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United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

FEB 3 1994

NATIONAL  
REGISTER

National Register of Historic Places  
Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name St. Mark's Episcopal Church

other names/site number N/A

2. Location

street & number 102 North 9th Street N/A  not for publication

city or town Haines City N/A  vicinity

state Florida code FL county Polk code 105 zip code 33845

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this  nomination  request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant  nationally  statewide  locally. ( See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Suzanne P. Walker / Deputy SHPO 1/21/94  
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

State Historic Preservation Officer, Division of Historical Resources  
State of Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria. ( See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:

- entered in the National Register.  
 See continuation sheet.
- determined eligible for the National Register  
 See continuation sheet.
- determined not eligible for the National Register.
- removed from the National Register.
- other, (explain:)

Edson H. Beall  
Signature of the Keeper

3/17/94  
Date of Action

Entered in the  
National Register

**5. Classification**

**Ownership of Property**  
(Check as many boxes as apply)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

**Category of Property**  
(Check only one box)

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

**Number of Resources within Property**  
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1	1	buildings
		sites
		structures
		objects
1	1	Total

**Name of related multiple property listing**  
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)  
Historic and Architectural Resources  
of Haines City

**Number of contributing resources previously listed  
in the National Register**  
0

**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

Religion/Church

**Current Functions**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

Religion/Church

**7. Description**

**Architectural Classification**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

Gothic Revival

**Materials**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Concrete

walls Stucco

roof Asbestos

other Stucco: Porch

**Narrative Description**

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

**8. Statement of Significance**

**Applicable National Register Criteria**

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A** Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B** Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C** Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D** Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

**Criteria Considerations**

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B** removed from its original location.
- C** a birthplace or grave.
- D** a cemetery.
- E** a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F** a commemorative property.
- G** less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

**Areas of Significance**

(Enter categories from instructions)

Exploration/Settlement

Architecture

**Period of Significance**

c. 1894-1925

**Significant Dates**

c. 1894

1921

1925

**Significant Person**

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

**Cultural Affiliation**

N/A

**Architect/Builder**

Unknown

**Narrative Statement of Significance**

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

**9. Major Bibliographical References**

**Bibliography**

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

**Previous documentation on file (NPS):**

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # \_\_\_\_\_
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # \_\_\_\_\_

**Primary location of additional data:**

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository:

St. Mark's Episcopal Church  
Name of Property

Polk, Florida  
County and State

### 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property Less than one

#### UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1 

1	7
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4	3	8	6	2	0
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3	1	0	9	1	6	0
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Zone Easting Northing

3 

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Zone Easting Northing

4 

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 See continuation sheet

#### Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

#### Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

### 11. Form Prepared By

name/title W. Carl Shiver, Historic Sites Specialist

organization Bureau of Historic Preservation date December 21, 1993

street & number 500 South Bronough Street telephone (904) 487-2333

city or town Tallahassee state Florida zip code 32399-0250

#### Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

#### Continuation Sheets

#### Maps

A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

#### Photographs

Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

#### Additional items

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

#### Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

name Trustees, St. Mark's Episcopal Church

street & number 102 North 9th Street telephone \_\_\_\_\_

city or town Haines City state Florida zip code 33845

**Paperwork Reduction Act Statement:** This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 *et seq.*).

**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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Section number 7 Page 1

St. Mark's Episcopal Church  
Description

Summary Paragraph

St. Mark's Episcopal Church is a one-story, wood frame, Gothic Revival style building located at 102 North Ninth Street. It was constructed in 1894 and is the only 19th century building still standing in Haines city. The church has a gable roof, and stands on a low concrete wall foundation. Its original drop siding has been covered with stucco. The church has an irregular ground plan that, in part, is the result of additions made to the structure during the 1920s. The most significant features of the building are found on the interior and include carved scissor trusses, church furniture, and stained glass windows.

Supporting Narrative

Exterior

St. Mark's Episcopal Church is basically a vernacular adaptation of the type of Gothic Revival style churches erected by the Episcopal Diocese in small towns and rural areas of Florida during the late nineteenth century. The one-story building measures approximately twenty by seventy feet, and contains a nave, chancel, sacristy and two entrance vestibules. The original wood shingle roof surfacing has been replaced with asbestos shingles.

