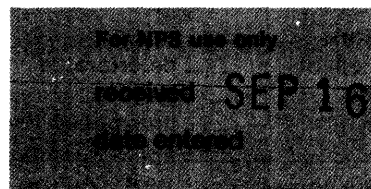


United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

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. James A.M.E. Church

and/or common same

2. Location

street & number 222 North Roman Street N/A not for publication

city, town New Orleans N/A vicinity of ~~Congressional district~~

state LA code 22 county Orleans Parish 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 type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational	<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<u>N/A</u> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<u>N/A</u> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name St. James A.M.E. Church c/o Reverend David J. Campbell, Jr., Minister

street & number 222 North Roman Street

city, town New Orleans N/A vicinity of state LA 70112

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Department of Conveyance, City Hall

street & number 1300 Perdido Street

city, town New Orleans state LA 70112

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title LA Historic Sites Survey has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

date 1981  federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records LA State Historic Preservation Office

city, town Baton Rouge state LA

---

## 7. Description

---

**Condition**

excellent  
 good  
 fair

deteriorated  
 ruins  
 unexposed

**Check one**

unaltered  
 altered

**Check one**

original site  
 moved date       N/A      

---

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

*The St. James A.M.E. Church is a Victorian Gothic Revival, stuccoed brick, basilican plan structure located on North Roman Street just north of the New Orleans central business district. It was built in 1848 and remodeled in 1903. The only change in the building since 1903 has been the construction of a small unobtrusive rear addition. This has little visual impact and is not detrimental to the church's architectural character.*

*As originally built in 1848, the church was a severe classical style structure of brick. It had four simple pilasters supporting an austere pediment. The windows had pointed arches. This combination of classic and Gothic elements occasionally occurred in the late Greek Revival, particularly in the eastern states.*

*The church was remodeled in 1903 by the architectural firm of Diboll and Owen. The facade was reworked as follows:*

- 1. The pediment was replaced by a blind arcaded parapet.*
- 2. Pinnacles were placed above the corners.*
- 3. The facade was surmounted with an open spire.*
- 4. The pilasters were retained, but the entire front was resurfaced in stucco with a rusticated stone finish.*

*Another change made at about this time was the addition of Victorian looking windows with stained glass tops and large rectangular sections containing a single central pane surrounded by tiny panes.*

*In addition, in 1903 the ceiling was completely covered with ornamental pressed tin.*

*More recently a low rear wing containing church offices, bathrooms, etc. has been added.*

*Assessment of Integrity: See above summary paragraph.*

# 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 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/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

**Specific dates** *1848-51; remodeled* **Builder/Architect** *Architects for 1903: Diboll and Owen*

**Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)** *in 1903* **Criterion C**

The St. James A.M.E. Church is architecturally significant on the state level because it is an unusually opulent and "high style" example of an A.M.E. church within the context of Louisiana. Most A.M.E. churches in the state were humble unpretentious structures. By contrast, St. James is a relatively highly ornamented statement in the Victorian Gothic Revival style. It is probably the most pretentious A.M.E. church building in Louisiana.

Significant Gothic style features of the church (after the 1903 renovation) include:

1. the pointed arch fenestration,
2. the stained glass windows,
3. the blind arcading,
4. the corner pinnacles, and
5. the central open spire.

The first two features are sometimes found on late nineteenth and early twentieth century A.M.E. churches in Louisiana, but the last three are almost unknown.

## HISTORICAL SKETCH:

The St. James A.M.E. Church traces its origins to 1844, when a group of free men of color organized themselves into a religious society under the name of the African Methodist Episcopal Church of New Orleans. The formation of this group was the result of the mistreatment of its members by the Wesley Chapel M.E. Church, a white congregation which accepted free people of color as members. The new congregation was headed by Thomas Doughty. The growth of the church membership necessitated the construction of a permanent church building, and the lots on which St. James presently stands were purchased in 1848 and construction was completed by 1851. At that time Doughty was sent to the Indiana Conference of the African Methodist Episcopal Church for the purpose of bringing the church into the conference. He was cordially received and was appointed the first pastor of St. James A.M.E. Church. The church retained its original half-Greek, half-Gothic appearance until 1903, when it was heavily Gothicized in the late Victorian manner.

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

Orleans Parish Conveyance Records  
 St. James A.M.E. Church Records  
 New Orleans Historic Districts Landmarks Commission Nomination Form for St. James A.M.E. Church, Copy Located in St. James A.M.E. Church National Register File, LA State Historic Preservation Office

# 10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property @ .17 acre  
 Quadrangle name New Orleans East, LA Quadrangle scale 1=24000

UMT References

A	<u>115</u>	<u>781191510</u>	<u>31311781715</u>	B			
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
C				D			
E				F			
G				H			

Verbal boundary description and justification

Please refer to sketch map.

