

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED FEB 29 1980
DATE ENTERED JUN 3 1980

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

First Church of Christ Scientist (former)

AND/OR COMMON

Saint George Orthodox Church

LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

24 North Rosalind Avenue

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Orlando

VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

9

STATE

Florida

CODE

012

COUNTY

Orange

CODE

095

CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

OWNERSHIP

STATUS

PRESENT USE

DISTRICT

PUBLIC

X OCCUPIED

AGRICULTURE

MUSEUM

X BUILDING(S)

PRIVATE

UNOCCUPIED

COMMERCIAL

PARK

STRUCTURE

BOTH

WORK IN PROGRESS

EDUCATIONAL

PRIVATE RESIDENCE

SITE

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

ACCESSIBLE

ENTERTAINMENT

X RELIGIOUS

OBJECT

IN PROCESS

X YES: RESTRICTED

GOVERNMENT

SCIENTIFIC

BEING CONSIDERED

YES: UNRESTRICTED

INDUSTRIAL

TRANSPORTATION

NO

MILITARY

OTHER:

OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Orthodox Deanery of Florida, Inc., St. George Orthodox Church

STREET & NUMBER

24 North Rosalind Avenue

CITY, TOWN

Orlando

VICINITY OF

STATE

Florida

32802

LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Orange County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Orlando

STATE
Florida

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Orlando Historic Sites Survey

DATE

1975-1976

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY X LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Florida Division of Archives, History and Records Management

CITY, TOWN

Tallahassee

STATE
Florida

7 DESCRIPTION

| CONDITION | | CHECK ONE | CHECK ONE |
|---|---------------------------------------|---|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT | <input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED | <input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE |
| <input 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

Reproductions of the original drawings of the elevations of the First Church of Christ Scientist show that the structure has not been altered significantly since it was completed in 1928. On the exterior, the church has a Greek Cross plan.

The east entrance facade is located on Rosalind Street, overlooking Lake Eola. The facade has a shallow hexastyle Roman Doric portico. The structure rests on a wedge-shaped stylobate to accommodate it to the gently sloping building site. The columns support only a wall cornice, while the open-bed pediment above rests on pedestals supported by massive antae flanking the portico.

Within the tympanum of the pediment is a lunette. There are square casement windows in the mezzanine level. These fill the wall bays, forming a continuous band across the facade.

There are three entrance doors in the east facade. All feature pilastered surrounds and pediments, and transom lights. The center door has a triangular pediment, while the flanking doors have segmental pediments.

The wall cornice, antae, pedestals and open-bed pediments are repeated on the north and south elevations. In each of the tympanums, however, is a bull's-eye window instead of a lunette. The wall cornice terminates at the inner edges of the antae. In the intervening wall surface is a tripartite window with round arches of equal height and width. Slender twisted columns separate the windows. Beneath the windows, on both elevations, is a balcony supported by brackets. Beneath these are square casement windows.

The only distinctive architectural feature on the rear of the church is a repetition of the open-bed pediment which springs directly from the wall surface rather than being supported by pedestals and antae.

On the interior, the sanctuary reflects the Greek Cross plan of the exterior. Although the floor space of the sanctuary is basically rectangular, the ceiling is vaulted. The system consists of a central domical vault and four short arms. The vault at the center of the crossing is not a true dome but a coved vault, whose four curved surfaces rise to an apex. The arms have semicircular vaults. Three of these are of the same length, but the one extending west--over the speaker's platform--is considerably shorter, forming only a shallow aedicule. The vaulting system is supported visually by a series of classical entablatures which rest on paneled pilasters.

The main seating areas for the congregation form an elliptical space around the speaker's platform. The flanking sections of this amphitheater embrace the two main stairwells which connect the sanctuary on the mezzanine with the foyer or narthex on the ground floor. To the rear or east side of the sanctuary, beneath the lunette, is a low balcony with additional seats. Access to the balcony is gained by stairways at either side of it.

None of the present liturgical furniture, icons, or pictorial representations are original features. Among the larger, non-portable religious images now found in the sanctuary are: the central windows on the north and south representing the "Nativity" and the "Resurrection" in stained glass, the murals flanking the speaker's platform showing the "Entry into Jerusalem" and the "Pentecost". Finally, in the apex of the domical vault is a tondo representing Christ as the "Pantocrator", or "Judge of Mankind".

