

P40001864

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE:	
COUNTY:	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

**1. NAME**

COMMON:  
St. Mark's Church, Capitol Hill  
AND/OR HISTORIC:

**2. LOCATION**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
3rd and A Streets, S.E.  
CITY OR TOWN:  
Washington (Congressman Walter E Fauntroy, District of Columbia)  
STATE: District of Columbia  
CODE: 11  
COUNTY: District of Columbia  
CODE: 001



**3. CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) <input type="checkbox"/> Comments

**4. OWNER OF PROPERTY**

OWNER'S NAME:  
Vestry and Wardens of St. Mark's Parish  
STREET AND NUMBER:  
3rd and A Streets, S.E.  
CITY OR TOWN: Washington  
STATE: District of Columbia  
CODE: 11

**5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:  
Recorder of Deeds  
STREET AND NUMBER:  
6th and D Streets, N.W.  
CITY OR TOWN: Washington  
STATE: District of Columbia  
CODE: 11

**6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE OF SURVEY: Proposed District of Columbia Additions to the National Register of Historic Places recommended by the Joint Committee on Landmarks  
DATE OF SURVEY: March 7, 1968  
 Federal  State  County  Local  
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:  
National Capital Planning Commission  
STREET AND NUMBER:  
1325 G Street, N.W.  
CITY OR TOWN: Washington  
STATE: District of Columbia  
CODE: 11

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE:

COUNTY:

ENTRY NUMBER

DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

(Check One)

Excellent     Good     Fair     Deteriorated     Ruins     Unexposed

(Check One)

(Check One)

Altered     Unaltered     Moved     Original Site

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

St. Mark's Church, a red brick high Victorian building located on Capitol Hill, is an architectural landmark which contributes to the visual character of the District of Columbia. Its corner tower projects above the neighboring late nineteenth century rowhouses and is a focal point of its block. Standing on the southeast corner of A and Third Streets the asymmetrically massed church is in scale with the adjacent residential buildings but is in strong contrast with the large, contained mass of the Library of Congress Annex which faces it across Third Street.

Although constructed in two stages in 1888 and 1894, there is little visual evidence that this building designed by T. Buckler Ghequier was built in stages. It has a modified basilica plan with no apse. In 1894 a parish house wing was added at the southeast and in 1926-27 a wing designed by Delos H. Smith was added to this. Today the church with additions basically has an "L" shaped plan. A wrought and cast iron fence at the northeast encloses a courtyard in front of the wings and a similar fence at the west encloses a narrow yard between the church and the sidewalk.

Ghequier's design is very eclectic with Romanesque Revival features such as round arched openings and simplicity of forms combined with high Victorian Gothic characteristics of verticality and the employment of bichrome bands. Most interesting is the architect's handling of materials. Structural materials are used decoratively and there is a judicious use of purely decorative materials such as terra cotta tiles. Particularly notable is the interior with exposed brick walls, roof trussing and cast iron columns carrying round arches supporting the clerestory.

The land on which St. Mark's is located slopes slightly. This is manifested on the A Street facade where the east entrance has five steps leading to it and the west entrance has only four. The church with full basement is approximately 110' 5" by 58' with the north-south axis the longer one. Bands of terra cotta tiles with geometric and floral designs are used as decorative accents on both interior and exterior. There is exterior stone trim and a molded brick water table.

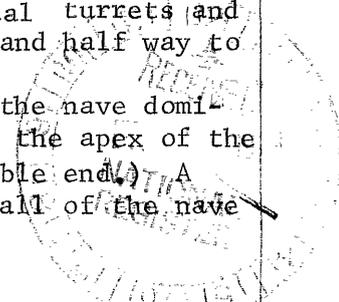
The Third Street (west) and east facades have seven bays. On the west facade the bay farthest south projects slightly at the aisle level and has a gable roof which intersects the shed roof of the aisle. The typical bay is defined by buttresses on the aisle level and by narrow pilasters on the clerestory level. Each clerestory bay has two round-headed windows while the aisle bay has a recessed semicircular tracery window. On the west facade the north bay contains the heavily buttressed tower and on the east facade this bay containing a vestibule differs from the other bays only on the aisle level. The parish house wing is attached to the east aisle at the south so that only four aisle bays are visible.