The main part of the church and its additions are covered with steep gable roofs that have exposed rafters. A small wood cross (Photo 1) rises above the roof ridge at the gable of the main facade. The main entrance vestibule forms a short bay in the center of the main facade and contains stained glass lancet windows. The door in the main entrance consists of wood banded with steel straps and is crowned with a Gothic arched stained glass transom.

The south elevation displays a smooth wall surface interrupted by stained glass windows (Photo 2). A gable extension at the west (rear) end of the church contains the chancel and has also been fitted with stained glass windows. An ell found on the north elevation next to the chancel contains the sacristy in which the elements of the Eucharist are prepared (Photo 3).

A second small entrance vestibule is located near the northeast corner of the church and provides passage to the

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St. Mark's Episcopal Church  
Description

sheltered walkway that connects the church with the modern parish hall (Photos 4-6).

Interior

The interior of the church retain most of its original features from the period c. 1894-1925. The east vestibule contains its original wainscotting, chair rails, and wall plastering. The truss work in the nave and chancel areas is well-preserved. The main vestibule opens into the nave which has two rows of pews separated by a central aisle (Photo 7). The north vestibule (Photo 8) is located immediately to the right and has features similar to those in the main vestibule.

Eleven pews flank each side of the central aisle in the nave, which also contains a small organ. The plaster walls feature a dark wood wainscotting, and the interior of the nave is illuminated by the stained glass windows and light fixtures attached to the walls (Photos 7 and 9). Simple one by four planks form the door and window frames. Much of the late nineteenth century craftsmanship of the church is displayed in the interior of the roof, which consists of a double frame system that divides the roof into three bays (Photo 10). Carved scissors trusses with collar beams support rafters joined at the roof ridge. Purlins intersect the rafters and extend the length of the nave, providing contrast to the decorative diagonal decking of tongue in groove planks.

An arched opening separates the nave from the chancel, which is narrower and higher than the nave. Flanking the entranceway is a wall area reminiscent of the chancel screen found in many medieval churches. There is also a communion rail between the chancel and the nave. The chancel contains the altar, Bishop's chair, Rector's chair, choir pews, and a small pulpit (Photos 11, 13, and 14). Wainscot, chair rails, and plaster cover the wall surfaces. A double frame roof system similar to that in the nave supports the chancel roof (Photo 12). The sacristy room is found immediately to the north of the chancel and contains a restroom.

Alterations

The first major changes to the church came in 1921 when the building was repaired and somewhat enlarged. Improvements included the construction of a new chancel (now the east vestibule), sacristy (now the north vestibule), and entrance

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St. Mark's Episcopal Church  
Description

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porch. The exterior walls of the building were stuccoed and the interior walls were plastered and wainscoted. Amber glass replaced the broken original window panes and the interior was completely refurnished. Additional modifications were made to St. Mark's about 1925 to accommodate the growing congregation. The west entrance porch was enlarged and converted into the chancel. The present sacristy was added at this time and the original chancel became the east vestibule, while the old sacristy was converted into the north vestibule. The church has remained virtually unchanged since that time.

Noncontributing Resources

The only noncontributing building or resource on the site is the two-story, masonry and metal frame parish hall.

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St. Mark's Episcopal Church  
Photographs

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List of Photographs

1. St. Mark's Episcopal Church
2. 102 North Ninth Street, Haines City (Polk County), Florida
3. Sidney Johnston
4. 1992
5. Historic Property Associates
6. Front (East) Facade, Looking Northwest
7. Photo No. 1 Of 14

