

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only

received SEP 6 1984  
date entered OCT 4 1984See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*  
Type all entries—complete applicable sections**1. Name**

historic First Church of Christ, Scientist

and/or common Little Rock Community Church

**2. Location**

street &amp; number 20th and Louisiana Sts. N/A not for publication

city, town Little Rock N/A vicinity of

state Arkansas code 05 county Pulaski code 119

**3. Classification**

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
	N/A	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<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:

**4. Owner of Property**

name Little Rock Community Church c/o Reverend Johnny Glaze

street &amp; number 20th and Louisiana

city, town Little Rock N/A vicinity of state Arkansas

**5. Location of Legal Description**

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Pulaski County Courthouse

street &amp; number West Markham

city, town Little Rock state Arkansas

**6. Representation in Existing Surveys**"An Architectural Survey of the MacArthur Park & Governor's Mansion Areas of the Quapaw  
title Quarter, Little Rock, Arkansas" has this property been determined eligible? ☒ yes ☐ nodate 1978 ☐ federal ☐ state ☐ county ☒ local

depository for survey records Quapaw Quarter Association

city, town Little Rock state Arkansas

## 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

#### SUMMARY

Designed by the noted Arkansas architect John Parks Almand, The First Church of Christ, Scientist, exhibits a rare and unique blending of stylistic influences. Though clearly inspired by the Mission style, this structure is embellished with eclectic and delicately patterned ornament. Extremely popular on the national level, the Mission style was infrequently utilized in Arkansas and rarely applied to an ecclesiastic structure, making this a rare and valuable architectural resource.

#### ELABORATION

Constructed in 1919 at a cost of approximately \$35,000, the First Church of Christ, Scientist, is an imposing structure, the design of which was primarily influenced by the Mission style, as evidenced by the smooth plaster exterior and red tile roof. Other features characteristic of this style include the overhanging eaves, decorative rafter ends, low-pitched hipped roof and round arches. Though Mission buildings rarely possess exterior decorative detailing, Almand judiciously incorporated ornate pilaster capitals, round plaster and terra cotta medallions, and terra cotta medallions and terra cotta banding, creating a striking juxtaposition of stylistic features.

The principle facade or east elevation consists of a gabled arched projection with recessed entry. Flanking either side of the arched opening are one-and-a-half square columns with pilasters, with the partial column being engaged. Capitals are detailed with Egyptian gorge, acanthus leaves, egg and dart moulding and an overlapping pair of large ribbed leaves. Directly above the capitals is a band of red terra cotta ornament consisting of a curving pattern with paterae that extends across the front and sides of this entrance projection, accentuating this portion of the building and distinguishing it from the larger mass of the sanctuary behind. Two round medallions of delicate tracery are positioned above the terra cotta band. Dominating the front projection is a central round arch that frames an elliptical window in the front wall of the church that illuminates the balcony. A metal grille covers this window. Located beneath the window is a decorative band like that already described that is painted white. Shallow recessed panels add further interest to this smooth plaster front wall. Two double-doored entrances, one on each side, are hidden from view by the front wall and piers of the entrance projects.

The north and south elevations are identical, with five arched multi-paned windows separated by pilasters with capitals like those on the front. The five arched openings dominate these elevations and create the appearance of a colonade. Four round medallions like those on the front facade are located above and between each arch and two hexagonal terra cotta panels with paterae detailing are located on either side of the arched fenestration.

A two-story projection at the rear of the church, containing Sunday School rooms, is pierced by double-hung windows on each floor, with those on the first floor

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National Park Service**

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

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received

date entered

Continuation sheet

Item number 7

Page 1

having been blocked-in when a contemporary one-story cinder block addition was attached to the rear of the church. The original wall remains intact despite this addition.