The square corner tower has arched entrances on both west and north facades and above its arcaded belfry with balustrade are conical turrets and gablets. Its slate covered octagonal spire is divided by a band half way to its point, which is 103 feet above ground.

The tower and a large tracery window in the gable end of the nave dominate the A Street (north) facade. A stone Latin cross crowns the apex of the gable. (A smaller cross is found at the apex of the south gable end.) A massive pier terminated by a stone ball buttresses the east wall of the nave.

(Continued on Form 10-300a)

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



**6. SIGNIFICANCE**

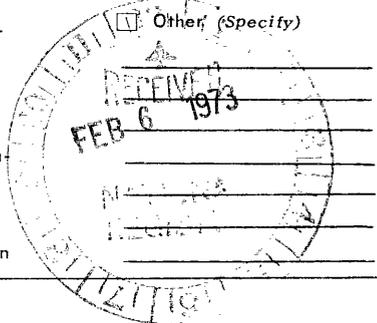
PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian	<input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century
<input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 19th Century	

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) 1888 and 1894 construction dates

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal	<input type="checkbox"/> Education	<input type="checkbox"/> Political	<input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning
<input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> Engineering	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)
<input type="checkbox"/> Historic	<input type="checkbox"/> Industry	<input type="checkbox"/> Science	
<input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> Invention	<input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian	
<input type="checkbox"/> Art	<input type="checkbox"/> Literature	<input type="checkbox"/> Theater	
<input type="checkbox"/> Commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	
<input type="checkbox"/> Communications	<input type="checkbox"/> Music		
<input type="checkbox"/> Conservation			



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Joint Committee on Landmarks has designated St. Mark's Church a Category II Landmark of importance which contributes significantly to the cultural heritage and visual beauty of the District of Columbia. Established as a mission in 1867, St. Mark's Episcopal congregation has played an important role in the life of the Capitol Hill area and the city for over a century. The red-brick, High Victorian church designed in 1888 by T. Buckler Ghequier combines Romanesque elements with Gothic verticality and has a particularly distinguished interior with exposed brick walls and timbered roofing.

St. Mark's Episcopal Church began in 1867 as a mission of Christ Church, Washington Parish, meeting for a time in the Sewall Belmont house at Second Street and Constitution Avenue, N.E. In 1868 the mission organized as a congregation and built a small frame chapel on Beale Terrace between Second and Third Streets, S.E., a site now occupied by the Library of Congress Annex. In June 1869 the mission was created as Memorial Parish within the Diocese of Maryland. In 1870 the church became St. Mark's, Memorial Parish, and finally in 1880, St. Mark's Parish.

In October 1880 St. Mark's began acquiring its present site at Third and A Streets, S.E., by purchasing lots nine, ten and eleven fronting on Third Street. Lot twelve was acquired some years later. The frame chapel was moved across Third Street to lot nine in 1871. By 1888 the congregation had prospered enough to begin construction of the present church building.

T. Buckler Ghequier of Baltimore, Maryland, was the architect. The cornerstone was laid on September 17, 1888, and the north end of the structure, extending as far as the present chancel, was completed and opened in time to hold services on February 23, 1889. A passageway was built connecting the frame chapel with the new building and the former was used for a choir room and parish hall. In 1894 the frame chapel was finally demolished and the tower, nave, chancel and the west thirty feet of the parish hall were completed.

St. Mark's flourished for many years thereafter and played a large role in the community and the diocese. From 1896 to 1902 it was pro-cathedral for Bishop William Yates Satterlee, first bishop of Washington. From its members came three bishops of the Episcopal Church--Karl Morgan Block, California; Clarence Alfred Cole, Upper South Carolina; and William Moody, Lexington, Kentucky.

**9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Vestry minutes, variously bound.

Chew, John Hamilton. "A Sketch of St. Mark's Parish," circa 1900, unpublished typescript.

