

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only

received SEP 30 1987

date entered NOV - 2 1987

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

1. Name

historic St. Mark Methodist Church

and or common St. Mark United Methodist Church

2. Location

street & number 781 Peachtree Street N/A not for publication

city, town Atlanta N/A vicinity of

state Georgia code 013 county Fulton code 121

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

4. Owner of Property

name Board of Trustees, St. Mark United Methodist Church

street & number 781 Peachtree Street N.E.

city, town Atlanta N/A vicinity of state Georgia 30308

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Superior Court

street & number Fulton County Courthouse

city, town Atlanta state Georgia

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

Historic Structure Field Survey
title Fulton County has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date 1976 federal state county local

depository for survey records Georgia Department of Natural Resources

city, town Atlanta state Georgia

7. Description

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

St. Mark United Methodist Church, built in 1902-1903, is a rectangular-shaped granite building with Gothic detailing located on the southeast corner of Peachtree and Fifth Streets in Atlanta, Fulton County, Georgia. It was designed by noted Atlanta architect, Willis F. Denny (1874-1905).

The main facade that fronts on Peachtree Street has a triple entrance portal beneath a large lancet-arched window and front gable. The left corner of the facade is dominated by a tall bell tower with lancet-arched windows and openings, wall buttresses and steeple. The right corner of the main facade has a narrow polygonal-shaped tower and spire. The north and south facades have a cross gable with rose window and six lancet-arched windows, and wall buttresses. There are rectangular-shaped windows on the north and south facade basement levels. The northeast corner of the rear of the building has a polygonal tower with spire.

The interior of the church consists of the narthex flanked by a stairway on both sides with balcony above. The sanctuary has three rows of pews separated by aisles, and altar and choir on the east end. The pews are original. In 1959 the altar area was enlarged and renovated, and a new organ was installed. The four rose windows in the sanctuary, two windows in the cloak room under the northwest tower, and the three lancet arched stained-glass windows above sets of double doors between the narthex and the sanctuary are representative works of American opalescent glass. The twelve pictorial stained glass windows on the north and south walls were installed between 1909 and 1959. They were designed and made by Franz Mayer and Company of Munich, Germany. The windows were made in the pot-metal glass technique that was practiced during the Middle Ages and the Renaissance. Four windows were installed in 1909, and one in 1928, and one in 1931. The remaining six windows were made in Germany and were installed in 1956, 1957, and 1959. The scheme of subjects is based on the life of Christ.

Interior architectural details are the vertical paneled wood wainscoting, wall pilasters, paneled wall molding, tie beams with wall post extensions, and large wood paneled doors.

The Chapel and its connecting corridor were added to the south side of the church in 1947. It was designed by Atlanta architect Francis P. Smith and is also constructed of Stone Mountain granite.

The church property includes an education and activities building that was constructed in 1957 to the east side of the chapel. The church, chapel, and education buildings form a U-shape with a courtyard in the center that serves as a playground for the dayschool children. A paved parking lot occupies to east side of the church property.

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 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/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates 1903-1931 **Builder/Architect** Willis F. Denny

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

St. Mark United Methodist Church is significant in the area of architecture and art.

The church is important architecturally as one of Atlanta's few remaining early 20th-century Gothic style granite churches, and one of three extant churches designed by Atlanta architect, Willis F. Denny (1874 - 1905). Notable exterior architectural details are the original heavy wood doors, the granite construction material of the walls, lancet-arched windows, wall buttresses, and polygonal towers and belfry. Important interior features are the original pews, wainscoting, pilasters, doors, baseboards, molding, and stained glass windows. The architect Willis F. Denny designed two additional churches in Atlanta, Inman Park Methodist (1897) and First Methodist (1903), both of which are constructed of granite from nearby Stone Mountain.

In terms of art, the church is significant for its stained glass windows, several of which were made by the Franz Mayer and Company in Munich, Germany, and installed in 1909, 1928, and 1931. The windows were made with the pot-metal glass technique that was used in European Gothic churches during the Middle Ages and the Renaissance. This technique allows for greater luminosity and clarity of colors as well as complexity of shapes and sizes of glass pieces and detail in the leadwork.

St. Mark's church also may be significant to the religious and social humanitarian history of Atlanta because of its association with a religious mission in the "Tight Squeeze" community in North Atlanta that became self-sustaining in 1878 when Warren A. Candler (1857 - 1941) became its first pastor on Merritts Avenue. Candler served as a Southern Methodist bishop from 1898 to 1935, supervised numerous Methodist conferences, and served as president of Emory College at Oxford, Georgia from 1888-1898.

St. Mark Methodist Church meets National Register Criteria C because of its distinctive architectural characteristics, its fine stained-glass windows, and it is a representative work of a noted turn-of-the century Atlanta architect. For these reasons, the church also meets Criteria Consideration A.

Contributing/Noncontributing Resources

- 1 Contributing Building
- 2 Noncontributing additions

9. Major Bibliographical References

Farhan, Mani. "Historic Property Information Form - St. Mark United Methodist Church." 1985. (On file at Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Atlanta, Georgia).

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property less than 1

Quadrangle name Northwest Atlanta, GA

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References

A

1	6	7	4	2	2	6	0	3	7	4	0	3	1	0
Zone		Easting				Northing								

B

Zone		Easting				Northing								

C

Zone		Easting				Northing								

D

Zone		Easting				Northing								

E

Zone		Easting				Northing								

F

Zone		Easting				Northing								

G

Zone		Easting				Northing								

H

Zone		Easting				Northing								

Verbal boundary description and justification

The boundary of the property is based on the current legal boundary description. It includes the historic church and the non-historic additions. See attached sketch map.

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

state	code	county	code
N/A			

state	code	county	code
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11. Form Prepared By

name/title Andrea Niles, Survey and Research Specialist

organization Georgia Department of Natural Resources date September 9, 1987

street & number 205 Butler Street S.E. telephone (404) 656-2840

city or town Atlanta state Georgia

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 National Park Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature Elizabeth A. Lyon

title Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer date 9/9/87

For NPS use only

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

for [Signature] National Register date 11-2-87
Keeper of the National Register

Attest: _____ date _____

Chief of Registration

SKETCH MAP/SITE PLAN
St. Mark Methodist Church
Atlanta, Fulton County, Georgia.
Scale: 1" = 40'
Source: Based on church files and the
map.
Date: 1985.
Key: The nominated property is marked
by a heavy black line. The buildings
are identified on the map.

