooms in 1958; and Tutwiler Hall, another existing building acquired in 1968. Beyond Tutwiler Hall, facing 21st Street, is Hulsey Hall, another existing building acquired in the late 1970s. It houses the parish offices. The entire cathedral complex occupies the north half of the block bounded by 20th and 21st Streets North and 5th and 6th Avenues.

Only the southwestern half of the northern half of the block is included in the nomination. This includes the church and its rear wing (the c. 1911 Parish Hall), the gardens, Carpenter House and Clingman Commons. A small plan is attached to the nomination. Only the Church proper and its 1911 rear wing (The Parish Hall) are considered to be contributing elements. The interior of the Parish Hall is almost continuous with Clingman Commons, making separation of the two almost impossible for nomination purposes.

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 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 1893 **Builder/Architect** Charles Wheelock

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Cathedral Church of the Advent is architecturally significant as an early (for Birmingham) local interpretation of the English Gothic style, using such traditional features as a crenellated square bell tower, pointed arches, and stained glass lancet windows without tracery. Furthermore, it is one of the relatively few major buildings remaining from the young city's (founded 1871) Victorian period. Most accounts credit it to Charles R. Wheelock, who came to Birmingham in 1883 as one of the city's first architects, although no primary documentation has been found. If Wheelock was indeed the designing architect, the Advent would be the only one of the city's downtown Victorian churches designed locally.

* * * * *

The Cathedral Church of the Advent is strongly associated with the early history of Birmingham: it is one of the city's pioneer congregations formally established in 1872, just months after the city was incorporated; the building was constructed during the city's first big iron and real estate boom which created the first major period of expansion, and some of the church's most active members were also prominent business and civic leaders, including Robert Jemison, Sr. a real estate developer who brought about consolidation of the city's street system; Robert Jemison, Jr., the city's most prominent developer, and Edward M. Tutwiler, coal miner and developer, all of whose names are associated with memorials in the church. Four former rectors have become bishops (a fifth will become a bishop in fall 1982). The Advent has served as mother church to at least six congregations in the greater Birmingham area. In 1951 the Advent Day School was established. In 1981 the church was officially voted the Cathedral of the Diocese of Alabama; the formal service of Setting Apart of the Cathedral took place in 1981.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Marjorie Longenecker White, Downtown Birmingham, p. 126; Carolyn Green Satterfield, Historic Sites of Jefferson County, AL 1976, p. 14; Historic Site Survey, Jefferson County, AL, 1972, p. 136.

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property 190' x 200

Quadrangle name Birmingham, North

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UMT References

A

1	6	5	1	7	7	9	0	3	7	0	8	6	6	0
Zone		Easting				Northing								

B

Zone		Easting				Northing								

C

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D

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F

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Verbal boundary description and justification

Downtown Birmingham, Block 48, western half of the north half between alley and 6th Avenue North.

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state N/A code N/A county N/A code N/A

state N/A code N/A county N/A code N/A

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Alice M. Bowsher (Kidd, Wheeler & Plosser) & Ellen Mertins

organization Alabama Historical Commission

date July 15, 1982

street & number 725 Monroe Street

telephone (205) 832-6621

city or town Montgomery

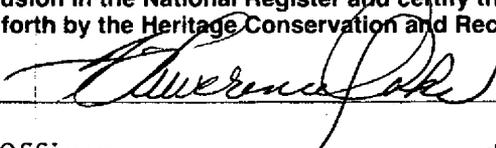
state Alabama

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national state local

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 Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

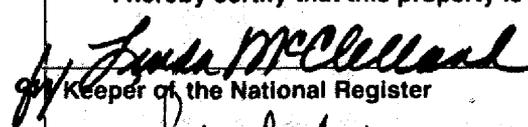
State Historic Preservation Officer signature 

