

PHOTO 110

DATA SHEET

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	APR 26 1977
DATE ENTERED	FEB 14 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. Michael and All Angels Episcopal Church

AND/OR COMMON  
Same

**LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER

W. 18th Street

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Anniston

VICINITY OF

03

STATE

CODE

COUNTY

CODE

Alabama

01

Calhoun

015

**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	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> 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:

**OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

Episcopal Diocese of Alabama

STREET & NUMBER

Carpenter House, 521 East 20th Street

CITY, TOWN

STATE

Birmingham

VICINITY OF

Alabama

**LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Calhoun County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

11th and Gurnee Avenue

CITY, TOWN

STATE

Anniston

Alabama

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

DATE

FEDERAL    STATE    COUNTY    LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

## 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	Slightly	

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

St. Michael and All Angels is one of the finest late 19th Century churches in the state. A heavy and massive structure, it was designed in the round-arched style by William Hulsey Wood, and is, in accordance with the wishes of its donor, devoid of excess ornamentation. Situated on a low rise in the western section of Anniston, it occupies an entire four acre block surrounded by a low stone wall. The neighborhood is primarily residential with small cottages dating from the late 19th to the mid 20th Century.

The Church complex consists of four structures: the Church proper, a simple gabled end structure with a massive side tower, and three smaller dependencies connected to the church by arcaded loggias. In addition to the connecting walkways, cohesiveness is provided by the common use of locally quarried rockfaced sandstone and low foundations with smooth finished stone watertables.

The Church proper, with its 95 foot tower forming the focal point of the complex, is oriented on a north-south axis with the main entrance on the south. An arcaded loggia with a crenelated parapet crosses the southern facade, extending an additional 16 feet to the east and 12 feet to the north along the eastern wall. The large gable of the south wall rises above the loggia and is crisply defined by the smooth stone of the verges. A small stone cross tops the apex of the gable which contains a small date stone. Centered in the lower half of the gable is a six foot diameter circular rose window with alternating radiating voussoirs. Above the window, which is the focal point of the south wall, are two small round-arched windows connected at the sills by a smooth stone band.

Access to the main structure is provided by a central round-arched door with radiating voussoirs and glass panels. A similar door of solid wood affords an entrance to the eastern side of the narthex.

The western elevation of the church is divided into 11 bays of round-arched windows with smooth sills and radiating voussoirs, while the eastern elevation contains six bays on the southern half terminated by a massive square tower which measures 22 by 21 feet. Like the loggias, the tower has a flat roof and crenelated parapet. Triple arched louvered windows open onto the bell tower on all four sides and are underscored by a smooth finished stone course just below the sills. Entrance to the tower from the exterior is by a round-arched off center door defined by a shallow projecting gable accented with smooth stone verges. North of the tower, the width of the main structure is extended an additional 18 feet to afford a small room currently being used as a chapel. Along the outer wall of the space is an arcaded loggia which gives access to the Administrative Building. The north elevation of the church features a small (3 foot diameter) round window centered above two arched windows.

The largest of the three smaller dependencies is the Administrative Building (originally the Rectory) located at the northeast corner of the complex. The two story building uses materials common to the complex, and is L shaped with a combination gabled and hipped roof. Windows have segmented arches with radiating stone voussoirs. The building was abandoned as the rectory in 1956 and gutted by fire in 1968. After the fire the interior was remodeled and the structure serves as the Administrative center of the complex.

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The arcaded loggia of the south elevation gives access to the two smaller buildings which are located on the eastern and western ends. The smaller western building is the Assembly Room or the Parish Hall and repeats the form of the main structure, consisting of a gabled end rectangular structure with a round stained glass window in the gable and three bays of round arched windows on the north and south elevations. The interior is finished with simple wainscotting and is used as a meeting room.

To the east is a two-story rectangular structure with a hipped roof, segmented arched windows and roof dormers which shares a strong affinity in its overall concept with the Administrative Building. Originally constructed as a free clinic, it now houses a nursery and the Chapel of the Innocents.

The most noted feature of the complex is the interior of the church proper which is distinguished by an exceptionally fine double hammer beam ceiling, the large rose window of the south wall and the elaborate reredos and alter screen. The detailing of the ceiling, the reredos and the screen provide a strong contrast to the severe plaster walls punctuated with the deepset arched windows.

Originally direct entrance to the nave was gained from the exterior entrance; however, in 1962 several rows of pews were removed and a narathex screen of oak and leaded glass panels were erected. A large glass paneled central double door and two smaller glass paneled side aisle door lead from the narthex into the nave.

The ornately carved roof is of longleaf pine and features carved angels heads on each of the primary beams. All heads face the alter and the angle of view of each head varies in proportion to its distance from the alter. Original globe lights extending from the beam end were replaced by pendant electric lanterns in 1953.

Temporary windows installed when the church was completed were gradually replaced with high quality stained glass windows, most of which were manufactured by J. and R. Lamb of New York. One window, however, is of Tiffany glass. Flooring throughout is of Alabama marble and the pews are of native oak, as is the paneled railing separating the chancel from the nave. A door to the east of the transept leads to the tower and the 2,700 pipes of the organ are suspended above.

