

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

For NPS use only

National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form

received FEB 10 1986

date entered

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

M 13

1. Name

historic Central Presbyterian Church

and or common same

2. Location

street & number 201 Washington Street S.W.

n/a not for publication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 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	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> n/a 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
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input checked="" 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 Central Presbyterian Church, V.J. Yarbrough, Clerk of the Session

street & number 201 Washington Street

city, town Atlanta

n/a vicinity of

state Georgia 30303

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Superior Court

street & number Fulton County Courthouse

city, town Atlanta

state GA

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title See continuation sheet

has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

date  federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records

city, town

state

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## 7. Description

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**Condition**

excellent  
 good  
 fair

deteriorated  
 ruins  
 unexposed

**Check one**

unaltered  
 altered

**Check one**

original site  
 moved date \_\_\_\_\_

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**Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance**

The Central Presbyterian Church complex consists of four attached buildings: The main church (1885), the Rand Chapel (1950), the Campbell-Eagan Educational Building (1925) and the Oglesby Building (1968). The main church and the Rand Chapel are in the English Gothic style and have rough limestone on the main facades and plain brick on the others. The main church has a high bell tower with a pyramidal roof and truncated tower. An entrance foyer at street level has stairs leading to the sanctuary which is one level above the street; it retains its original stained-glass windows, stairs, wainscoting, plaster walls, and altar area. It seats 850. The Campbell-Eagan Building has a brick exterior, a slate roof and contains three floors and a basement. Its first floor contains small classrooms (now used as a day care center) with a second floor balcony with classrooms above which is a gymnasium with a balcony on two walls and a stage. The non-historic Rand Chapel is one story and seats 100 with pews, altar furnishings and stained glass windows. Outdoor spaces in the complex are the children's playground between the chapel and educational building and the entrance plaza to the Oglesby Building. The entire property is enclosed by an iron fence. The church sits directly west of the Georgia State Capitol and abuts the Shrine of the Immaculate Conception on the East and the Georgia Plaza Park on the south. Changes to the main church have mostly been in the basement, front doors, some re-working of the choir and altar area, and a new roof. The Campbell-Eagan Building has had minor alterations for its use as a day care center. The site once contained a fire station and a 1905 Sunday school building replaced in 1968 by the Oglesby Building. There are no outbuildings.



# 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 checked="" 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 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** 1885, 1925      **Builder/Architect** Edmund G. Lind, Architect (main church)  
Dougherty and Gardner (Campbell-Eagan Building)

**Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)**

Central Presbyterian Church is significant in architecture as a fine example of the use of the English Gothic style with a limestone facade for a late 19th-century church. It is also significant as a work of Edmund G. Lind (1829-1909), an English born architect who spent about a decade in Atlanta. When he designed this church he was already a Fellow of the A.I.A. Few of his works remain in Georgia, but many do in Baltimore. The church and the Campbell-Eagan Education Building constitute the historic components of the complex and reflect the church's historic religious and social mission. The two newer components of the complex, the Rand Chapel and the Oglesby Building, although not yet old enough to be considered historic, express the continuation of the church's dual role as a religious and social institution. The church is significant in religion as a Presbyterian church, one of the few in early Atlanta, which has always played a significant role in the city's religious makeup. It is important in its social/humanitarian role, for it established a public health clinic for babies in 1922 and thus has had a central role in assisting the underprivileged. It continues this role today with a day care center, full-fledged health clinic, and during the winters, a shelter for the homeless. These areas of significance support the property's eligibility under National Register Criteria A and C and Special Criteria A. It meets Special Criteria A, concerning churches, because it is an outstanding work of architecture, which retains its integrity, and was designed by one of the foremost architects in the nation at the time.

**Historical Narrative**

Central Presbyterian Church was organized in 1858 with thirty-nine members who split from Atlanta's original Presbyterian congregation. The church purchased a lot from Michael Bloomfield on South Collins Street (soon renamed Washington Street) across from the Atlanta City Hall/Fulton County Courthouse. The congregation met in City Hall until their church, a Greek Revival structure, was completed in 1860. The church survived the burning of most of Atlanta in September, 1864, during the Civil War. It was damaged as a result of the occupation of the building by Union troops who used the basement as a slaughter house, and a cannon shell had hit one of the columns. The church building continued to be used by the congregation, which continued to grow until the building became too small. As a result, it was torn down and the present building erected and completed in 1885. The present church was dedicated on October 4, 1885.