The interior of the church contains a foyer at the front, a portion of which has been partitioned for a small office, and a rectangular sanctuary with a slightly arched and beamed ceiling. Small rooms at the rear are entered through doors at the rear of the recessed rostrum. A stairway on the south wall provides access to the large balcony complete with the original auditorium seating. The sanctuary is bright and airy as a result of the large clear pebble glass windows.

A raised rostrum at the front of the sanctuary is located within a recess, above which are located the organ pipes. Three paneled pilasters with gilded Corinthian capitals adorn either side of the rostrum and support a partial architrave entablature. Mouldings, echoing the ceiling, extend above the architrave thus framing the pipes. Brass fixtures with suspended white glass globes provide additional lighting.

Almand's practice was only four years old when he designed the First Church of Christ, Scientist. A floorplan and renderings for the front and side elevations, drawn by Almand, exist. A second drawing for the front, which differs only slightly from what was constructed, includes a wall fountain and the name of the church. Having studied architecture at Columbia University and worked for Charles L. Thompson between 1912 and 1915, Almand was well acquainted with a variety of styles. That he was able to successfully and creatively employ elements of more than one style in a single design is clearly demonstrated by this eclectic and innovative structure.

## 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/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input 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** 1919-20

**Builder/Architect**

John Parks Almand

**Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)**

### SUMMARY

The First Church of Christ, Scientist, located on Louisiana Street in Little Rock, just south of the boundaries of the Governor's Mansion Historic District, was designed and constructed in 1919-20. The church is an intriguing example of the design work of John Parks Almand, a noted Arkansas architect whose designs for religious properties often exhibit an intended placement of atypical designs in atypical environments. After receiving a Bachelor of Science degree from Emory University, Almand studied architecture at Columbia University. Following a year of work in Havana, Cuba, Almand came to Little Rock and worked in the firm of Charles L. Thompson who is recognized as Arkansas' most prolific architect. He opened his own office after three years with Thompson.

### ELABORATION

The First Church of Christ, Scientist was organized in Little Rock on September 20, 1899, with twenty-two members. Shortly afterwards, a split occurred and in July 1907 a separate group was formed as the Second Church of Christ, Scientist. Some four years later, on January 30, 1911, the two churches reunited and for the ensuing eight years services were held in a wooden structure on the corner of 20th and Louisiana.

In 1919, this modest building was sold for \$430 and removed from the site. Mr. John Parks Almand, a young Little Rock architect who would later acquire a state-wide reputation for his beautiful church designs, was commissioned to prepare plans for a permanent edifice for the congregation. Almand appears to have been inspired by the newly popular California Mission style. This set it apart from other ecclesiastical architecture in the city, which was generally constructed in the more traditional Gothic style. Nonetheless, a newspaper article many years later declared that the sanctuary "has long been one of the most impressive churches in the city." The cost of the building, including furnishings, was approximately \$35,000. The Christian Scientists have a church policy that requires that no sanctuary be dedicated until it is debt-free. So, on March 6, 1938 -- some 18 years after it had been opened -- the building was finally dedicated.

In July 1950, a group of eighteen men, with Mr. A. D. Brown as chairman, purchased this building from the Christian Scientists and formed the Central Church of Little Rock. Reverend Ernest Sullivan served as pastor. Within six months the congregation had a membership of 154 communicants. On November 9, 1952, the Central Church voted to affiliate with the Evangelical Methodist Church. This affiliation continued until July 1968, when the congregation severed its association with the Evangelical Methodists and changed its name to the Little Rock Community Church.



## 9. Major Bibliographical References

Quapaw Quarter Chronicle, by Richard Dixon, October/November 1982.

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property less than one

Quadrangle name Little Rock, Ark.

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UTM References

A 1 5 5 66 3 80 38 4 3 0 7 5  
Zone Easting Northing

B                                      
Zone Easting Northing

C                                    

D                                    

E                                    

F                                    

G                                    

H                                    

Verbal boundary description and justification

Lot 1, Block 432, DuVal's Addition to the City of Little Rock.

