

PH 0504785

**DATA SHEET**

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED **SEP 26 1977**  
DATE ENTERED **FEB 17 1978**

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS  
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC  
St. Mary's Church (Episcopal)

AND/OR COMMON  
N/A

**LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER  
St. Johns Avenue

\_\_\_ NOT FOR PUBLICATION  
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT  
2nd

CITY, TOWN  
Green Cove Springs

\_\_\_ VICINITY OF

STATE CODE COUNTY CODE  
Florida 12 Clay 019

**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 type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL <input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> SITE                   | <b>PUBLIC ACQUISITION</b>                   | <b>ACCESSIBLE</b>                                     | <input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS |
| <input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT                 | <input type="checkbox"/> 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:                    |

**OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME  
Protestant Episcopal Church in the Diocese of Florida

STREET & NUMBER  
325 Market Street

CITY, TOWN STATE  
Jacksonville Florida

\_\_\_ VICINITY OF

**LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.  
Clay County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN STATE  
Green Cove Springs Florida

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE  
Florida Master Site File

DATE  
1976  FEDERAL  STATE  COUNTY  LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS Division of Archives, History, & Records Management

CITY, TOWN STATE  
Tallahassee, Florida

## 7 DESCRIPTION

| CONDITION                                     |                                       | CHECK ONE                                     | CHECK ONE   |
|---|---------------------------------------|---|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT | <input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE |
| <input type="checkbox"/> GOOD                 | <input type="checkbox"/> RUINS        | <input type="checkbox"/> ALTERED              | <input type="checkbox"/> MOVED      DATE _____    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> FAIR                 | <input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED    |   |   |

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### DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

St. Mary's Episcopal Church is a very good example of Carpenter Gothic architecture in the best Richard Upjohn tradition. The narrow, vertical feeling, so characteristic of this style, is reflected in the vertical wooden board and batten siding, steep gable roof, lancet windows, and tall spire. The battens give the exterior of the church a striking, three-dimensional effect as they are not flat but triangular in section and approximately 1½ inches deep. The plan of the church is U-shape with an extremely long and slender nave. The U is formed by two short extensions to the east--one, a gabled wing which houses the sacristy, and the other, the base of the spire which is the main entrance to the church and contains the foyer.

One of the most impressive aspects of the Carpenter Gothic style is the lack of extraneous decoration, resulting in a very plain yet picturesque and functional appearance. St. Mary's is a prime example of this use of a simple exterior. The exterior walls are interrupted only by narrow lancet windows set in eleven regular bays across the long west elevation. These windows are repeated on the north in two bays and on the east in eleven bays which are interrupted by the tower and sacristy wings. The casing of these openings is simple, but heavy and deep with sloping sills. The walls of the sacristy all contain not only lancet windows, but narrow rectangular ones superimposed. In the gable end of the sacristy are lancets with a trefoil above. On the south elevation is a single large chancel window composed of three lancets below an inverted cinquefoil window, all enclosed within a simple drop arch casing. Each of the windows is made of leaded, colored and stained glass. Below five of the lancet windows on the west and east are paneled ventilator doors which are a very unusual climatic innovation used on several of the Episcopal churches in the area.

The dominant element of the church is the steeple at the northeast corner. Rising nearly 2½ times the height of the church, an octagonal spire is supported by a square tower of board and batten construction. At the base of this broach spire is the main entrance which is composed of double doors of tongue and groove set in a plain drop arch casing. Above the entrance and on each elevation of the tower are extremely narrow lancet windows used to illuminate a tower room. Immediately below the spire is the belfry which is defined by the four major elevations of the spire which is presently covered with wood shingles (to be replaced in the near future).

The interior of the church is also typical of the Carpenter Gothic. The walls are white plaster and extend upward until they intersect the interior ceiling. This ceiling is open with natural wood finish and hammerbeam arches.