(see continuation sheet)

FHR-8-300A
(11/78)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
HERITAGE CONSERVATION AND RECREATION SERVICE

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

| | |
|-------------------|-------------|
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On the exterior of the building, the copper dome, which had been painted silver, was painted gold and a golden colored cross placed atop it. A sign bearing the present name of the church has been placed in the frieze above the columns of the main facade to cover the name, First Church of Christ Scientist, which had been cast permanently into the concrete surface.

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/HUMANITARIAN |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799 | <input type="checkbox"/> ART | <input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING | <input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC | <input type="checkbox"/> THEATER |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899 | <input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE | <input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT | <input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY | <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION |
| <input checked="" 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 1926-1927

BUILDER/ARCHITECT Dunham, George Foote
(Orlando, Florida)

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The former First Church of Christ Scientist in Orlando, Florida, reflects the transition of the community from a small agriculturally based population center to an urban center with nationally oriented economic aspirations. Furthermore, the church represents the adaptation of a readily identifiable type of ecclesiastical architecture to the non-liturgical activities of the local Christian Science congregation.

In the 1880's and 1890's, Orlando was a small accretion of residential, commercial, and public structures, dependent upon citrus and vegetable farming. The community was served by the South Florida Railroad which provided the means for shipping locally produced products to northern markets.¹ During the period 1914 to 1926, the community grew rapidly as a result of intense land speculation in Florida. The church was one of a nucleus of buildings, e.g., banks, hotels, department stores, established in the rapidly expanding urban center. This growth peaked in 1926 and did not resume substantially until the 1960's. Reinvigoration of the local economy was brought about by the development of large tourist recreation and entertainment facilities such as Disney World and Sea World.²

A Christian Science congregation was first established in Orlando about 1917. They had no building reserved exclusively for the services of the congregation at that time, but met at the Lucerne Theater on Court Street.³ In 1925, the congregation commissioned the architect, George Foote Dunham (1876-1949) to design a building for their use. Dunham, himself a Christian Scientist, was born in Burlington, Iowa, and had studied architecture at the Armour Institute (now Illinois Institute of Technology) from which he was graduated in 1908. He spent the larger part of his career in Portland, Oregon. Before coming to Florida he had designed several Christian Science churches: two in Oregon, two in the state of Washington, one in Missouri, and one in British Columbia, Canada.⁴

The First Church of Christ Scientist appears to have been modeled after the Pantheon in Rome, constructed 120-124 A.D.⁵, and the Law Library at Columbia University in New York City, designed in 1893 by Charles F. McKim (1847-1909).⁶ The style of the church is basically Neo-Classical Revival, whose influence was felt nation-wide through the designs produced by the New York based architectural firm of McKim, Mead, and White. The style had its greatest impact on American architecture from the late 1890's to about 1920.⁷

The church is volumetric and plastic in design after the manner of Roman architecture, rather than composed of the logical series of verticals and horizontals that characterizes Greek temple architecture. The dome and the arch, virtually unknown in classical Greece but employed often by the Romans, form essential roles in Dunham's design.

The relationship between the design of the church and Christian Science worship are merely fortuitous. Christian Science practice emphasizes study and self-development rather than formal liturgy. The large size of the structure is due to the large

(See continuation sheet)

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

(See continuation sheet)

UTM NOT VERIFIED

ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY Less than one (1)

UTM REFERENCES

| | | | |
|---|------|-------------|---------------|
| A | 1 7 | 4 6 3 1 8 0 | 3 1 5 7 2 0 0 |
| | ZONE | EASTING | NORTHING |
| C | | | |

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

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

All of lots C & D, Block 4 in Orlando, being described by Rosalind Avenue on the west, Washington Street on the north, the property lines of lots C & D on the west, and Central Boulevard on the south.