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

state N/A code county code

state code county code

## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Rev. Johnny Glaze and AHPP staff

organization Community Church

date August 30, 1984

street & number 20th & Louisiana

telephone none

city or town Little Rock

state Arkansas

## 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

*Wilson Stiles*

title State Historic Preservation Program

date 8-31-84

For NPS use only

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

*for* *Alonzo Byers*  
Keeper of the National Register

Entered in the  
National Register

date 10-4-84

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

First Church of Christ, Scientist  
Pulaski County  
ARKANSAS

SEP 6 1984

Working No. \_\_\_\_\_

Fed. Reg. Date: 2.4.86

Date Due: 10-4-84 / 10-21-84

Action: ☒ ACCEPT 10-4-84

Entered in the \_\_\_\_\_ RETURN \_\_\_\_\_

National Register \_\_\_\_\_ REJECT \_\_\_\_\_

Federal Agency: \_\_\_\_\_

- ☐ resubmission  
☐ nomination by person or local government  
☐ owner objection  
☐ appeal

Substantive Review: ☐ sample ☐ request ☐ appeal ☐ NR decision

Reviewer's comments:

Recom./Criteria \_\_\_\_\_

Reviewer \_\_\_\_\_

Discipline \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ see continuation sheet

Nomination returned for: \_\_\_\_\_ technical corrections cited below  
\_\_\_\_\_ substantive reasons discussed below

1. Name

2. Location

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
	Public Acquisition	Accessible	

4. Owner of Property

5. Location of Legal Description

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

Has this property been determined eligible? ☐ yes ☐ no

7. Description

Condition

- ☐ excellent ☐ deteriorated  
☐ good ☐ ruins  
☐ fair ☐ unexposed

Check one

- ☐ unaltered  
☐ altered

Check one

- ☐ original site  
☐ moved date \_\_\_\_\_

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

- ☐ summary paragraph  
☐ completeness  
☐ clarity  
☐ alterations/integrity  
☐ dates  
☐ boundary selection

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## 8. Significance

Period      Areas of Significance—Check and justify below

Specific dates

Builder/Architect

Statement of Significance (*in one paragraph*)

- ☐ summary paragraph
- ☐ completeness
- ☐ clarity
- ☐ applicable criteria
- ☐ justification of areas checked
- ☐ relating significance to the resource
- ☐ context
- ☐ relationship of integrity to significance
- ☐ justification of exception
- ☐ other

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## 9. Major Bibliographical References

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## 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property \_\_\_\_\_

Quadrangle name \_\_\_\_\_

UTM References \_\_\_\_\_

Verbal boundary description and justification \_\_\_\_\_

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## 11. Form Prepared By

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## 12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

\_\_\_\_ national      \_\_\_\_ state      \_\_\_\_ local

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

title

date

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## 13. Other

- ☐ Maps
- ☐ Photographs
- ☐ Other

Questions concerning this nomination may be directed to \_\_\_\_\_

Signed \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_





First Church of Christ, Scientist  
Little Rock, Pulaski County, Ark.  
Photographed by Alice Jones  
Negative on file at AHPP  
August, 1983  
Viewed from the Northeast