Myrth, Ida. "Chronicles of St. Mark's Parish," unpublished typescript.

Draft nomination form prepared by G. Bowdoin Craighill, Vestryman, St. Mark's Church

**10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	0 ' "	0 ' "		38° 53' 18"	77° 00' 06"	
NE	0 ' "	0 ' "				
SE	0 ' "	0 ' "				
SW	0 ' "	0 ' "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 19,517 Square Feet

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

**11 FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME AND TITLE: T. Robins Brown, Architectural Historian  
Nancy C. Taylor, Landmarks Historian

ORGANIZATION: National Capital Planning Commission DATE: Dec. 20, 1972

STREET AND NUMBER: 1325 G Street, N.W.

CITY OR TOWN: Washington STATE: District of Columbia CODE: 11

**12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION**

As the designated State Liaison 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. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National  State  Local

Name Susan M. [Signature]

Title Deputy Mayor-Commissioner

Date \_\_\_\_\_

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

Roberton [Signature]  
Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date 5/8/73

ATTEST: [Signature]  
Keeper of The National Register

Date 4 26 73

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

STATE	
COUNTY	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

Page No. 2

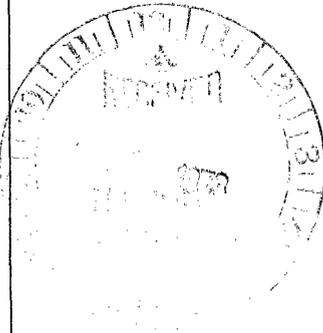
(Continuation Sheet)

(Number all entries)

7. Description (continued)

bay east of the altar. The chancel which is several steps higher than the nave has tile flooring with religious symbols. The rest of the church except the entrance vestibules has wooden floors. Each of the seven bays of the nave and chancel have two hammer beam trusses, one with tie beams and one without. The timber trusses of the aisles' roofs are also exposed.

The parish house wings have interesting interior features. The 1894 wing has exposed hammerbeam trusses as the dominate feature of its second floor room. First floor features include vertical panelling to the dado, a massive newel post, and panelled doors with reeded trim. The main room of the twentieth century wing has exposed timber roof trussing while dormers provide it with clerestory light.



NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	
COUNTY	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

(Number all entries)

8. Significance - St. Mark's Church

Between 1940 and 1950 St. Mark's faced new problems as members moved to the suburbs and resources dwindled. Many of the newer residents of the Capitol Hill area had no relation to the church at all. In 1954, a number of churchmen determined to revitalize the church, rather than let it be closed. To do so, they turned to the Capitol Hill community, seeking ways to serve life as they found it there and so restore the parish's life.

It is this note of openness to the community which now characterizes the church. Some programs, such as a ministry to the deaf, first begun in the Nazareth Chapel, are still in operation. A separate congregation, St. Barnabas Mission to the Deaf, worships now in a basement chapel, while other ministries, such as Head Start and pastoral counseling are of more recent date.

7. Description - St. Mark's Church

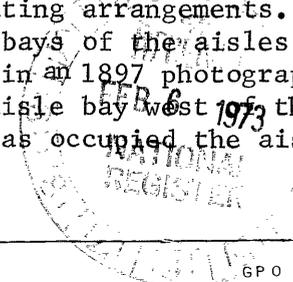
and as a part of the A Street facade increases the vertical impact of the 58' height of the nave. On this main facade the cornice of the east aisle bay follows the slope of the aisle's shed roof. The doorway in this bay does not have the fanlights found over the doorways of the tower. A brick archway forms the east bay of the A Street facade.

