

McKissack and McKissack Buildings in Nashville (1908-1930) Thematic Resources

IDENTIFICATION	Historic name: <u>Capers C.M.E. Church</u>	STATUS	Open to public: <b>Yes</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>No</b> <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Restricted</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	Common name: <u>N/A</u>		Visible from road: <b>Yes</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>No</b> <input type="checkbox"/>
	Address: <u>319 15th Avenue, North</u> <u>Nashville, TN</u>		Occupied: <b>Yes</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>No</b> <input type="checkbox"/>
	Owner's name: <u>Capers C.M.E. Church</u>		Present use: <u>Church</u>
	Owner's address: <u>319 15th Avenue, North</u> <u>Nashville, TN 37203</u>		Current condition: <u>Excellent</u>
	Classification: <u>Building</u>		Alterations: <u>No significant alterations.</u>
	Tax map reference: <u>92-8-304 Davidson County</u>		Site features: <u>The Capers C.M.E. Church</u> <u>is located on a city lot in a residential</u> <u>area. its lot measures 50' by 100' and</u> <u>faces 15th Avenue.</u>
Acreage: <u>.12 acre</u>			
UTM reference: <u>16/518405/4001467</u>			
HISTORY	Date of construction: <u>1925</u>	SOURCES	Bibliographical data: <u>See nomination form</u>
	Architect/builder: <u>McKissack and McKissack</u>		
	Original or previous owners: <u>Capers C.M.E. Church</u>		
	Original use: <u>Church</u>		Form prepared by: <u>Philip Thomason</u>
	Theme/s: <b>Primary</b> <u>Architecture</u>		<b>Title:</b> <u>Architectural Historian</u>
	<b>Secondary</b> <u>Black History</u>		<b>Organization:</b> <u>Thomason and Associates</u> <u>Nashville, TN</u> <b>Date:</b> <u>8/84</u>
<b>Other</b> _____			
DESCRIPTION	<p>The Capers C.M.E. Church was constructed in 1925 in the Neo-Classic style. This design by McKissack and McKissack was one of their best early church designs and the building has not been altered since its construction. The two-story masonry structure features a large sheet metal pediment on the main facade supported by four stone Doric pilasters. The stained glass windows in the church are recessed within narrow arched windows with stone keystones. The church is built on a raised basement and the main entrance is reached by a large staircase. At the roofline of the church is a stepped parapet. The interior of the church has not been altered and features a coffered ceiling and stained glass windows. A railing retained from an earlier church encloses the altar.</p>		
	SIGNIFICANCE	<p>The Capers C.M.E. Church was one of the first church designs produced by McKissack and McKissack. Built in 1925, the design reflects the Neo-Classic style and the building has not been significantly altered. The Capers C.M.E. Church had its origins in the formation of the McKendree African Mission in 1832. In 1851 the church was located on Hynes Street where it became known as Capers Chapel in honor of its founder Bishop Capers. Capers Chapel became a member of the Colored Methodist Episcopal Church (C.M.E.) in 1870.</p>	

(continued)

**PHOTOGRAPHIC DATA**

**Photographer:** Thomason and Assoc.

**Date:** August, 1984

**Negatives on file:** Thomason and Assoc.

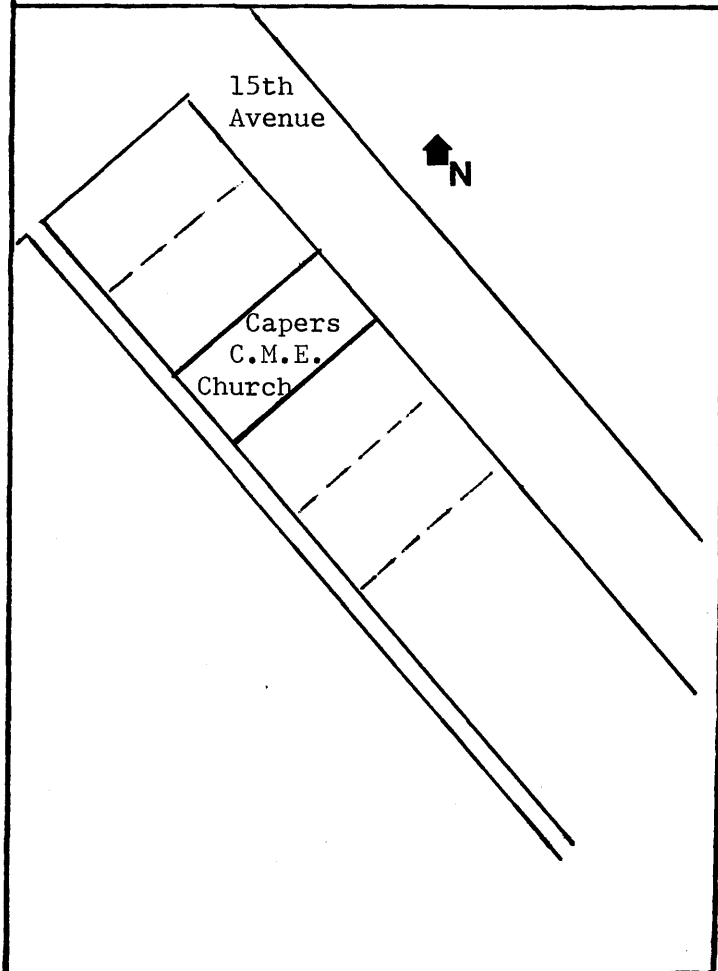
Nashville, TN

**Photographer facing:** southwest, northwest

**Photograph number** 7-9 **of** 9 **.**

**CONTINUATION**

**SITE PLAN - Include North Arrow**



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Capers C.M.E. Church

Significance continued:

and it helped to establish several other C.M.E. churches in Nashville. In 1925 the church was forced to find a new home when it relocated after the raising of the Church Street viaduct. The church chose McKissack and McKissack to design the new building and it is regarded as one of their best early churches. Since the design of the Capers C.M.E. Church the firm has gone on to design over 2,000 other ecclesiastical buildings. The McKissack family also has a personal involvement with the church as members of the congregation. Two of the stained glass windows in the church are named in memory of McKissack family members.



Private road	-----
Property line	=====
Original lot line	-----
County line	-----
Corporation line	-----
District line	-----

Capers C.M.E. Church  
Property Boundary

Davidson County Tax Map  
92-8-304