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

William Carl Shiver, Historic Sites Specialist

ORGANIZATION

Florida Division of Archives, History and Records Management

DATE

12/12/79

STREET & NUMBER

Department of State, The Capitol

TELEPHONE

(904) 487-2333

CITY OR TOWN

Tallahassee

STATE

Florida 32301

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

TITLE Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE

2/25/80

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

~~DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGICAL AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION~~

DATE

~~KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER~~

ATTEST:

DATE

6/3/80
5/17/80

~~KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER~~

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 1

congregation that existed in Orlando in the 1920's. There were four hundred members when construction on the church began. One half of the cost was provided by the local congregation, and the remainder of the sum was donated by the mother church in Boston.⁸

In 1975 the Christian Scientist congregation abandoned the church on Rosalind Avenue, and a year later it was acquired by the congregation of St. George Orthodox Church. The congregation was formed in 1969 by those members of the Orthodox faith in the Orlando area who wished an independent organization to serve their communal and religious needs. The congregation first held services in the Maitland Bank in Maitland, Florida, a community just north of Orlando. After making use of several temporary facilities, the congregation moved to its present home in July, 1976.

The former Church of Christ Scientist suited the needs of the Orthodox congregation without requiring extensive alterations to the building. The architecture of the church lends itself to the liturgical needs of the Orthodox Christian congregations. The main facade of the church is reminiscent of Orthodox basilicas in Europe. The alterations made to the church, therefore, have not significantly changed the character of the building.⁹

¹Phillip A. Werndli: Historical Architectural and Archaeological Survey of Orlando, Florida, 12-18.

²ibid.

³Eve Bacon, Orlando, a Centennial History, vol. 1, 292.

⁴Henry Whitney, Dictionary of American Architects, 183-4.

⁵Banister Fletcher, A History of Architecture on the Comparative Method.

⁶Francesco Passanti, "The Design of Columbia in the 1890's, McKim and His Client."

⁷Marcus Whiffen, American Architecture Since 1780, 169.

⁸Telephone conversation with Mary VanBrockle, member of the congregation, First Church of Christ Scientist, Orlando, Florida.

⁹Hamatie, Father John E., Letter to Carl Shiver, September 14, 1979.

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- Dunham, George Foote. Drawings and Specifications for the First Church of Christ Scientist, September, 1925. Blueprints in the possession of St. George Orthodox Church, Orlando, Florida.
- Fletcher, Banister. A History of Architecture on the Comparative Method. New York: Charles Scribner's.
- Passanti, Francesco. "The Design of Columbia in the 1890's, McKim and His Client," Journal of the Society of Architectural Historians.
- Fleming, John, et. al. The Penguin Dictionary of Architecture. Baltimore: Penguin Books, 1972.
- Werndli, Phillip A. and Robert S. Carr. Historical, Architectural and Archaeological Survey of Orlando, Florida. Miscellaneous Project Report Meries No. 43. Tallahassee, Fl.: Division of Archives, History and Records Management, June, 1978.
- Whiffen, Marcus. American Architecture Since 1780. Cambridge, Mass.: Massachusetts Institute of Technology, 1969.
-
- Hamatie, Father John E. Letter to Carl Shiver, September 14, 1979.

FLORIDA MASTER
SITE FILE

FEB 29 1980

FDAHRM 802 = =

Site No. 80r199 1009 = = County Orange 808 = =

Site Name First Church of Christ Scientist (former) 830 = =

Other Name(s) for Site Saint George Orthodox Church 930 = =

Other Nos. for Site _____ 906 = =

Other Master Site File Nos. for Site _____ 899 = =

NR Classification Category building 916 = =

Address of Site 24 N. Rosalind Ave., Orlando, Fl. 32802 905 = =

Instructions for locating site southeast corner of Rosalind Ave. and
Wall Streets

_____ 813 = =

Vicinity of _____
Location: Grannis & Sperry 4 C & D 868 = =
subdivision name block no. lot no.