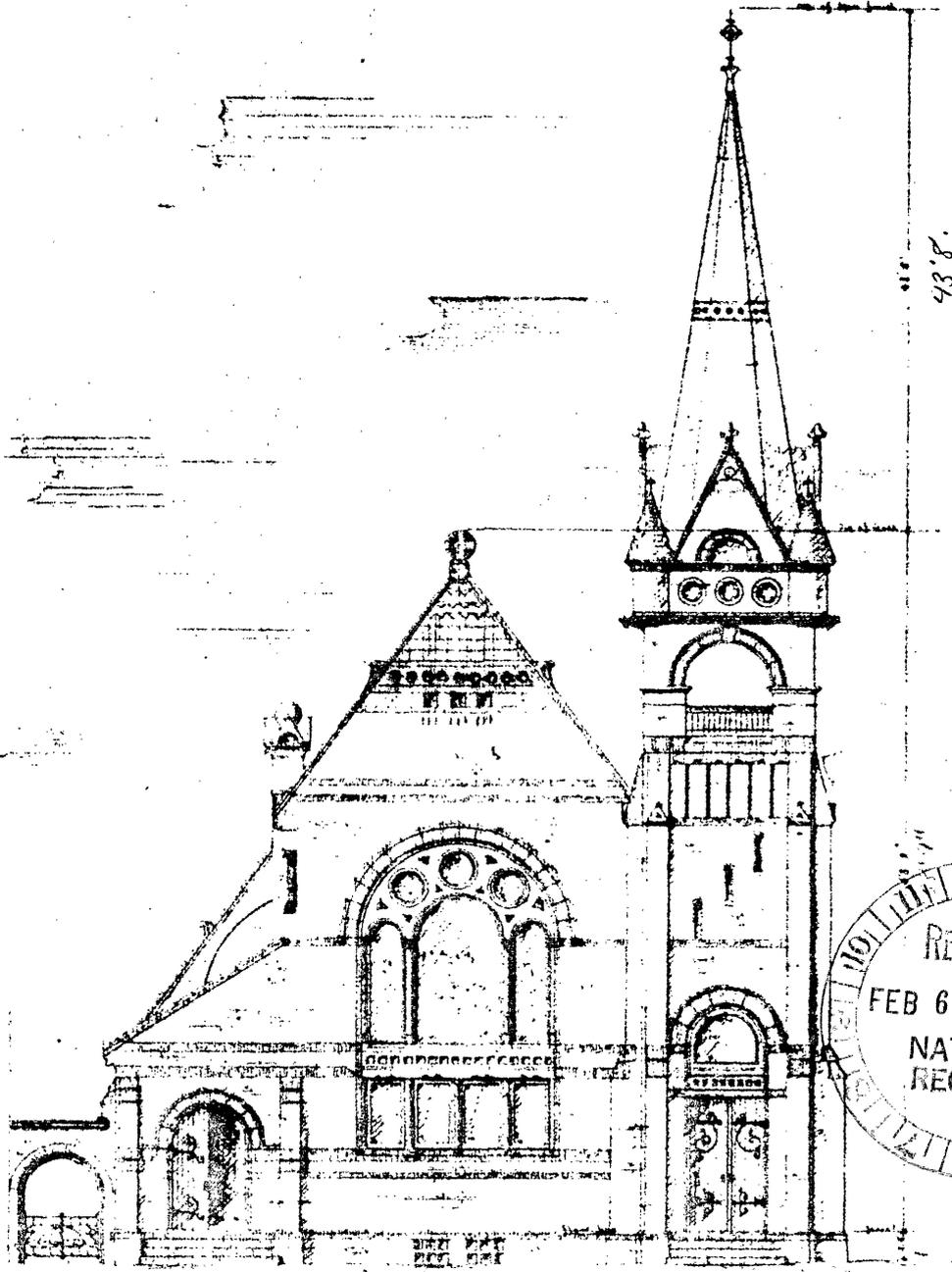
The wings are red brick and in material and scale harmonize with the sanctuary. The two story wing added in 1894 is approximately 25' by 40'. Its gable ended north facade has irregular bays. The west entrance bay has a chimney which abuts the aisle wall and has a single pitch roof. The 1926-27 one story addition has a gable roof broken by five shed dormers. Its ridge pole is at the same height as that of the 1894 wing. Buttresses divide the north facade of this wing into five bays. The most western bay has three windows while other bays have two windows except the center bay which is a projecting porch with its own gable roof. The east facade of the wing faces an alley. It has three windows and a niche in the gable. Attached to the rear (south) is a kitchen wing with a lower roofline.

