

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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RECEIVED JUL 12 1978

DATE ENTERED NOV 17 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

North Avenue Presbyterian Church

AND/OR COMMON

North Avenue Presbyterian Church

LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

607 Peachtree Avenue, N. E.

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Atlanta

VICINITY OF

5th - Fowler

STATE

CODE

COUNTY

CODE

Georgia

13

Fulton

121 ✓

CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

OWNERSHIP

STATUS

PRESENT USE

__DISTRICT

__PUBLIC

OCCUPIED

__AGRICULTURE

__MUSEUM

BUILDING(S)

PRIVATE

__UNOCCUPIED

__COMMERCIAL

__PARK

__STRUCTURE

__BOTH

__WORK IN PROGRESS

__EDUCATIONAL

__PRIVATE RESIDENCE

__SITE

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

ACCESSIBLE

__ENTERTAINMENT

RELIGIOUS

__OBJECT

__IN PROCESS

YES: RESTRICTED

__GOVERNMENT

__SCIENTIFIC

__BEING CONSIDERED

__YES: UNRESTRICTED

__INDUSTRIAL

__TRANSPORTATION

__NO

__MILITARY

__OTHER:

OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

North Avenue Presbyterian Church ✓

STREET & NUMBER

607 Peachtree Street, N. E.

CITY, TOWN

Atlanta

VICINITY OF

STATE

Georgia

LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Fulton County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Atlanta

STATE

Georgia

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Historic and Architectural Survey of Fulton County

DATE

__FEDERAL STATE __COUNTY __LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Historic Preservation Section, Department of Natural Resources

CITY, TOWN

Atlanta

STATE

Georgia

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

EXCELLENT

GOOD

FAIR

DETERIORATED

RUINS

UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

UNALTERED

ALTERED

CHECK ONE

ORIGINAL SITE

MOVED DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The North Avenue Presbyterian Church is a twin-towered building of Romanesque design located on the southeastern corner of Peachtree Street and North Avenue. The central area of the church consists of a nave divided by a center aisle and covered by a pitched roof. At the nave's eastern end is a platform which projects into the building's central portion. This platform supports a pulpit and communion table and behind the platform are areas for the choir and organ. Leading into the church's nave are a triple-arched vestibule and narrow narthax. Flanking the southeast end of the vestibule is a turret which rises only slightly more than does the vestibule. The northwest end of the vestibule is flanked by a tower of larger proportions.

The exterior of the building is built of cut granite laid in random ashlar. The stone comprising the arches and other structural features is of the same quality and color. The play of light and dark on the variegated exterior surfaces indicates the rustication of the facades.

The Peachtree Street facade of the church is the most impressive of the building. The northwest tower, joined on its left by a small narthax area, is divided into three zones. The first two zones are defined by strip buttresses at the towers' corners. These buttresses begin at the bottom of the third and highest zone. They remain one width until they reach the lowest or first zone, where they are stepped out. Further accentuating the difference between the first two zones are variations in window treatment. The lowest zone contains one large arched type window which is divided by a mullion and transom. The second zone contains three ribbon windows joined by stone columns and lintel. The third zone is set off by a stringcourse. Two elongated arches open into the church's bell. Above the arches is another stringcourse, and the tower is topped with battlements. On the tower's right is a triple arched vestibule. The vestibule is raised above street level so that a flight of seven steps was needed to connect the two. Like all arches in the church, those of the vestibule are rounded. However, the stoutness of the supporting columns makes the vestibule arches faintly resemble the Syrian arch. The columns are without fluting, and the capitals are of a stylized foliage motif. The arches support a high wall which contains the entry to a balcony located in the sanctuary's rear. A stringcourse projects from the exterior wall before three stained glass windows are reached. Centered above the three arches, these windows once divided a wall which ends with a level course. Recessed, yet plainly visible above the vestibule is the pitched roof and a pediment-like area. A large rose window pierces the triangular masonry. To the right of the vestibule is a turret topped with a shallow conical roof. The turret wall has two windows, an arched stained glass one above a stained glass one of rectangular shape. A stringcourse projects above these windows, and the curved walls end in a battlement. To the left of the turret is a 1950 addition in the same rusticated stonework.