Owner of Site:
Name Orthodox Deanery of Florida, Inc., St. George Orthodox Church,
Address 24 N. Rosalind Ave., Orlando, Fl. 32802 902 = =

Occupant, Tenant, or Manager:
Name _____;
Address _____ 904 = =

Reporter (or local contact):
Name _____;
Address _____ 816 = =

Recorder:
Name Shiver, William Carl (Historic Sites Specialist);
Address FDAHRM 818 = =

Survey Date 7511-7602 820 = = Type Ownership Institutional 848 = =

Name of Project (under which site was recorded) _____ 980 = =

Classification of Project: Check One
 Federal 982 = = State 982 = = Local 982 = = County 982 = =

Inventory Status _____ 914 = =

Previous Survey(s), Excavation(s) or Collection(s): (enter activity/title of project or survey/name/date/repository)
Survey/Orlando Historic Sites Survey/FDAHRM/75-76/FDAHRM

_____ 839 = =

Recording Station HPS 804 = =

Date of Visit to Site _____ 828 = = Recording Date _____ 832 = =

Photographic Record Numbers 75N125HPS (frames 1, 2, 3)

_____ 860 = =

Location of Site (Specific): USGS: Orlando West 7.5 min. 1956 809 ==
Map Reference (incl. scale & date)

| | | | | | | |
|----------|-------|---------|--------|----------|------------|--------|
| Township | Range | Section | ¼ Sec. | ¼ ¼ Sec. | ¼ ¼ ¼ Sec. | |
| T22S | R29E | S25 | SW | SE | SE | 812 == |

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A POLYGON LOCATING THE PROPERTY

| Point | LATITUDE | | | LONGITUDE | | |
|-------|----------|---------|---------|-----------|---------|---------|
| | Degrees | Minutes | Seconds | Degrees | Minutes | Seconds |
| | ° | ' | " | ° | ' | " |
| | ° | ' | " | ° | ' | " |
| | ° | ' | " | ° | ' | " |
| | ° | ' | " | ° | ' | " |
| | ° | ' | " | ° | ' | " |

OR

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES

| | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| ° | ' | " | ° | ' | " |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|

800 ==

UTM Perimeter:

| Zone | Easting | Northing |
|------|---------|----------|
|------|---------|----------|

890 ==

UTM Coordinates:

| | | | | | |
|------|--------|---------|--------|----------|--------|
| 17 | 891 == | 463180 | 892 == | 3157200 | 893 == |
| zone | | easting | | northing | |

Condition of Site:
Check One

Excellent 863 == Deteriorated 863 ==
 Good 863 == Ruins 863 ==
 Fair 863 == Unexposed 863 ==
 Redeposited 863 ==

Integrity of Site:
Check One or More

Altered 858 == Restored () Date: () 858 ==
 Unaltered 858 == Moved () Date: () 858 ==
 Destroyed 858 == Original Site 858 ==

Condition of Site (Remarks): () () 863 ==

Threats to Site:

Check One or More

Zoning () () 878 == Transportation () () 878 ==
 Development () () 878 == Fill () () 878 ==
 Deterioration () () 878 == Dredge () () 878 ==
 Borrowing () () 878 ==

Other (See Remarks Below): 878 ==

Threats to Site (Remarks):

879 ==

Site No. 80r199
 Site Name First Church of
Christ Scientist

HISTORIC SITE DATA SUPPLEMENT

Present Use (Check one or more as appropriate)

- | | | | |
|---|--|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural 850 == | <input type="checkbox"/> Government 850 == | <input type="checkbox"/> Park 850 == | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation 850 == |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial 850 == | <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial 850 == | <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence 850 == | Other (specify): |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Educational 850 == | <input type="checkbox"/> Military 850 == | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Religious 850 == | <input type="checkbox"/> 850 == |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment 850 == | <input type="checkbox"/> Museum 850 == | <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific 850 == | <input type="checkbox"/> 850 == |

Original Use (check one or more as appropriate)

- | | | | |
|---|--|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural 838 == | <input type="checkbox"/> Government 838 == | <input type="checkbox"/> Park 838 == | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation 838 == |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial 838 == | <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial 838 == | <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence 838 == | Other (specify): |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Educational 838 == | <input type="checkbox"/> Military 838 == | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Religious 838 == | <input type="checkbox"/> 838 == |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment 838 == | <input type="checkbox"/> Museum 838 == | <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific 838 == | <input type="checkbox"/> 838 == |