The interior of St. Mark's is distinguished by its clarity of expression and effective use of exposed structural materials. The red brick give texture and color. Twelve cast iron columns support round arches carrying the clerestory. These columns and the exposed timber framing of the roof add to the feeling of spaciousness and lightness produced by the large number of windows and lofty ceiling. Bands of terra cotta tiles, bands of gray stone in the altar wall, the stone altar, reredos, and baptismal font, and handsome stained glass contribute to the total effect.

Originally the church had a three aisle plan but in 1966 pews were removed and now movable chairs allow for a variety of seating arrangements. The wrought iron rood screen which separates the two south bays of the aisles and chancel from the rest of the sanctuary was not present in an 1897 photograph of the church. Originally the vestry was located in the aisle bay west of the altar which today is the chapel. Since 1894 an organ has occupied the aisle

(Continued on Form 10-300a)





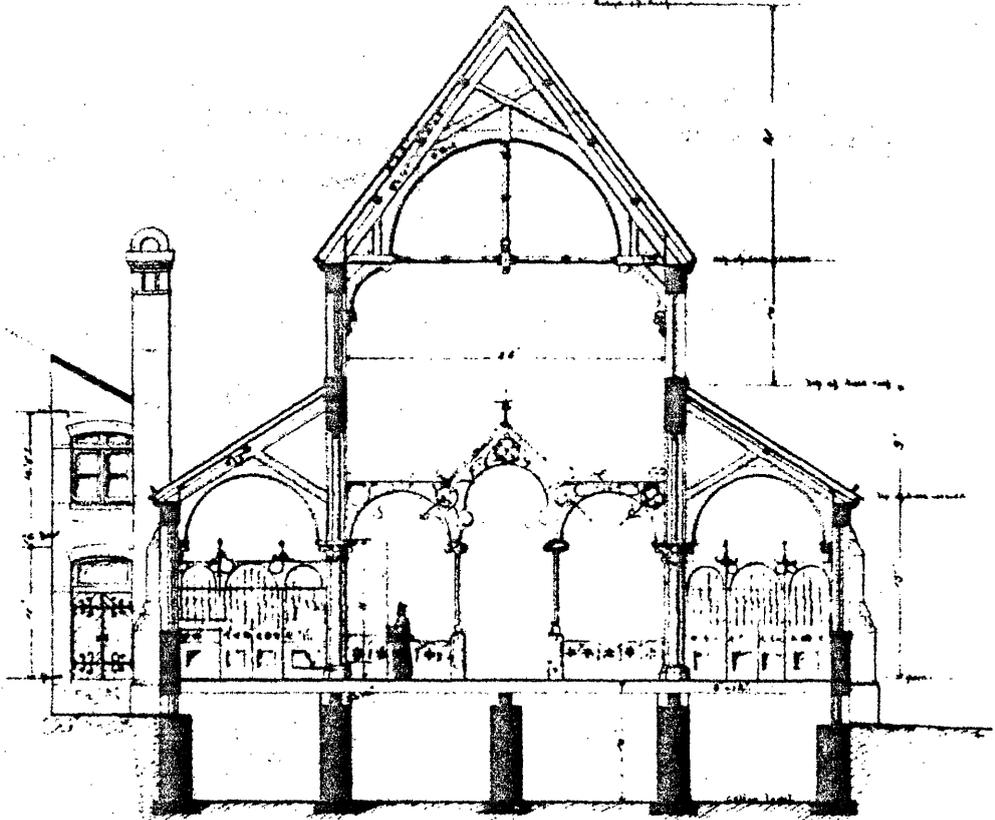
— FRONT —

S. Mark's Church —

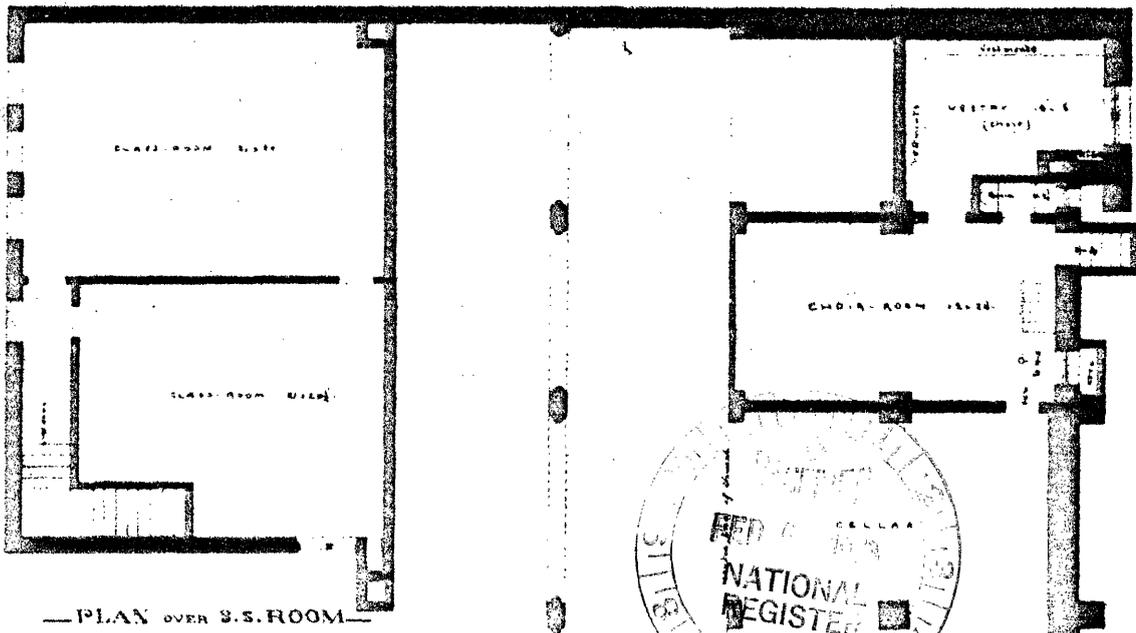
— Washington —



Scale 1/4"