The north facade of the structure reveals that the church is of two-story construction. A lower level of sash windows indicates the existence of an area which

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originally contained classroom space. Above these are the stained glass windows of the sanctuary. The window closest to the tower is rectangular in shape while the remaining ones are of the arched type. Originally, two smaller arched windows flanked a larger one, but a 1960 addition necessitated the inclusion of two more arched types to the left of the originals. The smaller windows are divided by transoms, while the larger one is divided by a series of five circles, two arches, and a smaller rectangle. The larger window is accentuated further since it is centered in a wall dormer. The 1960 addition to the east end of the building contains an ambulatory which projects from the north wall. The lower level of this addition contains a portico which leads into the church's chapel. Strip buttresses project at intervals on the north facade. The south facade is essentially the same as the north except that the 1960 addition there has exterior walls of red brick. This facade is not clearly visible as a parking deck is adjacent to the building.

The eastern face of the building is also not clearly visible. On the lower level of the building, stained glass windows appear. These were installed in the 1950 renovation of the church. Since the 1960 extension of the sanctuary occurred over a parking area which connected the eastern face of the building and a nearby church building of Gothic design, this wall and gable is of plain design and not readily visible. Hence, the eastern facade is of two parts of which the upper portion projects eastward over a parking area and lower portion of the face.

The interior design of North Avenue Presbyterian Church is of a simple, yet rich design. Central doors flanked by two rectangular stained glass windows lead into a narrow hall/narthax. This hall connects the two larger areas created by the tower and turret, and these entrance areas also have doors which lead outside to the vestibule. The turret also contains a staircase which provides access to both the balcony above the sanctuary and the offices below. Since the upper half of the interior wall of the hallway is clear glass, the nave is immediately visible upon entering the church. The nave has a center aisle and side aisles which lead directly to a raised platform at the church's eastern end. Battered walls slope directly to the ceiling. The lower third of the walls are covered with painted paneling while the upper portion of the wall contains stained glass windows. The positioning of these windows is identical on both sides of the nave. Pastel colors give the original three arched windows a distinct softness which reveals their origins in the Tiffany Studio. The stronger primary colors of the last two windows on either side indicate their more recent design. At the eastern end of the nave is a projecting platform of the same paneling found on the walls. Behind this platform is an area occupied by the choir and organ. The difference between these two areas is defined by an arch quite similar to the proscenium arch found in many theaters. Although the walls on either side of the arch were added in 1960, the arch and platform were moved twenty feet from their 1901 location to their present position. The 1960 addition added

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seating for some two hundred church members. Ribbed supports begin where the wall curves upward and continue along the ceiling. Two run the length of the nave and flank both sides of a shallow dome. Ribbed supports also run the width of the nave at periodic intervals. The supports end in a stylized floral motif. In the center of the dome is a multi-colored skylight of geometric design which was added in the 1970's. Another recent addition is a metal chandelier. Its octagonal shape is very similar to the Romanesque chandelier in Charlemagne's Palatine Chapel which was begun during the late eighth century in Aachen, Germany. To the rear of the church is a rose window which is partially hidden by a balcony. The balcony contains original pews while those below were installed in 1960. Today, the church is carpeted in gold, and the walls are of a pastel gold color. Paneling is of the same pastel gold as well as a deeper tone of gold and muted green. Originally, the church was uncarpeted, and the color scheme was white and green with paneling and ribbed supports stained a dark color.

Completed in 1901, the building originally stood among large homes of the Victorian era. Today, the church's setting is much more urban as high-rise office and apartment buildings and single-story commercial structures surround the facility. The north and west facades of the building remain unaltered. In 1960, the east end of the sanctuary was extended some twenty feet, and during the same year, an adjoining activities facility was built on the building's south face. The internal composition of the sanctuary remains essentially the same as in 1901. The area below the sanctuary was originally used as classroom space. During a 1950 renovation this area was subdivided into church offices. Painting and the installation of carpeting are periodic alterations made on the building.

Although Alexander C. Bruce and Thomas H. Morgan's original design for the North Avenue Presbyterian Church has been modified, it still retains the Romanesque quality which Bruce and Morgan assigned to it. This quality goes beyond that of superficial elements such as rustication and round arches. The asymmetrical composition and massiveness of the tower-dominated design still exists, the variety of roof lines prevail, large and simple forms are evident, and the diversity of surfaces and planes remains a featured element of the building's composition. Hence, the ability of Bruce and Morgan's design to withstand changes indicates that their North Avenue Presbyterian Church is a building of fine Romanesque quality.