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

state	<u>N/A</u>	code	county	code
state		code	county	code

# 11. Form Prepared By

name/title SEE CONTINUATION SHEET

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 Robert B. DeBlieux  
 Robert B. DeBlieux  
 title State Historic Preservation Officer date September 9, 1982

For NPS use only	
I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register	
<u>Anna Mae Drugel</u> Keeper of the National Register	date <u>10/26/82</u>
Attest: <u>Patrick Andrus</u> Chief of Registration	date <u>10/26/82</u>

**United States Department of the Interior  
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**



Continuation sheet St. James A.M.E. Church

Item number 11

Page 2

11. Form Prepared By: (Continued)

Bishop Frank C. Cummings, Presiding Bishop  
African Methodist Episcopal Church  
Eighth Episcopal District  
2138 St. Bernard Avenue  
New Orleans, Louisiana 70119  
Office Phone: 504-948-4251

Reverend M. J. Black, Sr., Presiding Elder  
2138 St. Bernard Avenue  
New Orleans, Louisiana 70119  
Office Phone: 504-948-4251

Reverend David J. Campbell, Jr., Minister  
222 North Roman Street  
New Orleans, Louisiana 70112  
Parsonage Phone: 504-522-6619

Leroy A. Smith, President Pro Tem  
Board of Trustees, St. James A.M.E. Church  
222 North Roman Street  
New Orleans, LA 70112

Historic Committee of St. James African Methodist Episcopal Church:

Mr. and Mrs. Emanuel Smith 1961 Sumpter Street  
New Orleans, LA 70122  
504-283-2758

Mr. Alvin K. Isaiah 2110 Bienville Street  
New Orleans, LA 70112  
504-822-7375

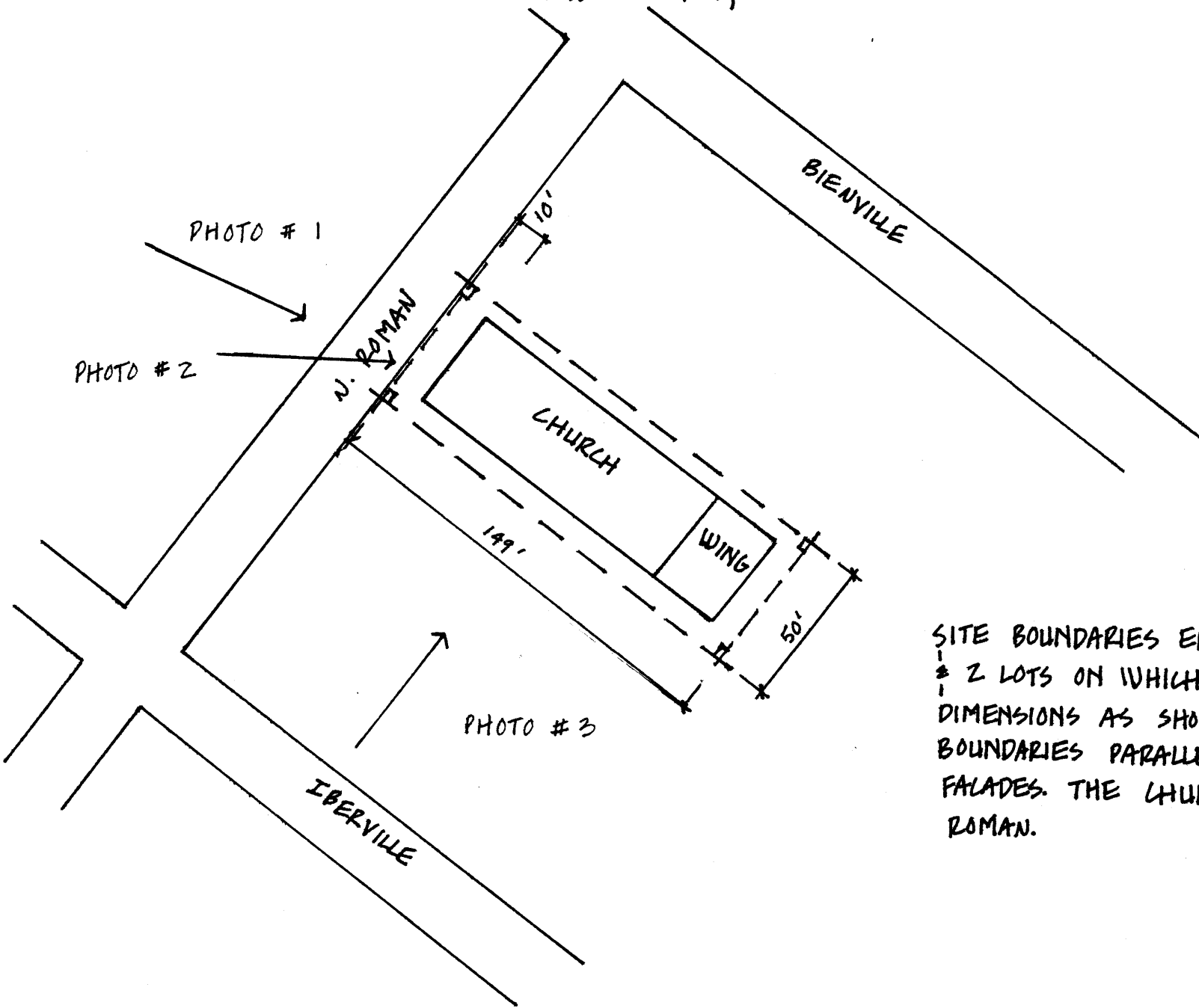
Mrs. Ernest B. Tillman 2328 Valence Street  
New Orleans, LA 70115  
504-899-4012

Mr. Luther Higginbotham 3926 Chestnut Street  
New Orleans, LA 70115  
504-895-3436

Mr. Willie Mason 8720 Scottsdale Drive  
New Orleans, LA 70126  
504-242-0248

Date Form Prepared: August 1981

ST. JAMES A.M.E. CHURCH  
NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA



SITE BOUNDARIES ENLOMASS THE CHURCH  
& 2 LOTS ON WHICH IT STANDS,  
DIMENSIONS AS SHOWN. THE LOT LINE  
BOUNDARIES PARALLEL THE BLDG.  
FALADES. THE CHURCH FACES N.  
ROMAN.



SCALE 1"=50' APPROX.