

PH 0504793

DATA SHEET

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED
DATE ENTERED
SEP 26 1977
AUG 10 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. John's Episcopal Church

AND/OR COMMON

LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

211 North Monroe Street

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Tallahassee

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

2nd

STATE

Florida

VICINITY OF

CODE

12

COUNTY

Leon

CODE

073

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	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL
			<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY
			<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
			<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
			<input type="checkbox"/> PARK
			<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
			<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION

OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Rector, Wardens and Vestry of St. John's

STREET & NUMBER

211 North Monroe Street

CITY, TOWN

Tallahassee

STATE

Florida

VICINITY OF

LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Leon County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Tallahassee, Florida

STATE

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Tallahassee Capitol Center Survey 1975 (MPRS No. 30)

DATE

May, 1975

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Dept. of State, Division of Archives, History, & Records Mgt.

CITY, TOWN

R.A. Gray Building,

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

St. John's Episcopal Church is one of a few brick, Gothic Revival churches in Florida. The gable roofed, one-story structure is located at the northeast corner of Monroe Street and Call Street. Oriented on an east-west axis the structure is the key element of a complex of parish buildings. The church lot is confined on the two street sides by an old brick retaining wall which is buttressed as is the church. To the north and east is the parish hall and education building forming an ell, separated from the sanctuary by a courtyard. The main exterior feature of the church is a large square bell tower attached to the southwest corner. The chancel extends to the east of the nave forming a small gabled wing. To the south of the chancel is the sacristy and robe room which connects the church to a small chapel which was added in the 1920's.

The facade (main elevation) of the building is on the west. At the center of the elevation is one of the main entries to the nave. The surrounds for this entrance protrude from the face of the wall forming a gablet. The opening contains large double paneled doors with nine square lights each and is set within a large compound drop arch. Above the doors is a large transom of leaded stained glass with a cross and crown motif. A triangular opening, probably for a decorative window, is located above the arch and within the gablet. To either side of the entrance are fixed, leaded stained glass windows set in drop arches with granite sills. (All of the windows in the church are similar to these in form and composition with rare exception.) Above the entrance within the main gable are three stained glass windows set in lancet arches. The center window is of Christ. It is flanked on either side by shorter lance windows. At the north end of this facade is the west face of a small vestibule. The vestibule is defined by functional three tier buttresses (which are repeated regularly around the church exterior). Between the buttresses is a large drop arch with brick infill. (This may have been intended for a window or secondary opening.) Above the arch is a small segmental arched opening containing a stained glass window. The west face of the tower is at the south end of the west facade. It is also outlined by buttresses and contains a drop arch identical to the one on the vestibule at the north end. Above the drop arch is a lancet window of stained glass. Immediately above this window is a lancet opening containing louvers. The tower is capped by a corbeled parapet which extends around all four sides as do the louvered openings at the third level.

The south facade is dominated by the tower; at the base is the second main entrance (the primary entrance today). This opening is set in a gablet with a compound arch forming the surrounds of the double paneled doors and leaded transom, as on the west facade. Buttresses flank this opening. Above the entrance is a stained glass lancet window. To the east of the tower along the remainder of the south elevation are six bays of alternating drop arch windows and double buttresses. The extreme eastern portion of the facade is composed of the chapel addition which is newer but in keeping with the stylistic theme of the main church.

The north elevation is similar in composition to the south with two notable exceptions. At the west end is the third main entrance contained in a small gable roof wing which extends to the north from the building forming a vestibule. The treatment of the entrance is identical to the one at the base

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of the tower on the south elevation. Above the entrance are two small lancet windows of stained glass. In the gable end of the vestibule wing is a trefoil shape opening with brick infill, probably intended for a window. A second gable roof wing extends partly from the easternmost bay of the nave and partly from the chancel wing. This northeastern wing is a later addition which reflects the style of the church in many ways. The north facade of the wing is assymetrical. A large, double door entrance set in a gablet containing a compound arch as on the main entrances of the building is located at the western end of this elevation. Offsetting this massive entrance is a very narrow lancet, leaded window. Centered in the gable above is a small drop arch opening with leaded glass.