# 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 checked="" 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 + 1878

BUILDER/ARCHITECT Lewis, Lawrence and Adams

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

St. Mary's Church (Episcopal) is one of the most highly developed examples of the Carpenter Gothic Style in Florida and its construction is indicative of the way most of its contemporaries in the State were designed and built. There is a striking unity in the design of these small churches in northeast Florida which was the apparent result of Richard Upjohn's indirect influence. Upjohn was the foremost advocate of the use of the Carpenter Gothic in rural church design. He was the architect at Trinity Church in New York when John Freeman Young was assistant rector. Young became the Bishop of Florida and his interest in architecture became apparent in his personal role in the design of many churches in Florida during the 1870's. In addition to Young's interest, many northern visitors played a major role in expanding the Church in Florida and they also influenced the style of the buildings either by participating in the design or securing plans from their homes. This leaves St. Mary's as a legacy of the major role these visitors played in the growth of the Episcopal Church of Florida during the nineteenth century (Werndli, *passim*).

St. Mary's was constructed at the height of the expansion of the Episcopal Church in the late nineteenth century. Green Cove Springs and what was then known as Magnolia were popular havens for winter tourists from the North. These generally well-to-do individuals soon became involved in the establishment of an Episcopalian congregation and eventually the erection of this edifice. In March of 1878, Bishop John F. Young, head of the Florida Diocese, announced that he had arranged for a subscription of over \$1,000 along with a lot, to erect a church at Green Cove Springs. Young appointed two of the winter members of the congregation, Mr. Adams of Boston and Mr. Lawrence of Philadelphia, as a committee to build the church. By March the nave was under construction, and the tower and spire were soon to be erected. The first service was held in March of 1879 (Diocesan Journal, p.35; Lewis, *passim*).

The fact that the church was heavily supported by winter residents for their use during the season is evident in the list of benefactors of the new building. These included people from Boston, New York and Philadelphia. There were some local supporters including Thadeus Davids who donated the lot, Mrs. Dore who gave the windows in the church, and Mrs. Kate Delap who gave the hymn board (Lewis).

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

(see continuation sheet)

## 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY LT 1

UTM REFERENCES

|   |      |         |    |   |          |    |    |   |   |   |
|---|------|---------|----|---|----------|----|----|---|---|---|
| A | 17   | 4       | 34 | 6 | 10       | 33 | 18 | 5 | 0 | 0 |
|   | ZONE | EASTING |    |   | NORTHING |    |    |   |   |   |
| C |      |         |    |   |          |    |    |   |   |   |

|   |      |         |  |  |          |  |  |
|---|------|---------|--|--|----------|--|--|
| B |      |         |  |  |          |  |  |
|   | ZONE | EASTING |  |  | NORTHING |  |  |
| D |      |         |  |  |          |  |  |

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

| STATE | CODE | COUNTY | CODE |
|-------|------|--------|------|
| STATE | CODE | COUNTY | CODE |

## 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

(see continuation sheet)

ORGANIZATION

DATE

STREET & NUMBER

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

STATE

## 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

L. Ross Morrell

TITLE

Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE

9-8-77

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DIRECTOR OF NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDS AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

DATE

2/17/78

ATTEST:

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

2-14-78

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

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St. Mary's Church (Episcopal)  
CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 9 PAGE 1

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Diocesan Journal (1878):35.

Lewis, Lawrence. "History of St. Mary's. Green Cove Springs, Florida. MSS, March, 1903." In St. Mary's Church Records, Green Cove Springs Florida.