The architect for this edifice, Edmund G. Lind (1829-1909) London born and trained, had been in Atlanta only a short while, but was distinguished enough to have been made a "fellow" of the American Institute of Architects, a very high honor. His only other known surviving work from his time in Georgia is the Gwinnett County Courthouse in Lawrenceville. Mr. Lind returned to Baltimore, from whence he came. He left many fine works, including many churches, in that city.

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

See Continuation Sheet

# 10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property one acre

Quadrangle name Southwest Atlanta, GA

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

### UTM References

A 

1	6	7	4	1	8	6	0	3	7	3	7	2	7	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 nominated property is all the land owned by the church at this location. It is all that has ever been associated with the church. It is marked on the enclosed property map.

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

state n/a code county code

state code county code

# 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Kenneth H. Thomas, Jr., Historian

organization Historic Preservation Section  
Georgia Dept. of Natural Resources date January 3, 1986

street & number 270 Washington Street S.W. telephone (404) 656-2840

city or town Atlanta state GA 30334

# 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  
*Elizabeth A. Lyon*

title Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer date 1/22/86

### For NPS use only

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

*for* Shelley Byers  
Keeper of the National Register

Entered in  National Register

date 3-13-86

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_ date \_\_\_\_\_  
Chief of Registration

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Continuation sheet

Significance

Item number 8

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At the time this church building was under construction, the combined Atlanta City Hall/Fulton County Courthouse to the east was replaced by the Georgia State Capitol, whose cornerstone was laid in September, 1885, only a month before the new church was dedicated. The capitol was finished in 1889. With the removal of other churches that once faced the city hall square (the last one in the 1960s), Central Presbyterian remains the only local institution to face Atlanta's original town square.

The pastor in 1885, Rev. G.B. Strickler, established outreach programs to all areas of the city by launching a dozen mission Sunday Schools and five new churches by 1890. In 1907, the Brotherhood Class founded the Atlanta Union Mission to provide safe lodging and meals to transient men. The church established the Baby Clinic in 1922 to provide free medical services to children of needy families.

The church remained confined by the size of its original lot with dwellings and a store (later a fire station) on the north, and dwellings between it and the Second Baptist Church to the south until after 1900. Then the church acquired a lot to the South and erected a Sunday School Building (now gone), completed in 1906, and designed by the Atlanta firm of Butt and Morris. It was built to accomodate the expanding membership and the church's social committment to the community. After later purchasing the lot to the north, they built the Campbell-Eagan Building in 1925 to provide additional Sunday School space and to house many of the urban ministries provided by the church. It was designed by the firm of Dougherty and Gardner of Nashville. Edward E. Dougherty (1876-1943) an Atlanta native, studied at the Ecole des Beaux Arts in Paris and was noted for his church buildings, including the Druid Hills Baptist Church in Atlanta.

During the 1920s and 1930s, the flight to the suburbs began to affect the church membership, but in 1937 they made a committment to stay in the downtown area and continue to serve the community. From this committment came the title for the church's history, The Church That Stayed (1979).

On the northeast corner the Rand Chapel was erected in 1950, a gift of Fred L. Rand. It was designed by the Philadelphia firm of Thomas and Wagoner. The Chapel, which replaced the store/fire station, is open to the public all day, every day, to provide a place to meditate or accomodate meetings from nearby government offices.

The last building to be erected at this location is the Oglesby Building, a combination clinic/administration building, finished in 1968. It houses the church's administrative offices, and the Family Clinic, which continues to provide health care, health education, preventive treatment, and pastoral counseling to anyone seeking help. It was named for Dr. Stuart R. Oglesby, pastor from 1930-1958.

During the 1960's the church provided shelter and food to civil rights workers, people from all over the country attending the funeral of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr, the memorial for Dr. King a year after his death, and farmers who came to Atlanta on their way to Washington D.C. to present their grievances.

Central Presbyterian Church, as it enters the second century in its present edifice, continues its role of community committment and service established nearly a century ago.