The ^{FK} north facade is composed of the ^{FL} north gable of the nave and the gable end of the chancel wing. The facade of the chancel has only one opening, a rose window high in the gable. Below this is a large drop arch shaped brick construction which is corbeled out from the face of the wall. A recent alteration to this facade is a small fountain at the base of the wall which is set in a round arch of brick. In the gable end of the nave gable and commences in an opening at the ridge of the roof.

The nave of the church is approached through one of the three main doorways. The west entrance opens directly into the nave. The north and south doors open into vestibules from which access to the nave is gained through single panel doors. The nave is typical of many Gothic Revival churches as they were designed during the late nineteenth century. The walls are plaster with wood wainscot. The most dramatic element of the interior is the open ceiling area which is dominated by complex open trussing based on a combination hammer-beam-kingpost system. The chancel furniture is composed of heavily carved wood pieces with gothic motif. The alter is of heavy carved wood in a repeating theme of trefoil arches and quatrefoil medallions. The back piece of the alter is the most ornate piece of furniture in the entire building. It is composed of a multitude of arches, and pinnacles with crockets.

St. John's remains significantly unaltered with the exception of the wings off the east end. The brick church is a fine example of church architecture in Florida.

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 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

+1881

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The physical plant of St. John's Episcopal Church possesses considerable significance as an excellent example of Neo-Gothic architecture. When considered as a congregation - a social and religious unit - as opposed to a building, St. John's Episcopal has historical significance as well. St. John's was formed in 1827 and was the third Episcopal congregation to be organized in Florida. After some difficulties had been overcome, a church structure was completed in 1838. Members of the Tallahassee congregation in its earlier decades included many men of importance in economic and political realms; Richard Keith Call, Thomas Randolph and his son-in-law, Francis Eppes Col. Robert Gamble, Governors Thomas Brown and John Branch were all communicants of the church during the Territorial Period of Florida's history (1821-1845). Early in the 1850's the Diocese of Florida as a separate entity came into being, and the first Bishop elected to serve only Florida, F.H. Rutledge also served for several years as rector at St. John's. Although the Tallahassee church was not officially a cathedral, it functioned as such until 1872. After 1867, the Bishops lived in Jacksonville rather than Tallahassee.

The parish which St. John's serves expanded steadily and maintained a position of stability and leadership within the diocese both before and after the Civil War. In fact, the Tallahassee and nearby Monticello parishes were the only ones in Florida to escape serious direct consequences of the events of that conflict. Early in 1879, the original church building, the rectory, and a parish schoolhouse located on the same property were all destroyed in a fire. Although the structures had not been insured, a new church was soon underway. Meanwhile, the congregation met in the Leon County Courthouse until it, too burned in April, 1879, and then held services in the Assembly chambers of the Florida State Capitol. The church structure being nominated was first used in the spring of 1881 although parts of it were still incomplete as late as 1887. Within a few months of its first use, the western or front portion of the church (still unfinished) was destroyed in a storm but was soon rebuilt according to the original plans. St. John's Episcopal Church was consecrated in 1888, since which time it has continued to serve in the Tallahassee community. Additions have been built on the eastern end of the building, but it is the 1880's portion of the structure which is being nominated to the National Register. ✓

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

See continuation sheet

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA *less than one*

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY LT 1

UTM REFERENCES

A

16	761180	3370910
ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING

B

ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING

C

--	--	--

D

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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 *See continuation sheet*

NAME / TITLE

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, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

DATE

8/10/78

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

ATTEST:

DATE

8-7-78

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

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Carter, W.H. "History of St. John's Church, Tallahassee,"
Appendix C in [Journal of the] Semcentennial of the Diocese
of Florida, January 18-19, 1888. Jacksonville: n.p., 1889.

Cushman, Joseph D., Jr. A Goodly Heritage: The Episcopal
Church in Florida, 1821-1892. Gainesville: University
of Florida Press, 1965.

Florida. Department of State, Division of Archives, History,
and Records Management. "Tallahassee Capitol Center Survey:
Report." Miscellaneous Project Report Series, No. 30.
Tallahassee, 1975.