Werndli, Phillip. "Carpenter Gothic Architecture of the Episcopal Church in Florida." Typescript, 1973. In FDAHRM files.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

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St. Mary's Church (Episcopal)  
CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 11 PAGE 1

Phillip A. Werndli, Historic Sites Specialist  
Division of Archives, History, & Records Management  
Department of State, The Capitol  
Tallahassee, Florida

May, 1975  
(904) 487-2333

Eugene C. Hicks, Jr., Senior Warden  
c/o St. Mary's Church, Episcopal  
St. Johns Avenue  
Green Cove Springs, Florida

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Section number \_\_\_\_\_ Page \_\_\_\_\_

**SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING RECORD**

**NRIS Reference Number: 78000933**

**Date Listed: 02/17/78**

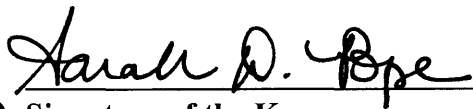
**Property Name: St. Mary's Church**

**County: Clay**

**State: FL**

**Multiple Name: N/A**

This property is listed in the National Register of Historic Places in accordance with the attached nomination documentation subject to the following exceptions, exclusions, or amendments, notwithstanding the National Park Service certification included in the nomination documentation.

(fx)   
Signature of the Keeper

6/28/02  
Date of Action

**Amended Items in Nomination:**

The original nomination for St. Mary's Episcopal Church (1978) documented the church itself as the only contributing building. In 1978, the Parish Hall was not considered as contributing since it was constructed and later moved to the church grounds after the 50 year-cut off year. The Parish Hall contributes to the significance of St. Mary's Episcopal Church under Criterion C and today meets the National Register's 50 year rule. Constructed in 1941 as a WW II military chapel, the Parish Hall was moved to the St. Mary's property in 1948 and has been used by the church ever since.

**An amendment is hereby made to add 1948 as another period of significance to the nomination, in addition to its original period of significance of 1878.**

This information was confirmed with Barbara Mattick of the FL SHPO.

**DISTRIBUTION:**

**National Register property file**

**Nominating Authority (without nomination attachment)**

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number 7,8,Photo Page 1

**ST. MARY'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH, GREEN  
COVE SPRINGS, CLAY COUNTY, FLORIDA**

**Section #7**

**PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION**

St. Mary's Parish Hall is a two-story frame building with a side gable roof. The main block of the building is rectangular with a short, one-story gable extension on the south elevation, and a one-story shed extension across two-thirds of the east elevation. The building rests on a continuous block foundation filled with concrete. The 1941 wooden exterior was surfaced with asbestos tiles at the time of its move in 1948. A brick chimney pierces the west slope of the south extension roof. The windows are filled with standard size 6/6 double-hung wooden sashes in the gable ends, and large 16/16 double hung wooden sashes in the side elevations.

The main, west façade fronts onto St. John's Avenue, and contains the main entrance to the building in the south corner (Photo #1). Solid double doors are accessed from a concrete porch with four steps, and sheltered by a shed roof supported by wooden braces. Another single door with porch and shed roof is at the north corner. Five large windows are evenly spaced across the elevation. The south elevation has the gable end of the kitchen extension, and a central single door with a porch with shed roof, flanked by window with metal awning sashes. The east elevation contains one small, and two large windows towards the south end (Photo #2). The shed roofed east room extension spans the remainder of the elevation, and contains banks of metal awning sashes. The north elevation is the gable end of the main building block with three single windows on the first story, a window with paired sashes centered in the second story, and a narrow louvered vent in the gable peak. Visible to the east is a single door into the east shed roof extension. The door is accessed from a concrete porch with five steps, shed roof, and metal hand rails.

The interior is composed almost entirely of the central assembly room which rises to the second story height timber ceiling (Photo #3). The floor is wooden, and the walls have vertical wainscoting. Above the wainscoting, the walls are composed of particle board, but due to their poor condition they have been covered with painted wood paneling. Four pairs of laminated curved arch members rise the height of the walls and curve to form the roof support (Photo #4). The exterior door provides entry to a small vestibule at the south end of the building. At the vestibule are a closet and stairs. A kitchen and bathroom are within the first floor south extension. The stairs rise to a second floor at the south end which contains another bathroom and office. The single exterior door at the north corner enters a small office. Another is at the northeast corner, and a stairwell is centrally located between the two. The stairs rise to a second story at the north end that contains a bathroom. The building was examined in 1999 by an engineer who judged the building to be in excellent condition.