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

6. South Elevation, Looking North
7. Photo No. 2 Of 14
  
6. North Elevation, Looking South
7. Photo No. 3 Of 14
  
6. Breezeway and Parish Hall, Looking West
7. Photo No. 4 Of 14
  
6. West Elevation of Parish Hall, Looking East
7. Photo No. 5 Of 14
  
6. Breezeway and Parish Hall, Looking East
7. Photo No. 6 Of 14
  
6. Interior, Nave, Looking West
7. Photo No. 7 Of 14
  
6. Interior, North Vestibule, Looking North
7. Photo No. 8 Of 14
  
6. Interior, North Wall, Looking North
7. Photo No. 9 Of 14
  
6. Interior, Nave Trusses, Looking East
7. Photo No. 10 Of 14
  
6. Interior, Chancel and Altar, Looking West
7. Photo No. 11 Of 14
  
6. Interior, Chancel Trusses, Looking West
7. Photo No. 12 Of 14



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St. Mark's Episcopal Church  
Photographs

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- 6. Interior, Bishop's Chair, Looking South
- 7. Photo No. 13 Of 14

- 6. Interior, Rector's Chair and Pre Dieux, Looking North
- 7. Photo No. 14 Of 14

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**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 8 Page 1

St. Mark's Episcopal Church  
Significance

Summary Paragraph

St. Mark's Episcopal Church is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places at the local level under criteria A and C in the areas of Exploration and Settlement and Architecture. The church is the only surviving 19th century building in Haines City and is architecturally significant for being the earliest surviving example of a Gothic Revival style church in the community. The church was erected c. 1894, and although alterations and additions were made to the building in 1921 and 1925, the structure retains much of its original character. St. Mark's is particularly important to local residents for its historical associations with the founding of the community. The church contributes to the "Historic and Architectural Resources of Haines City" multiple property group as defined under sections E and F of the cover document.

Supporting Narrative

The congregation of St. Mark's Episcopal Church was founded during the late 1880s and sought at the beginning of the last decade of the 19th century to build a church for its growing membership. In June of 1894, the group obtained a commitment from the diocese to supply building materials to construct a church on a plot of land that had been donated for the purpose. The site chosen lay on a small rise east of the railroad and near the emerging commercial district. The church that was built in 1894 was a simple, rectangular building with drop siding and a small entrance porch on the west. The congregation had no permanent pastor until 1897, when Samuel Hodgman, one of the founders of the congregation who had served as a deacon, was ordained as rector. The devastating freezes of the winter of 1894-1895 prompted many residents of Haines City to move away, severely reducing the membership of the church.

Hodgman died in 1900, and for two years the parish members met only on an irregular schedule. Shortly afterward the congregation disbanded, and the building was used only occasionally over the next twenty years. The poorly maintained structure slowly deteriorated, although some repairs were made in 1918 by city residents who wished to preserve the landmark. It was during the boom years of the 1920s that a revitalized Episcopal congregation renovated and modified the little church.

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St. Mark's Episcopal Church  
Significance

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The impetus for the rehabilitation efforts came from Samuel Ward, a retired Episcopal rector who moved to Haines City from Ohio in 1918. The dramatic rise in the population of the community following World War I encouraged Ward to increase church membership and to promote the revitalization of the existing church building. In 1921, the building was extensively renovated and somewhat enlarged. Later that same year, nearly three decades after it was built, the church was reconsecrated by Cameron Mann, the Episcopal Bishop of South Florida. Further modifications were made to St. Mark's about 1925 to accommodate the growing congregation, but the church has remained virtually unchanged since that time.

Architectural Significance

St. Mark's Episcopal Church is an important architectural landmark in Haines City. The Gothic Revival style building is the only example of nineteenth century Gothic Revival style architecture in Haines City and the only structure in the community surviving from the last century.

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St. Mark's Episcopal Church  
Bibliography

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Bibliography

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- Haines City Herald. September 14, 1918.
- Hetherington, M.F. History of Polk County, Florida. St. Augustine, 1928; facs. ed., Chuluota, 1971.
- McNeely, Ed. Century in the Sun: A History of Polk County, Florida. Bartow, 1961.
- Pennington, Edgar. "The Episcopal Church in South Florida, 1764-1892," Tequesta I (March, 1941), pp. 47-48.
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## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 10 Page 1

St. Mark's Episcopal Church  
Boundary Description & Justification

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### Verbal Boundary Description