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 checked="" 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 1900

BUILDER/ARCHITECT Alexander Campbell Bruce and
Thomas Henry Morgan

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The North Avenue Presbyterian Church is significant for its role in religion in the development of Atlanta. This was the first Presbyterian church to locate in the fashionable suburbs north of town and thus reflects the development of suburban life in Atlanta.

During the autumn of 1898, Messrs. C. R. Harris, J. M. High, and J. D. McCarty conducted a survey of area residents, which indicated the need of a suburban church. On December 4, 1898, the Presbytery chartered the new congregation as the Ninth Presbyterian Church. Early in 1899, the congregation selected the southeast corner of Peachtree Street and North Avenue as the church's location. Accordingly, the church was named the North Avenue Presbyterian Church. Church services were held in a Methodist Church located on nearby Merritts Avenue.

Construction of the sanctuary began in May of 1900 and the building was completed in June of 1901. The church has sponsored educational, as well as religious, activities. In 1902, the church financed a missionary in China and the congregation later sent the first woman missionary to the American Indians. An elementary school erected in 1909 was enlarged to include a secondary school here. This school continued at the church until 1951 when it was merged with the Washington Seminary to become the Westminster Schools.

Also of outstanding significance is the architecture of the church. The church is of Romanesque style and was designed by Alexander Campbell Bruce and Thomas Henry Morgan. Bruce was the first member of the American Institute of Architects to locate in Atlanta and Morgan was the founder and first president of the Atlanta Chapter of the AIA.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

- 75th Anniversary Brochure, North Avenue Presbyterian Church, 1973.
- American Architecture Since 1780: A Guide to the Styles, Marcus Whiffen, 1969.
- DuBose Genealogical Folder, Georgia Department of Archives and History.
- Atlanta Constitution, December 5, 1898.
- Atlanta Journal, June 1, 1901.
- Atlanta Obituaries, 1923-1932, Franklin M. Garrett.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY Approximately 1/3 acre
 UTM REFERENCES

A	16	142220	3139660	B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C				D			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Beginning at the corner formed by the church parking lot and Courtland Street and proceeding north 98 feet approximately to the intersection of Courtland Street and North Avenue; thence west 150 feet approximately to the intersection of North Avenue and Peachtree Street; thence south 98 feet approximately to a corner formed by the southwest corner of the church building and a commercial structure; thence east 150 feet approximately to the point of origin.

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

Scott Russell; Morton R. McInvale, Historic Preservation Section
 ORGANIZATION DATE

Historic Preservation Section September 1, 1977
 STREET & NUMBER TELEPHONE

270 Washington Street, S. W. (404) 656-2840
 CITY OR TOWN STATE

Atlanta Georgia 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
 TITLE Acting Chief, Historic Preservation Section DATE 6/30/78

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

Charles A. ... DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHAEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION
 ATTEST: Jann H. Gilmore KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER
 DATE 11/16/78

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CONTINUATION SHEET Bibliographical
References ITEM NUMBER 9 PAGE 2

- A Concise History of Western Architecture, R. Furneaux Jordan, 1969.
The City Builder, November, 1926.
Minutes of the Session, North Avenue Presbyterian Church, 1898-1913.
Personal inspection, Scott Russell, June, 1977.
Interview with Henry Hill, North Avenue Presbyterian Church, July, 1977.
Interview with Austin Williams, Atlanta, Georgia, July, 1977.