**Section #8**

**CONTEXT AND ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE**

St. Mary's Church Parish Hall was built in 1941 for Camp Blanding in Clay County. The building served as an Army Chapel with the designation "Type CH -1." The camp was constructed prior to the United



**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number 7,8,Photo Page 2

**ST. MARY'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH, GREEN  
COVE SPRINGS, CLAY COUNTY, FLORIDA**

States' entry into World War II, and served as a major war time training center. Following the war, the building was moved to Green Cove Springs in late 1948. The huge training center gave five military chapels to North Florida communities. The move to Green Cove Springs was a community effort with over 200 individuals and businesses contributing to the project. Although the Parish Hall is a part of St. Mary's Episcopal Church property and has served church needs, it is used by the community for various functions.

In 1948, the building was modified by covering it with exterior asbestos shingles placed over horizontal wooden siding; the kitchen was extended, and a first story side room was added to the east elevation. The building was moved to its current site and modified in 1948, while retaining a high degree of architectural integrity from its 1941 construction.

**Glued Laminated Timber**

Although glued laminated arches were used in Switzerland in 1893, the technique was not common in Europe until after 1906, when Otto Hetzer of Germany received a patent for curved laminated members. Known as the Hetzer method, the structural members were used in railroad stations, factories, and workshops. A shortage of casein glue curtailed their use during World War I. In the United States, glued laminated wood resulted in the development of plywood, and the McKeown Brothers Company of Chicago used glue and nails to assemble bow-string-truss chords in the 1920s. Otto Hanisch, who had worked with Hetzer in Germany, came to the United States in 1923. In 1934 he formed the Unit Structures firm in Peshtigo, Wisconsin. That same year they built the first glue laminated timber building in the United States, the Peshtigo High School gymnasium. Between 1935, and the United States' involvement in World War II, Unit Structures remained the primary contractor. More than one hundred buildings were constructed, including schools, churches, barns, and storage facilities. Most were built in Wisconsin. With the onset of World War II, many military contracts included glue laminated timber because metals were diverted for weapons use (Jester, Thomas C., editor, "Twentieth-Century Building Materials," Washington D.C.: U.S. Department of the Interior, 1995; 141-144).

The use of glued laminated curved timber for structural elements in St. Mary's Parish Hall is an early example of the application of the construction technique in Florida. Little attention has been given this construction technique that is often regarded as a modern element. Notable use of glued laminated arches in Florida can be seen at the 1949 All Saints Episcopal Church, Ft. Lauderdale, the 1962 First United Methodist Church in Winter Park, and the 1970s assembly hall at O'leno State Park.

**PHOTOGRAPHIC LIST**

1. St. Mary's Episcopal Church, Parish Hall, 400 St. John's Avenue, Green Cove Springs
2. Clay County, Florida
3. Rev. Christopher Martin
4. November 2001
5. St. Mary's Episcopal Church
6. Main, west façade, and south elevation, looking northeast

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number 7,8,Photo Page 3

**ST. MARY'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH, GREEN  
COVE SPRINGS, CLAY COUNTY, FLORIDA**

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7. Photo #1 of 4

Items 1 - 5 are the same for the remaining photographs.