— SECTION —



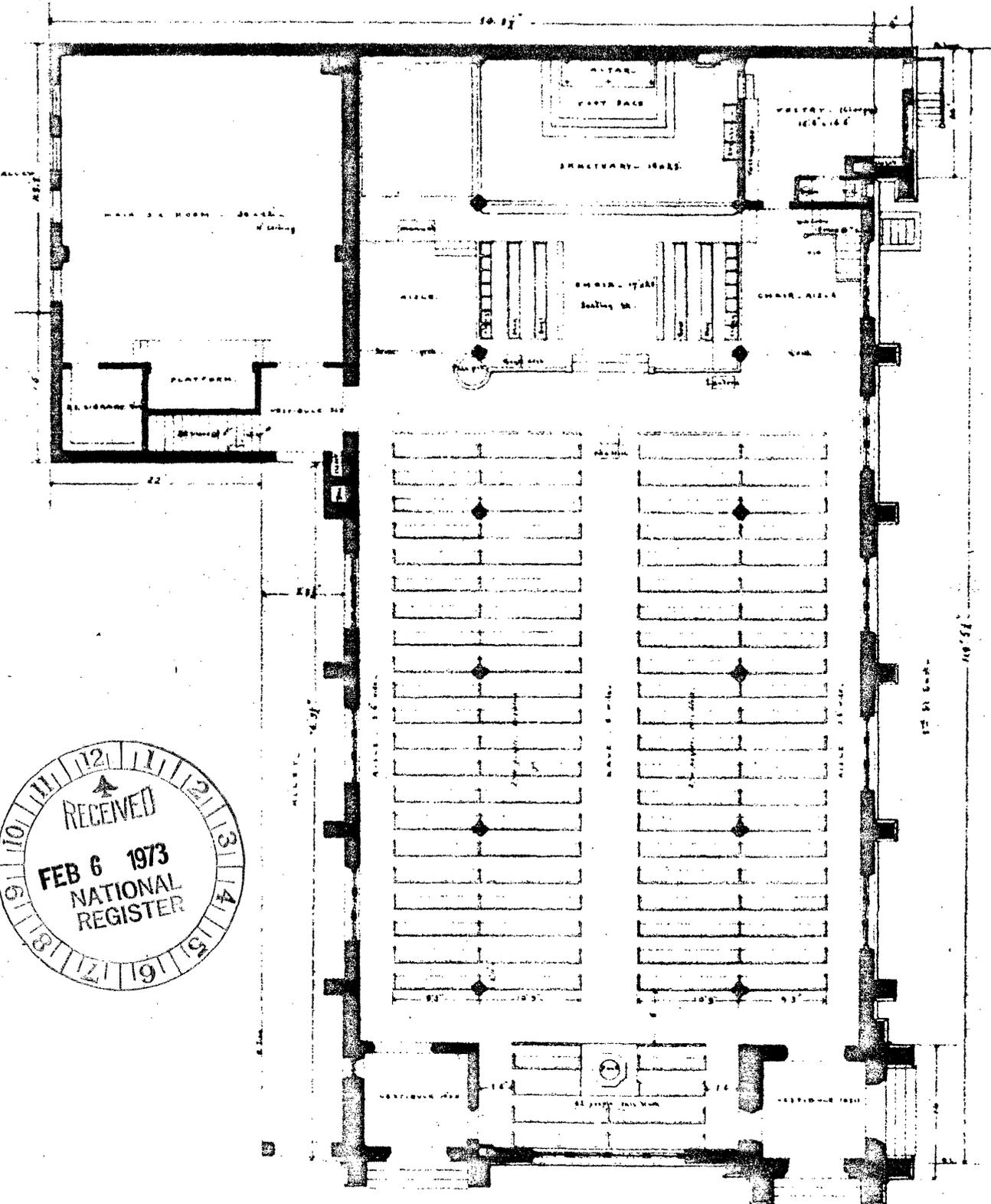
— PLAN OVER S.S. ROOM —

S. Mark's Church —

Washington —

Scale 1/4" = 1'

L. 11



S. Mark's Church  
Washington

— PLAN —

R. St. South

Scale 1/2"

ENTRIES IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

STATE      **DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA**

Date Entered      **MAY 8 1973**

<u>Name</u>	<u>Location</u>
Meridian House	1630 Crescent Place, N. W.
International Eastern Star Temple	1618 New Hampshire Avenue, N.W.
Rosedale	3501 Newark Street, N.W.
St. Mark's Church, Capitol Hill	3rd and A Streets, S. E.
Residence of UAR Interests (Beale, Joseph, House)	2301 Massachusetts Avenue, N.W.

Also Notified

Hon. Walter E. Fauntroy  
Director, National Capital  
Parks

State Historic Preservation Officer  
Mr. James G. Banks  
Room 112A, District Building  
14th and E Streets, N. W.  
Washington, D. C. 20004

PHR

NRowland:mm

5/14/73

PROPERTY St. Mark's Church, Capitol Hill STATE DC.

73002117

WORKING NUMBER 2.6.73 2240

6/26/73

TECH REVIEW  
Photos 2  
Maps 1

5/8/73

CONTROL REVIEW No date after SLO's signature.

NAJ  
3-27-73

HISTORIAN not much beyond arch. sign, but that should be enough

Otherwise OK

Accept - AML  
3/28/73  
Accept 4-18-73  
c shall

ARCHITECTURAL HISTORIAN JR says we can do zero about date since SLO has left.

Accept  
KH  
4/10/73

ARCHEOLOGIST

REVIEW UNIT CHIEF

BRANCH CHIEF

OK  
4/24/73

KEEPER

[Signature]  
4/26

National Register write-up \_\_\_\_\_

Send-back \_\_\_\_\_

Federal Register entry 7-3-73

Re-submit \_\_\_\_\_

Entered \_\_\_\_\_