title State Historic Preservation Officer

date 11-15-82

For HCRS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register


Keeper of the National Register

date 5/30/83

Attest: 
Chief of Registration

date 3/29/83



6TH

22ND

STREET

27TH

AVENUE

PARKING

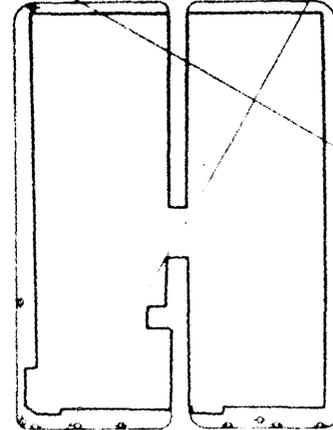
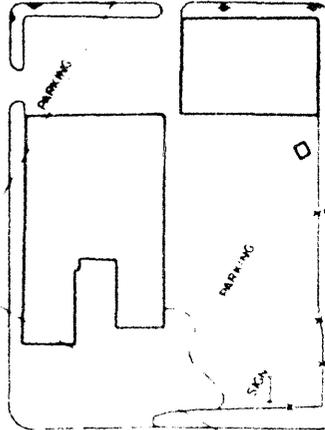
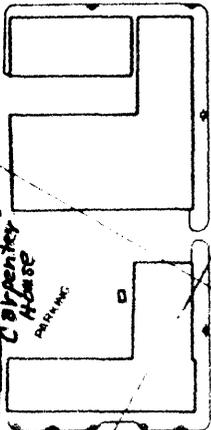
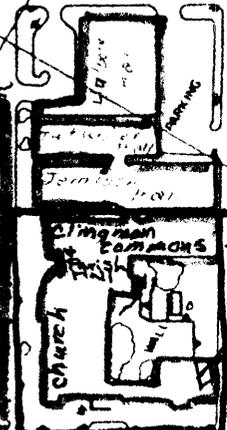
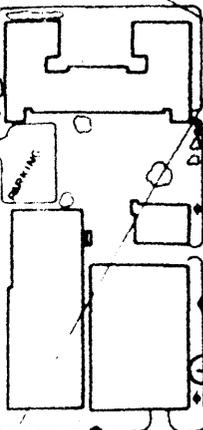
PARKING

PARKING

PARKING

21ST

STREET



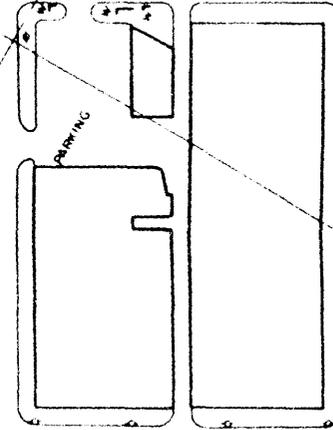
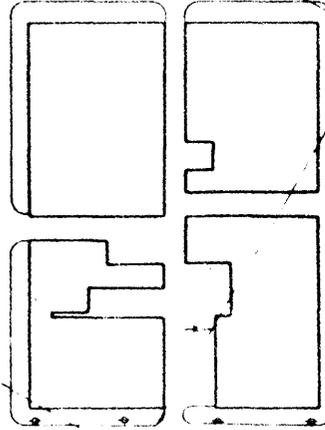
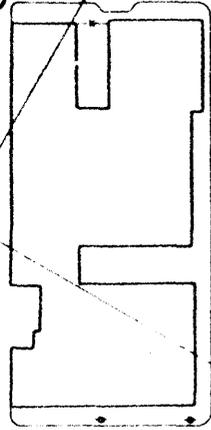
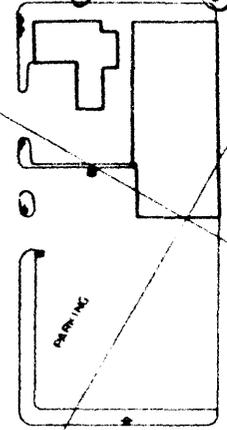
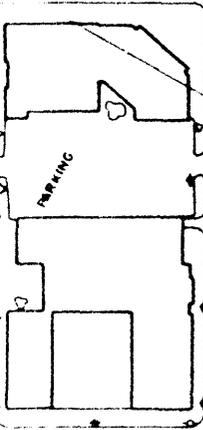
AVENUE

20TH

STREET

20TH

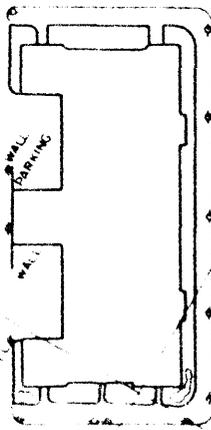
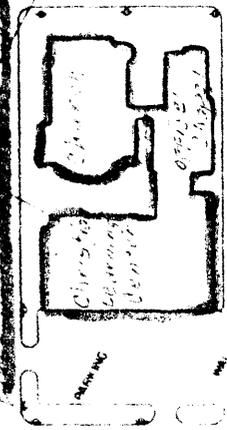
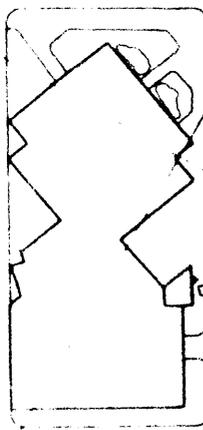
5TH



4TH

STREET

19TH



AVENUE

PARKING

PARKING

AVENUE

PARKING

SIGN

STREET

18TH