

# DATA SHEET

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

PHO 698709

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	FEB 5 1979
DATE ENTERED	MAR 21 1979

## 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

A.M.E.

St. Peter African Methodist Episcopal Church

AND/OR COMMON

same

### 2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

1201 Cadiz Street

— NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

New Orleans

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

— VICINITY OF

2nd - Lindy Boggs

STATE

Louisiana

CODE

022

COUNTY

Orleans

CODE

071

### 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"/> MUSEUM
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	<b>PUBLIC ACQUISITION</b>	<b>ACCESSIBLE</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT
			<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL
			<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY
			<input type="checkbox"/> PARK
			<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
			<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
			<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
			<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

### 4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

St. Peter African Methodist Episcopal Church

STREET & NUMBER

1201 Cadiz Street

CITY, TOWN

New Orleans

— VICINITY OF

STATE

Louisiana 70115

### 5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Office of Conveyance

STREET & NUMBER

421 Loyola Avenue

CITY, TOWN

New Orleans

STATE

Louisiana 70112

### 6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Louisiana Historic Sites Survey

DATE

1978

— FEDERAL  STATE — COUNTY — LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

State Historic Preservation Office

CITY, TOWN

Baton Rouge

STATE

Louisiana

## 7 DESCRIPTION

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

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

St. Peter African Methodist Episcopal Church is located on the corner of Cadiz and Coliseum streets in a late 19th century urban residential neighborhood consisting of one and two story frame buildings.

The church itself largely reflects construction work done in 1890 and 1924, although parts of the structure, including the foundation, date back further. The documentation suggests that an 1858 building was modified in 1890 and again in 1924. But the modifications were so extensive that the earlier building has been almost completely covered up. Therefore the present building must essentially be considered an 1890 building which was remodeled in 1924.

The building has a second floor nave with a ground floor general purpose room. Originally access to the nave was provided by several staircases set at various corners of the building. Whether all four corners had staircases is not known, but two of the corners have them today. The nave has a 6-bay hall type plan with a chancel flanked by two small sacristies. There are also a pair of small transept arms at each end of the nave, two of which contain the aforementioned staircases. At the corner of the two intersecting streets is a corner tower, which rises a full two stories above the nave.

In 1924 the wood frame church was sheathed in brick up to the cornice line, leaving the wooden shingle style tower exposed. Also in 1924 a corner entrance was created under a double corner arch with a new staircase, which gave direct access to the second floor nave from the street. An upper gallery was built at the rear of the nave, to give additional seating. These last two alterations required the installation of a floor and new partitions which caused the stained glass window pattern to be broken up on the interior. But the windows remain intact.

The nave is simple in character with an exposed truss ceiling and ancillary areas (such as transept arms and the chancel) screened by wood and plaster arches. Nave windows are formed of colored glass panes, of both diamond and rectangular shape, set in wood muntins. The great frontal nave window is flanked by small circular windows, and there is a small circular window in the gable. The most noteworthy feature of the exterior is the two-stage shingled tower. Its boxey lower stage has rectangular openings with louvers which are cut to resemble scalloped shingling. Its octagonal upper stage has a handsome bell cast roof. The two front doors are surmounted by gables on brackets. The 1924 brick facade is partially treated with crenelations.



## 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Blassingame, John W. Black New Orleans: 1860-1880. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1973.

George, Carol V. R. Segregated Sabbaths: Richard Allen and the Rise of Independent Black Churches, 1760-1840. New York: Oxford University Press, 1973.

(continued)

## 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY less than one

UTM REFERENCES

A 

1	5	7	7	95	9	0	3	3	1	3	6	5	0
ZONE			EASTING				NORTHING						

B 

ZONE			EASTING				NORTHING						

C 

ZONE			EASTING				NORTHING						

D 

ZONE			EASTING				NORTHING						

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Boundaries are the exterior walls of the building, as it occupies the entire lot.