Cultural Classification: Specific Dates: Beginning +1926-1927 844 ==

Culture/Phase American 840 ==

Period (check one or more as appropriate)

- | | | | |
|---|--|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian 845 == | <input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century 845 == | <input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century 845 == | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 20th Century 845 == |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century 845 == | <input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century 845 == | <input type="checkbox"/> 19th Century 845 == | |

Areas of Significance (check one or more as appropriate)

- | | | | |
|---|--|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal 910 == | <input type="checkbox"/> Community Planning 910 == | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape 910 == | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture 910 == |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Archaeology 910 == | <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation 910 == | Architecture 910 == | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian 910 == |
| Prehistoric 910 == | <input type="checkbox"/> Economics 910 == | <input type="checkbox"/> Law 910 == | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater 910 == |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Archaeology Historic 910 == | <input type="checkbox"/> Education 910 == | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature 910 == | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation 910 == |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture 910 == | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering 910 == | <input type="checkbox"/> Military 910 == | Other (specify): |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture 910 == | <input type="checkbox"/> Exploration & Settlement 910 == | <input type="checkbox"/> Music 910 == | <input type="checkbox"/> 910 == |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art 910 == | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry 910 == | <input type="checkbox"/> Philosophy 910 == | <input type="checkbox"/> 910 == |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce 910 == | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention 910 == | <input type="checkbox"/> Politics/Govt. 910 == | <input type="checkbox"/> 910 == |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications 910 == | | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion 910 == | <input type="checkbox"/> 910 == |
| | | <input type="checkbox"/> Science 910 == | <input type="checkbox"/> 910 == |

Remarks & Recommendations:

835 ==

Accessible: yes: restricted yes: unrestricted no

Status: occupied unoccupied work in progress

Statement of Significance (use continuation sheet if necessary)

The former First Church of Christ Scientist in Orlando, Florida, reflects the transition of the community from a small agriculturally based population center to an urban center with nationally oriented economic aspirations. Furthermore, the church represents the adaptation of a readily identifiable type of ecclesiastical architecture to the non-liturgical activities of the local Christian Science congregation.

In the 1880's and 1890's, Orlando was a small accretion of residential, commercial, and public structures, dependent upon citrus and vegetable farming. The community was served by the South Florida Railroad which provided the means for shipping locally produced products to northern markets.¹ During the period 1914 to 1926, the community grew rapidly as a result of intense land speculation in Florida. The church was one of a nucleus of buildings, e.g., banks, hotels, department stores, establishing the rapidly expanding urban center. This growth peaked in 1926 and did not resume substantially until the 1960's. Reinvigoration of the local economy was brought about by the development of large tourist recreation and entertainment facilities such as Disney World and Sea World.²

Christian Science & Church of Christ congregation was first established in Orlando about 1917. They had no building reserved exclusively for the services of the congregation at that time, but met at the Lucerne Theater on Court Street.³ In 1925, the congregation commissioned the architect, George Foote Dunham (1876-1949) to design a building for their use. Dunham, himself a Christian Scientist, was born in Burlington, Iowa, and had studied architecture at the Armour Institute (now Illinois Institute of Technology) from which he was graduated in 1908. He spent the larger part of his career in Portland, Oregon. Before coming to Florida he had designed several Christian Science churches: two in Oregon, two in the state of Washington, one in Missouri, and one in British Columbia, Canada.⁴

The First Church of Christ Scientist appears to have been modeled after the Pantheon in Rome, constructed 120-124 A.D.,⁵ and the Law Library at Columbia University in New York City, designed in 1893 by Charles F. McKim (1847-1909).⁶ The style of the church is basically Neo-Classical Revival, whose influence was felt nation-wide through the designs produced by the New York based architectural firm of McKim, Mead, and White. The style had its greatest impact on American architecture from the late 1890's to about 1920.⁷

The church is volumetric and plastic in design after the manner of Roman architecture, rather than composed of the logical series of verticals and horizontals that characterizes Greek temple architecture. The dome and the arch, virtually unknown in classical Greece but employed often by the Romans,

CONTINUATION SHEET

Statement of Significance

Page 11

911= =

form essential roles in Dunham's design.