North Avenue Presbyterian Church
Atlanta, Fulton County, Georgia
Source: On Site Inspection and Atlanta
City Map

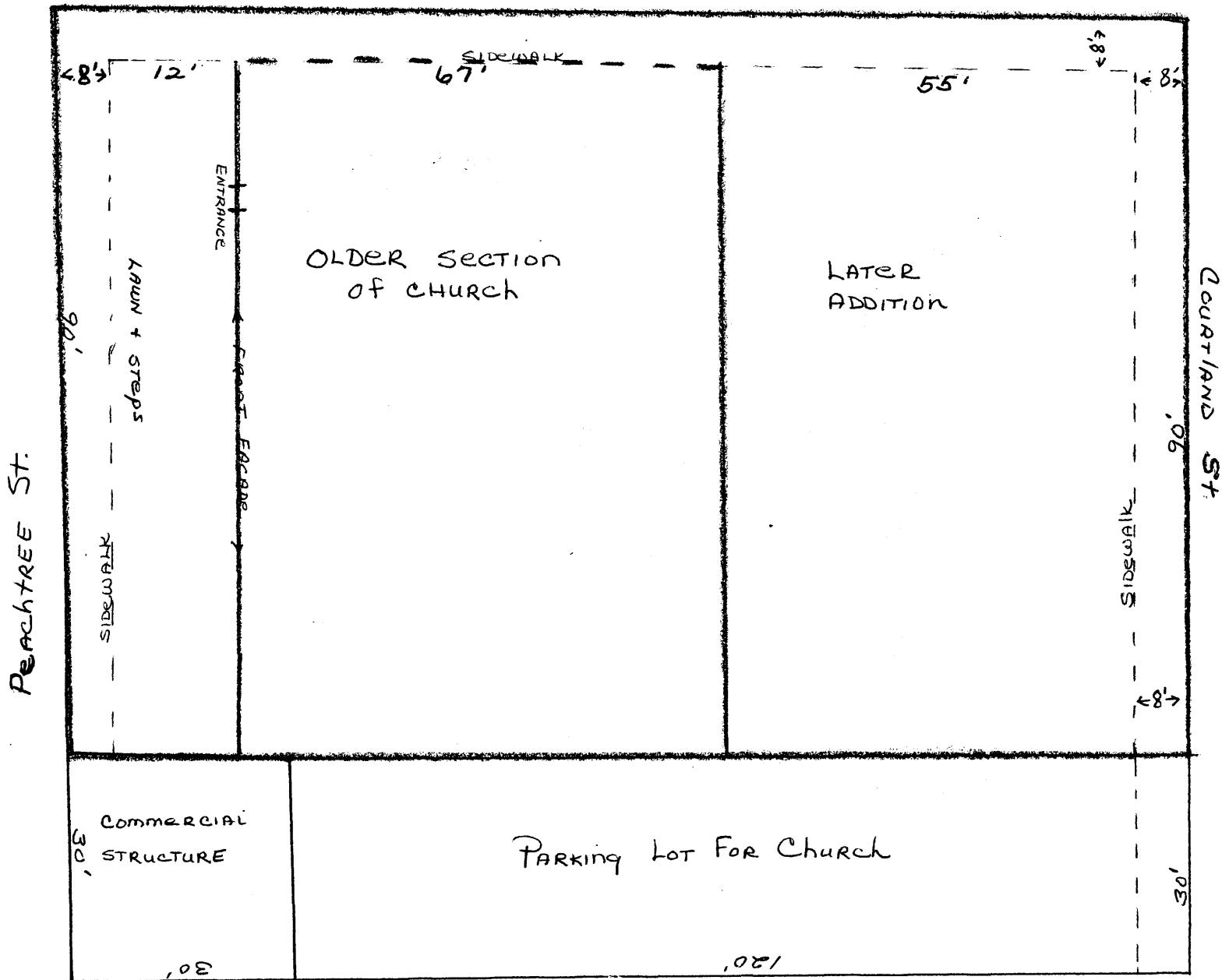
Scale: 1" = 20' approx.

Distances shown are approximate

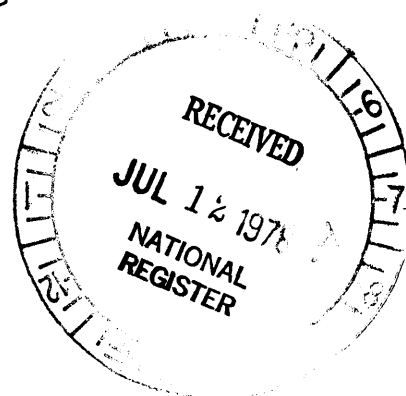
Legend: ——— N.R. Boundaries
----- Old Section
Additions



← 1091' →
North Avenue



COMMERCIAL STRUCTURES
← 150' →



NOV 17 1978