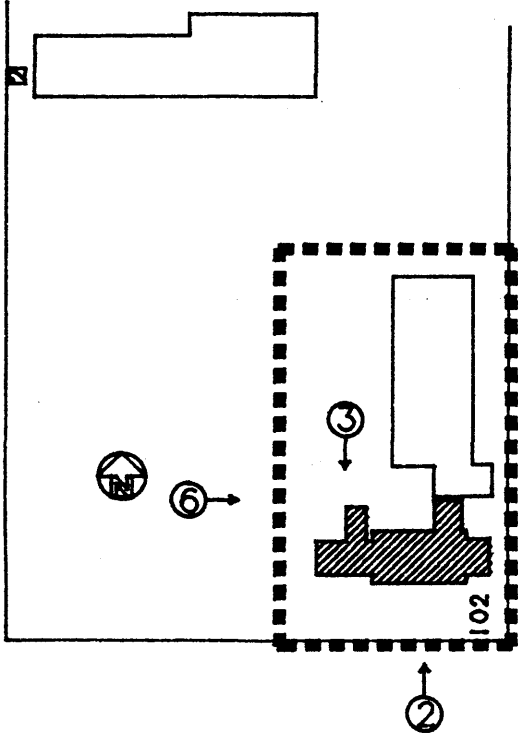
The official boundaries of St. Mark's Episcopal Church are those shown on the map.

### Boundary Justification

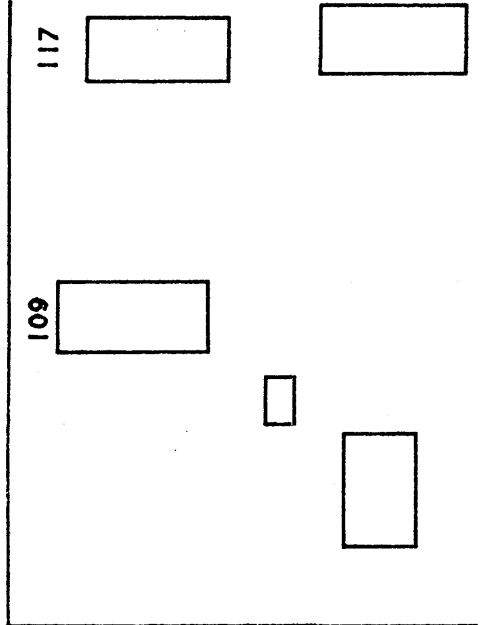
The above boundaries encompass all of the contributing resources historically associated with the construction and development of the St. Mark's Episcopal Church during the period c. 1894-1925.

ST. MARK'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH  
 SITE PLAN  
 HAINES CITY, POLK COUNTY

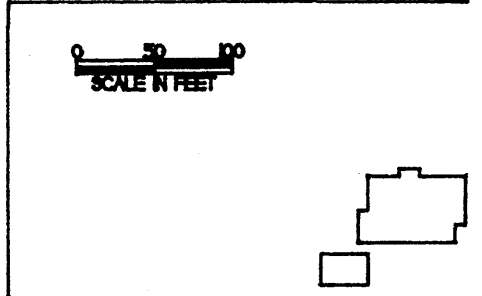
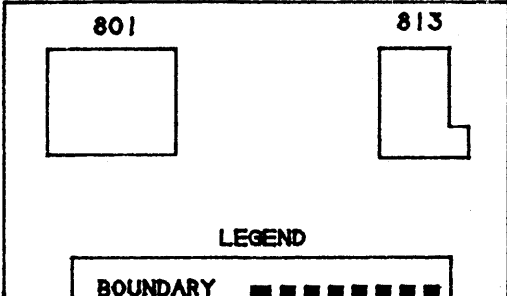
N. 8TH STREET



N. 9TH STREET



JONES AVENUE



0 50 100  
 SCALE IN FEET

LEGEND

BOUNDARY	-----
CONTRIBUTING BLDG.	▨
NONCONTRIBUTING BLDG.	□
PHOTOGRAPH NUMBERS	○→

ST. MARK'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH  
FLOOR PLAN  
HAINES CITY, POLK COUNTY