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Continuation sheet

Bibliography

Item number

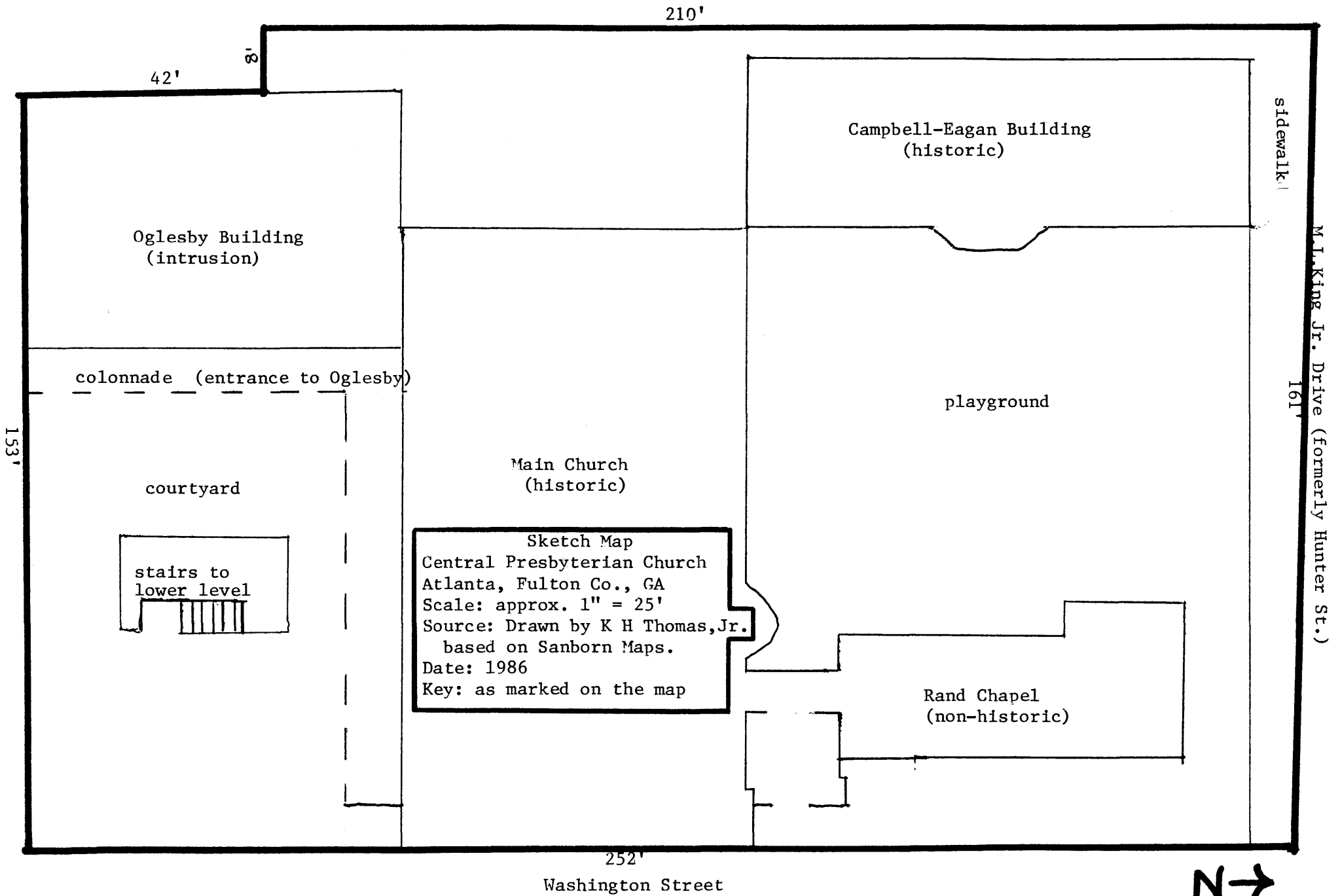
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1

Daniels, Irma. "Central Presbyterian Church." Historic Property Information Form, May 29, 1984. On file at the Historic Preservation Section, Department of Natural Resources, Atlanta, Georgia.

Smith, John Robert. The Church That Stayed. Atlanta, The Atlanta Historical Society, 1979.



Oglesby Building  
(intrusion)

colonnade (entrance to Oglesby)

courtyard

stairs to  
lower level

Main Church  
(historic)

Sketch Map  
Central Presbyterian Church  
Atlanta, Fulton Co., GA  
Scale: approx. 1" = 25'  
Source: Drawn by K H Thomas, Jr.  
based on Sanborn Maps.  
Date: 1986  
Key: as marked on the map

Campbell-Eagan Building  
(historic)

playground

Rand Chapel  
(non-historic)

sidewalk

M.L. King Jr. Drive (formerly Hunter St.)

161'

Washington Street