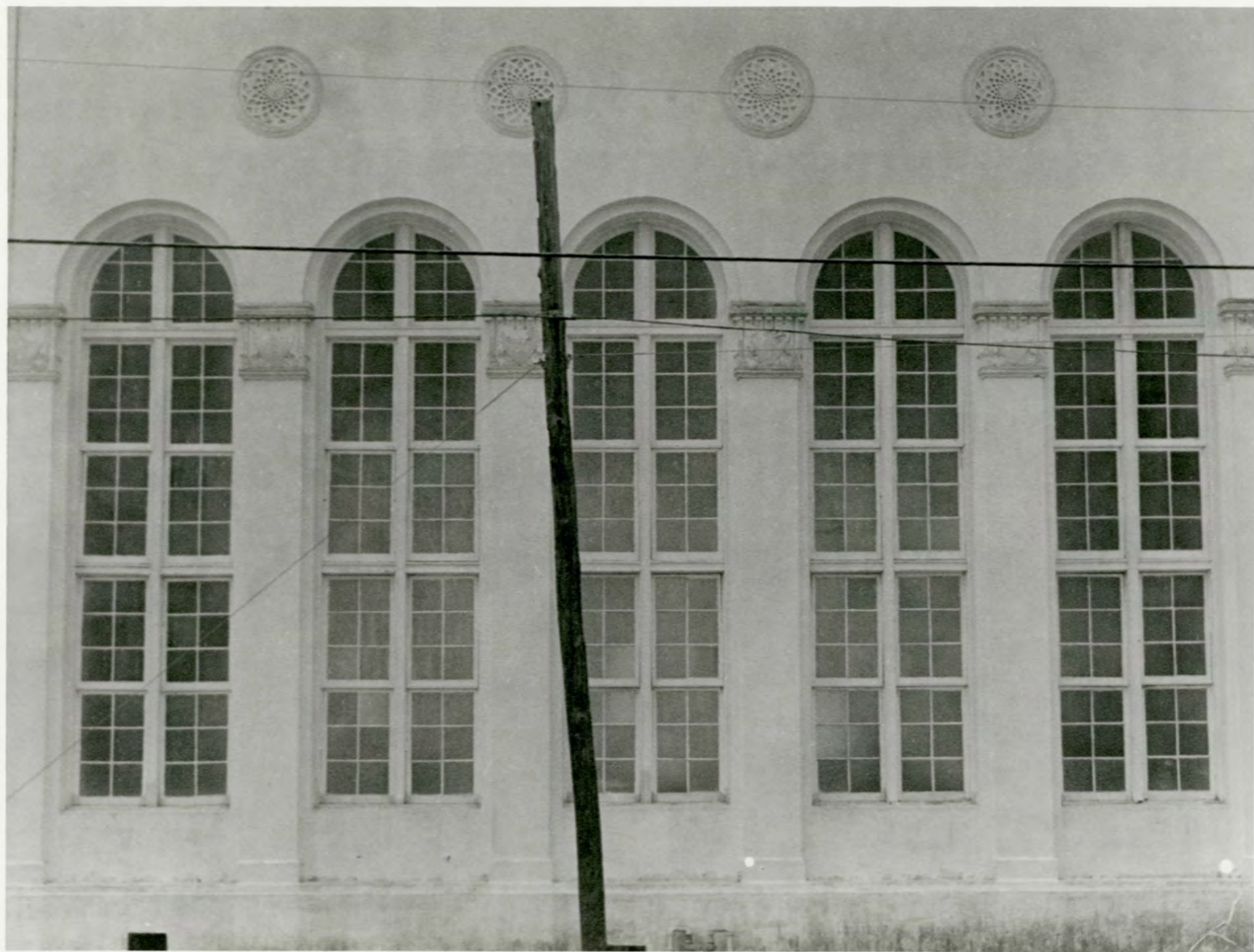
First Church of Christ, Scientist  
Little Rock, Pulaski County, Ark.  
Photographed by Alice Jones  
August, 1983  
Negative on file at AHPP  
Viewed from the East







First Church of Christ, Scientist  
Little Rock, Pulaski County, Ark.  
Photographed by Alice Jones  
Negative on file at AHPP  
August, 1983  
North elevation



First Church of Christ, Scientist  
Little Rock, Pulaski County, Ark.  
Photographed by Alice Jones  
Negative on file at AHPP  
August, 1983  
Viewed from the North







First Church of Christ, Scientist  
Little Rock, Pulaski County, Ark.  
Photographed by Alice Jones  
August, 1983  
Negative on file at AHPP  
North elevation