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
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## 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Claude J. Bean, Steward and Trustee

ORGANIZATION

St. Peter African Methodist Episcopal Church

DATE

October 31, 1978

STREET & NUMBER

1925 Mandeville Street

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

New Orleans

STATE

Louisiana 70117

## 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.

SIGNATURE

*C. Bernard Davis*

TITLE

State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE

1-8-79

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

*Charles H. ...*  
DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHAEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

DATE

3-21-79

ATTEST

*Marcelle ...*  
KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

3-21-79

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

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the black congregation assembled at a house at Plaquemine (later Coliseum) and Bordeaux streets, a few blocks from the church building.

Late in the 1860's, St. Peter African Methodist Episcopal Church was incorporated in Jefferson City under the state Statute of Corporations of 1849. In 1867, the congregation purchased and moved into a building on two lots of the square bounded by Coliseum, Chesnutt, Bordeaux, and Valance streets. The membership increased steadily over the next few years, and a larger building was soon needed.

Meanwhile the membership of the (white) Jefferson City Methodist Episcopal Church South had grown, and in 1876 it moved to a new building at 3900 St. Charles Avenue. It is now known as the Rayne Memorial United Methodist Church. On March 31, 1877, the white congregation sold their old building to the St. Peter African Methodist Episcopal Church in return for a consideration of \$4,000. This was, of course, the same building on whose ground floor the African Methodist Episcopal Church had worshipped prior to the Civil War.

John Blassingame's Black New Orleans: 1860-1880 (Chicago, 1973) provides a means of placing St. Peter's African Methodist Episcopal Church in some degree of perspective with other black churches in the New Orleans area in that period. Blassingame notes that during 1860-1880, "The strongest Protestant church in the Negro community was the African Methodist Episcopal" (p. 149). In 1860, he notes, there were four African Methodist Episcopal churches in New Orleans. (Presumably this does not include St. Peter, since Jefferson City was still not part of the city.) In 1873 there were ten African Methodist Episcopal churches in New Orleans. (This figure probably does include St. Peter, since Jefferson City was annexed in 1870.)

The church building has been twice remodeled since 1877, once in 1890 and again in 1924. The only names of the building's architects and contractors available are for 1924. The architect was Edward Ganet, and the contractor was A. L. Riley. The cost of the remodeling work of 1924 was \$6,000.

There are no figures available on the church's membership prior to 1915, as extensive church records do not survive from that time. Between 1915 and 1960, the membership totaled over 400. The current membership is about 300.

St. Peter African Methodist Episcopal Church has always played an important role in the life of the neighborhood around it, particularly in the twentieth century. In the 1920's the church provided space in its ground floor for

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practical nursing classes taught by the staff of Touro Infirmary. During the 1930's, it provided similar space for secretarial and business classes. It also provided space for an employment office associated with the relief programs of the New Deal, especially the WPA. People would come into the office and register for work. They were put to work on various government projects in return for food, clothing, and a small cash income.

During the 1950's, the church again provided space for practical nursing classes, this time taught by staff from the public schools. In 1954 local chapters of the Boy Scouts of America and the Explorers were organized at the church. In 1956, a chapter of the Cub Scouts was organized. In 1974 the Cub Scout pack was awarded a citation by President Nixon.

During the Civil Rights Movement of the 1960's, the church provided space on its ground floor for classes in voter registration taught by students from Tulane and Loyola universities.

St. Peter African Methodist Episcopal Church is also the mother church for three other African Methodist Episcopal churches in the area: Mount Zion African Methodist Episcopal Church in Bridge City, which dates from the early 1950's; St. Peter African Methodist Episcopal Church in Carrollton, which dates from 1920; and St. Luke African Methodist Episcopal Church, located at the corner of Congress and Florida Walk streets, which dates from 1924.

Prominent citizens who have been members of St. Peter African Methodist Episcopal Church include Israel M. Augustine, Jr., Judge, Section I, Criminal District Court, Parish of Orleans; Duplain Rhodes, Jr., prominent businessman; and Dr. William R. Adams, Jr., surgeon.

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Interviews with members of St. Peter African Methodist Episcopal Church,  
especially Rev. Halley R. Harris and Mrs. C. V. Taylor.

Jefferson Parish Conveyance Records.

New Orleans Conveyance Records.

Russ, Fannie Rayne and George Russ Ross, One Hundred Years of Rayne Memorial.

St. Peter African Methodist Episcopal Church Records.