The relationship between the design of the church and Christian Science worship are merely fortuitous. Christian Science practice emphasizes study and self-development rather than formal liturgy. The large size of the structure is due to the large congregation that existed in Orlando in the 1920's. There were four hundred members when construction on the church began. One half of the cost was provided by the local congregation, and the remainder of the sum was donated by the mother church in Boston.⁸

(Continued on Page 2)

¹Phillip A. Werndli: Historical Architectural and Archaeological Survey of Orlando, Florida, 12-18.

²Ibid.

³Eve Bacon, Orlando, a Centennial History, vol. 1, 292.

⁴Henry Whitney, Dictionary of American Architects, 183-4.

⁵Banister Fletcher, A History of Architecture on the Comparative Method.

⁶Francesco Passanti, "The Design of Columbia in the 1890's, McKim and His Client."

⁷Marcus Whiffen, American Architecture Since 1780, 169.

⁸Telephone conversation with Mary VanBrockle, member of the congregation, First Church of Christ Scientist, Orlando, Florida.

CONTINUATION SHEET

Statement of Significance

Page 2

911

In 1975 the Christian Scientist congregation abandoned the church on Rosalind Avenue, and a year later it was acquired by the congregation of St. George Orthodox Church. The congregation was formed in 1969 by those members of the Orthodox faith in the Orlando area who wished an independent organization to serve their communal and religious needs. The congregation first held services in the Maitland Bank in Maitland, Florida, a community just north of Orlando. After making use of several temporary facilities, the congregation moved to its present home in July, 1976.

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⁹Hamatie, Father John E., Letter to Carl Shiver, September 14, 1979.

HISTORIC SITE DATA SUPPLEMENT

Page 2

Present & Original Physical Appearance (use continuation sheet if necessary) (935 = =):

Reproductions of the original drawings of the elevations of the First Church of Christ Scientist show that the structure has not been altered significantly since it was completed in 1928. On the exterior, the church has a Greek Cross plan.

The east entrance facade is located on Rosalind Street, overlooking Lake Eola. The facade has a shallow hexastyle Roman Doric portico. The structure rests on a wedge-shaped stylobate to accommodate it to the gently sloping building site. The columns support only a wall cornice, while the open-bed pediment above rests on pedestals supported by massive antae flanking the portico.

Within the tympanum of the pediment is a lunette. There are square casement windows in the mezzanine level. These fill the wall bays, forming a continuous band across the facade.

There are three entrance doors in the east facade. All feature pilastered surrounds and pediments, and transom lights. The center door has a triangular pediment, while the flanking doors have segmental pediments.

The wall cornice, antae, pedestals and open-bed pediments are repeated on the north and south elevations. In each of the tympanums, however, is a bull's-eye window instead of a lunette. The wall cornice terminates at the inner edges of the antae. In the intervening wall surface is a tripartite window with round arches of equal height and width. Slender twisted columns separate the windows. Beneath the windows, on both elevations, is a balcony supported by brackets. Beneath this are square casement windows.

The only distinctive architectural feature on the rear of the church is a repetition of the open-bed pediment which springs directly from the wall surface rather than being supported by pedestals and antae.

On the interior, the sanctuary reflects the Greek Cross plan of the exterior. Although the floor space of the sanctuary is basically rectangular, the ceiling is vaulted. The system consists of a central domical vault and four short arms. The vault at the center of the crossing is not a true dome but a coved vault, whose four curved surfaces rise to an apex. The arms have semicircular vaults. Three of these are of the same length, but the one extending west--over the speaker's platform--is considerably shorter, forming only a shallow aedicule. The vaulting system is supported visually by a series of classical entablatures which rest on paneled pilasters.