The focal point of the interior is the alter and reredos, both of which were imported from Italy. The alter is of Carrara marble and is 12 feet long and three feet eight inches high. The reredos is composed of a series of five brick towers faced with alabaster and surmounted with angels. The central and largest tower contains a nich with a statue of St. Michael while smaller flanking towers contain niches with two angels representing "all angles".

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The oak alter screen adjoining the reredos repeats the tower motif and serves as the back of the bishop's chair, the Reserve Sacrament tabernacle, the visiting rectors' chairs and the two credence tables.

Except for interior renovation of the Administrative Building which was gutted by fire, interior modifications to the clinic, and the creation of a narathex, modifications to the clinic, and the creation of a narthex, modifications have been very minor and consist of replacing the slate roof with asbestos shingles in 1958, replacement of the lighting system in 1953, and the installation of a tower clock and electric chime system in 1963.

# 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 checked="" 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      1888

BUILDER/ARCHITECT      William Hulsey Wood

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Acclaimed as one of the most beautiful churches in the state, St. Michael and All Angels was designed by the noted architect William Hulsey Wood, and is believed to be the only example of his work in Alabama. Constructed for the foundry workers of the Woodstock Iron Company by John Ward Noble, the church is another expression of the desire of the members of the founding Noble and Tyler families to make their city of Anniston one of the model industrial cities in the south.

Samuel Noble, along with his brothers and General Alfred Tyler pooled their knowledge and resources in the 1870's to form the Woodstock Iron Company, a venture which proved highly successful and formed the basis for the establishment of Anniston, which was planned by the company as a model industrial community. When the company was first founded, the lack of skilled labor led to the importation of stone masons, brick masons and furnace men from England and charcoal burners from Sweden to construct and man the furnaces. The majority of these workers were Episcopalians and at first worshiped either in their homes or in a two-story wooden building which also served as a school.

Although the first church (Grace Episcopal-1885) constructed in the town was Episcopal, it was insufficient to house the large number of workers of that faith. Consequently in 1887, one of Samuel Noble's nephews, John Ward Noble, approached the Vestry of Grace Episcopal with plans to enlarge the church to accommodate the workers and their families. Opposition from the church led Noble to request permission to organize a second parish. After lengthy debates, Bishop Richard Hooker Wilmer consented for the construction of a new and independent parish. The church, which was to be built at John Noble's expense, was expressly for the working people and was to incorporate a community center, a school and a free clinic.

William Hulsey Wood was selected as the architect and was instructed by Noble to design a building devoid of all superfluous fancy work and filigree unless it was to mean something. After the plans were drawn, the site was selected and purchased in May of 1888, but the site was such that the church could only be oriented north-south. The following month ground was broken and the decision had been made to incorporate as much local material as possible. On November 1, 1888, the corner stone was laid and the church was envisioned as a memorial to Mr. Noble's father, James, and his brother, Samuel, both of whom had recently died. Builders were J.P. Allen and J.S. White, while the stones for the building were crafted by Simon Jewell, a noted stonemason, who also did the stone work for two other churches in town. The church was consecrated on St. Michael's Day, September 29, 1890 and when completed cost \$250,000.

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Bacon, Mary Perkins. The Church of Saint Michael and All Angels: To the Glory of God. Anniston, Alabama: Hall Publishers, 1975.

Mailing pamphlet. "The Church of Saint Michael and All Angels." (n.a., n.p., n.d.)

# 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 4 1/2 acres.

UTM REFERENCES

A 

1	6	6	0	7	2	4	0	3	7	2	5	6	0	0
ZONE				EASTING				NORTHING						

B 

ZONE				EASTING				NORTHING					

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Bounded on the north by 18th Avenue, on the west by Stephens Street, on the south by 17th Street and on the east by Cobb Street.

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

# 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

W. Warner Floyd, Executive Director and Ellen Mertins

ORGANIZATION

Alabama Historical Commission

STREET & NUMBER

725 Monroe Street

CITY OR TOWN

Montgomery

DATE

April 15, 1977

TELEPHONE

(205) 832-6621

STATE

Alabama 36130

# 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

*Wils B. Toward, Jr.*

TITLE SHPO

DATE April 19, 1977

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

*Robert B. Rottig*

DATE 2/14/78

*John* KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

ATTEST:

*Charles Adams*

DATE 2-9-78

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

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In addition to the main sanctuary were three smaller attached buildings which served as a free clinic and school, a meeting house and the rectory. The clinic was operated until 1920 and was served by the doctors and dentist on a rotational basis. A registered nurse was in charge of a small operating room, where minor operations were performed, and there were two wards and three private rooms. A school was also operated in this building until 1967. The Rectory was used until 1956 when it became the administrative offices.

The church, which is in excellent condition, serves as one of the major landmarks of Amiston and has been listed for many years in Baedeker's and Cook's tour guides.

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Pinckney, Julius Hagerty, Jr. Early History of the Industrial City of Anniston, Alabama, 1872-1889. (Unpublished thesis), Auburn, 1960.