6. East and north elevations, southwest

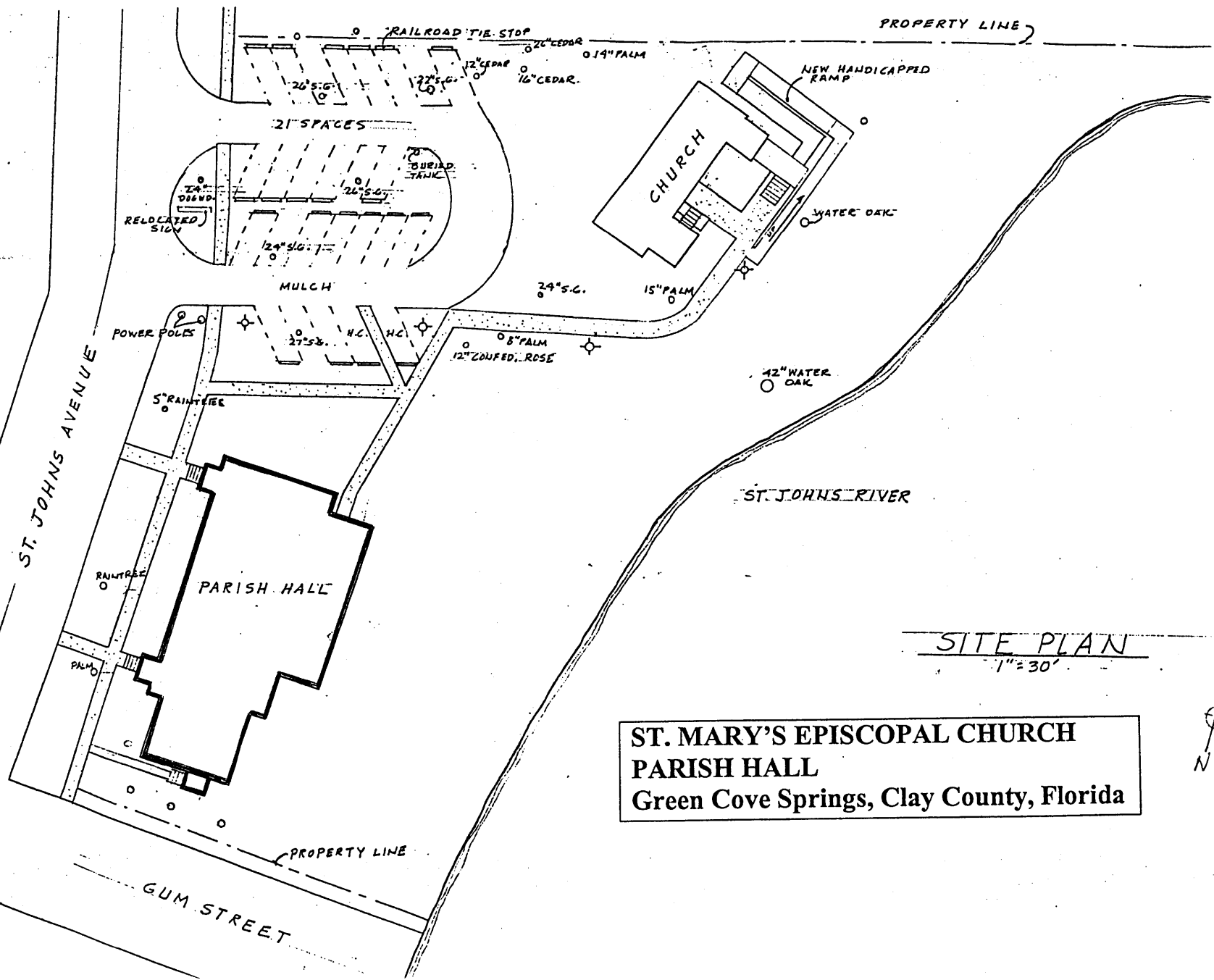
7. Photo #2 of 4

6. Interior of assembly hall, floor, walls, ceiling, looking north

7. Photo #3 of 4

6. Detail of 1941 glue laminated member, looking northwest

7. Photo #4 of 4



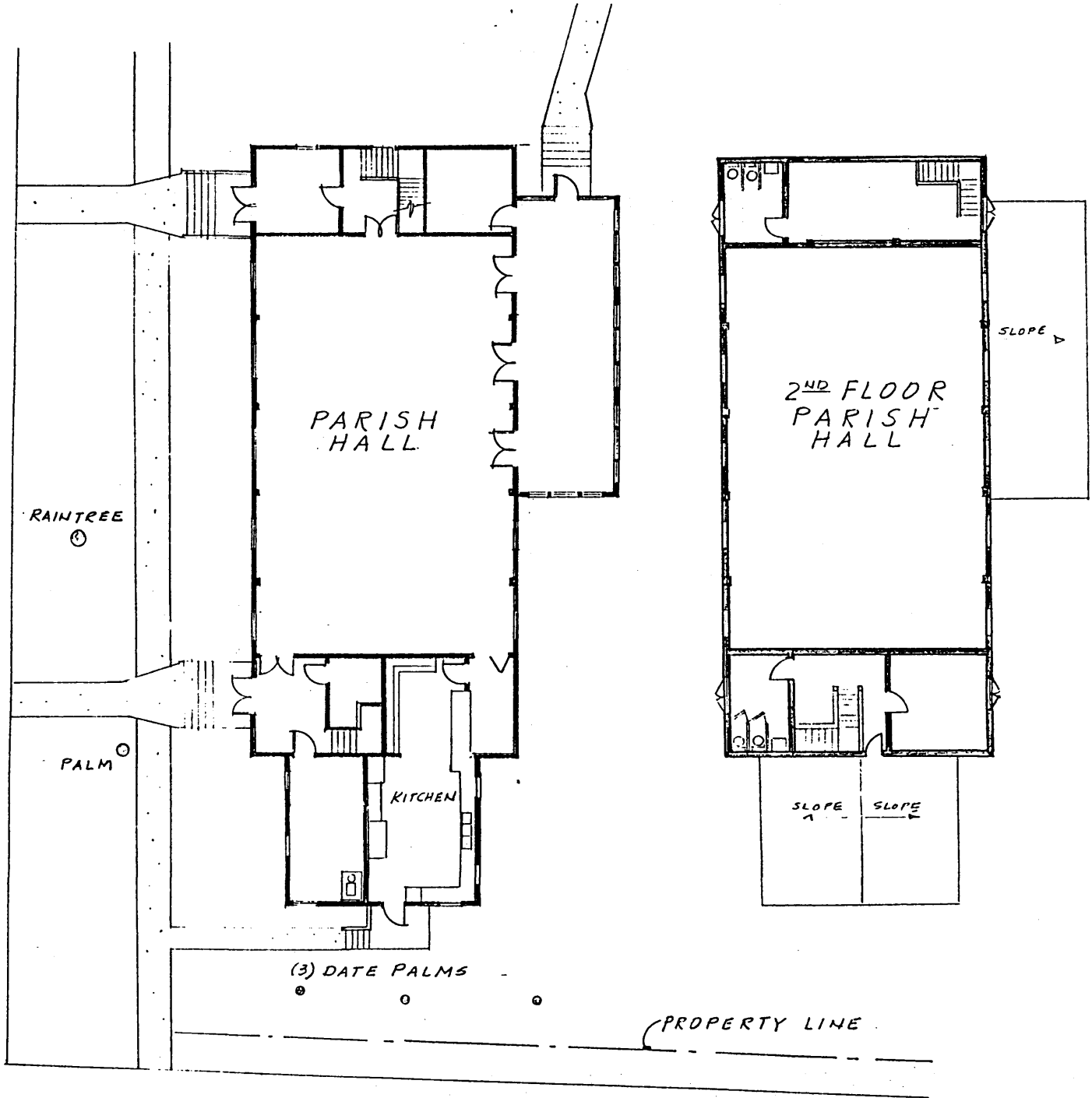
SITE PLAN  
1" = 30'

**ST. MARY'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH**  
**PARISH HALL**  
 Green Cove Springs, Clay County, Florida



ST. MARY'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH  
PARISH HALL  
Green Cove Springs, Clay County, Florida

ST. JOHNS AVE.



GUM STREET

PARISH HALL FLOOR PLANS  
N.T.S.