Verbal Boundary Description

All of lots C & D, Block 4 in Orlando, being described by Rosalind Avenue on the west, Washington Street on the north, the property lines of lots C & D on the west, and Central Boulevard on the south

Site Size (Approx. Acreage of Property) Less than one (1) 833 = =

Major Bibliographic References

- Dunham, George Foote. Drawings and Specifications for the First Church of Christ Scientist, September, 1925. Blueprints in the possession of St. George Orthodox Church, Orlando, Florida.
- Fletcher, Banister. A History of Architecture on the Comparative Method. New York: Charles Scribner's
- Passanti, Francesco. "The Design of Columbia in the 1890's, McKim and His Client," Journal of the Society of Architectural Historians.
- Fleming, John, et al. The Penguin Dictionary of Architecture. Baltimore: Penguin Books, 1972.
- Werndli, Phillip A. and Robert S. Carr. Historical, Architectural and Archaeological Survey of Orlando, Florida. Miscellaneous Project Report Series No. 43. Tallahassee, Fl.: Division of Archives, History and Records Management, June, 1978.
- Whiffen, Marcus. American Architecture Since 1780. Cambridge, Mass.: Massachusetts Institute of Technology, 1969.

CONTINUATION SHEET

Present and Original Appearance

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The main seating areas for the congregation form an elliptical space around the speaker's platform. The flanking sections of this amphitheater embrace the two main stairwells which connect the sanctuary on the mezzanine with the foyer or narthex on the ground floor. To the rear or east side of the sanctuary, beneath the lunette, is a low balcony with additional seats. Access to the balcony is gained by stairways at either side of it.

None of the present liturgical furniture, icons, or pictorial representations are original features. Among the larger, non-portable religious images now found in the sanctuary are: the central windows on the north and south representing the "Nativity" and the "Resurrection" in stained glass, the murals flanking the speaker's platform showing the "Entry into Jerusalem" and the "Pentecost". Finally, in the apex of the domical vault is a tondo representing Christ as the "Pantocrator", or "Judge of Mankind".

The exterior of the building, the copper dome, which had been painted silver, was painted gold and a golden colored cross placed atop it. A sign bearing the present name of the church has been placed in the frieze above the columns of the main facade to cover the name, First Church of Christ Scientist, which had been cast permanently into the concrete surface.

Site No. 80r199
Site Name First Church of
Christ Scientist

ARCHITECTURAL SITE DATA SUPPLEMENT

ARCHITECT Dunham, George Foote (Orlando, Fl.) 872 = =
BUILDER Allardice and Allardice (Orlando, Fl.) 874 = =
STYLE Neo-Classical Revival 964 = =
PLAN TYPE Greek Cross 966 = =
EXTERIOR FABRIC(S) concrete 854 = =
STRUCTURAL SYSTEM(S) reinforced concrete 856 = =

FEATURE OF STRUCTURE (942):

PORCHES, VERANDAS, GALLERIES AND BALCONIES: Portico with colossal Roman Doric columns on east elevation; balconies on north and south elevations. 942 = =

FOUNDATION: concrete wall, continuous 942 = =

ROOF TYPE: dome 942 = =

SECONDARY ROOF STRUCTURE(S): gable 942 = =

CHIMNEY LOCATION: _____ 942 = =

WINDOW TYPE: casement 942 = =

MATERIALS (882):

CHIMNEY: _____ 882 = =

ROOF SURFACING: metal; terra cotta 882 = =

ORNAMENT EXTERIOR: concrete 882 = =

QUANTITATIVE DATA (950-960):

NO. OF STORIES 2 950 = =

NO. OF CHIMNEYS _____ 952 = =

NO. OF DORMERS _____ 954 = =

OTHER NOTABLE FEATURES OF BUILDING (FREE TEXT)

MAIN ENTRANCE: central

865 = =

WINDOW PLACEMENT: regular, nine (9) bays

865 = =

WINDOW SURROUNDS AND DECORATION: concrete arches and pediments

865 = =

EXTERIOR ORNAMENT AND COLOR: Grey, classical details of cast concrete
or cement compound

865 = =

INTERIOR COMMENTS: Classical details of cast plaster, stained glass
windows, murals, liturgical furniture

865 = =

OTHER (SPECIFY):

865 = =

MAJOR ALTERATIONS (FREE TEXT):

857 = =

OUTBUILDINGS (FEATURES OF SITE):

876 = =

SURROUNDINGS (CLASSIFICATION) commercial

864 = =

RELATIONSHIP TO SURROUNDINGS (FREE TEXT): Entrance facade faces park
surrounding Lake Eola

859 = =