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Verbal Boundary Description

All of Lots 109, 110, 111, and 112 in the North
Addition, Tallahassee, Florida

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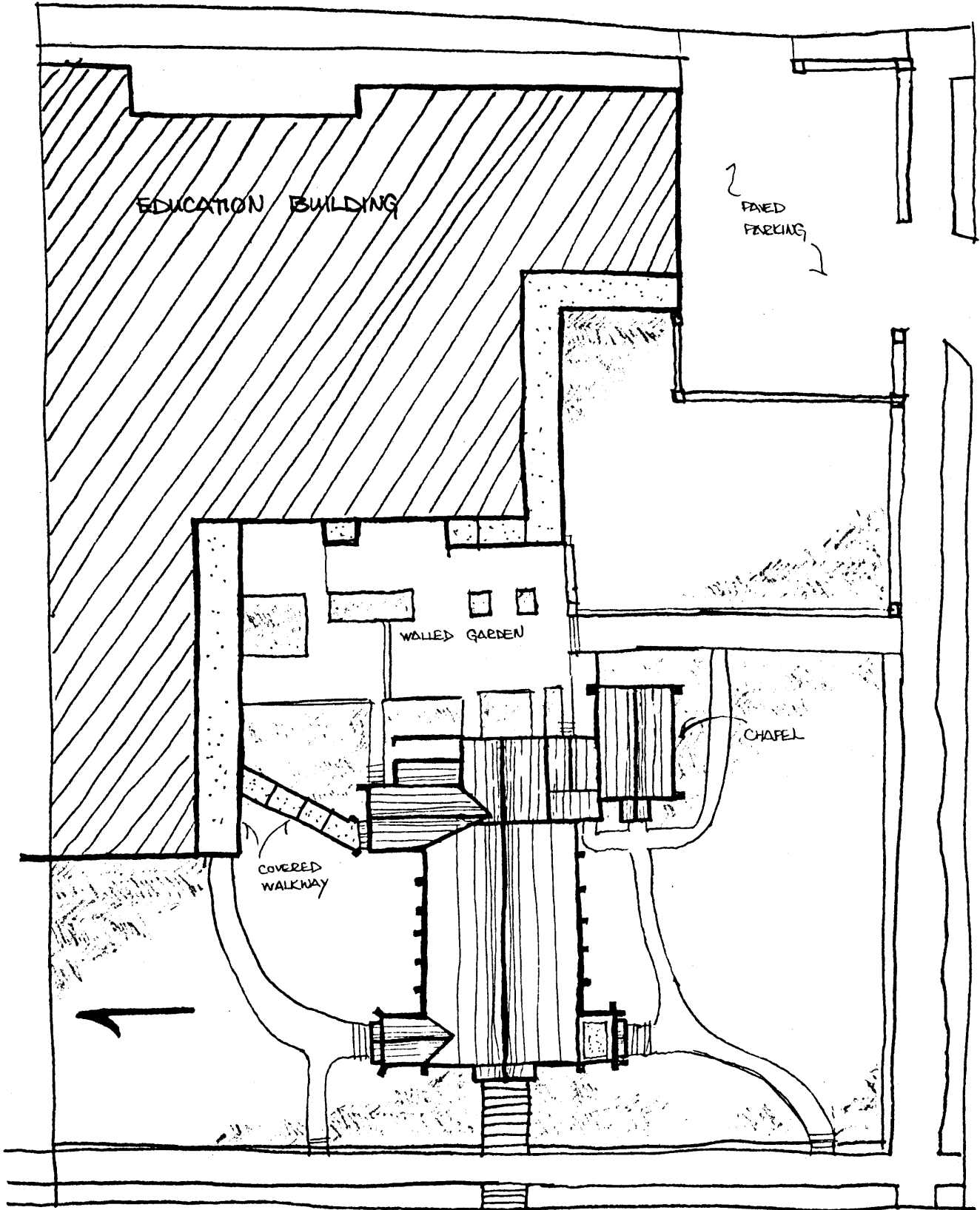
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Diane D. Greer, Historic Sites Specialist February, 1975
Division of Archives, History, & Records Management
Department of State (904) 487-2333
The Capitol
Tallahassee, Florida 32304

Phillip A. Werndli, Historic Sites Specialist February, 1975
Division of Archives, History, & Records
Management (904) 487-2333
Department of State
The Capitol
Tallahassee, Florida 32304

Dr. Mildred L. Fryman, Historian February, 1975
Division of Archives, History, & Records
Management (904) 487-2333
Department of State
The Capitol
Tallahassee, Florida 32304

← N. CALHOUN STREET →



← E. CALL STREET →

ST. JOHN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH
TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA.

(NO SCALE)

← N. MONROE STREET →