

DATA SHEET

PH0054429

Form 10-300
(July 1969)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: ALABAMA	
COUNTY: MONTGOMERY	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER FEB 24 1975	DATE

1. NAME

COMMON:
St. John's Episcopal Church

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
113 Madison Avenue

CITY OR TOWN:
Montgomery **Congressional District: II**

STATE: **Alabama** CODE: **01** COUNTY: **Montgomery** CODE: **101**

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	Yes: <input type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input checked="" 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) _____ _____ _____

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
St. John's Episcopal Church

STREET AND NUMBER:
113 Madison Avenue

CITY OR TOWN: **Montgomery** STATE: **Alabama** CODE: **01**

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:
Montgomery County Courthouse

STREET AND NUMBER:
142 Washington Avenue

CITY OR TOWN: **Montgomery** STATE: **Alabama** CODE: **01**

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

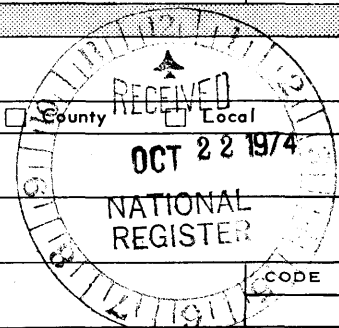
TITLE OF SURVEY:

DATE OF SURVEY: Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: STATE: CODE:



STATE: _____

COUNTY: _____

ENTRY NUMBER: **FEB 24 1975**

DATE: _____

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7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

St. John's Episcopal Church was built after a design by Wills and Dudley in the neo-Gothic style of stucco over masonry. Originally the stucco was scored to resemble stone, but frequent waterproofing, painting, and repair has virtually obliterated all evidences of the scoring.

The building is rectilinear in shape with a heavy steeple off-set on the front left corner of the building. Matching, arched doors lead into the steeple and into the narthex. Two arched windows flank the narthex entrance and a large arched window with four panels is above the main entrance with a small trefoil window above that. The gable end of the facade has a cornice of moulding and dentilling.

The steeple is square with buttresses supporting the walls at the corners up to the second band of moulding where the steeple becomes octagonal. The octagonal belfry rises to a cross-pinnacled spire from a band of crenelation. The sides of the building are divided into seven bays by attached buttresses; in the center of each bay is an arched window.

The chancel and sanctuary, built in 1869-70 is a lower structure attached to the old ecclesiastical east end of the building. A parish hall, chapel, sacristy and vestry rooms were added during the latter 19th century in a style conforming to the original design. The nave is rectangular rather than cruciform with a center aisle and two side aisles.

The wooden arches supporting the roof are pointed arched in shape and a horizontal beam intersects the arches at their peak. These beams connect directly to the flat tounge and groove ceiling of the nave which hides the peak of the pointed roof. The square panels of the ceiling and sloping sides of the roof are stencilled in alternating squares of cross and sun burst designs.

The chancel is three steps above and narrower than the nave. The sanctuary is two steps above the chancel, and the altar is raised two additional steps.

The choir and organ loft are above the rear of the nave and is reached by stairs from the steeple.

Above the altar is a stained glass window depicting the Ascension. On either side of it are brass tablets engraved with the Lord's Prayer, the Apostles' Creed and the Ten Commandments. There are two windows facing each other in the sanctuary, one designed by L. G. Tiffany. There is one triple window on the gospel side of the chancel. All windows are of stained or painted, colored glass; the doors in the front of the nave are brass. Brass angles flank the chancel steps and terminate the brass and wooden chancel rail. Lectern and pulpit are both of brass wrought in ecclesiastical designs. Two marble angels supporting seven branch candelabra flank the altar. These were originally gass lights. With the exception of the pew rented by Jefferson Davis all pews are of oak and of 20th century vintage. The Davis pew, installed in 1855, is of pine.

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)

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 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 | | | |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

St. John's Episcopal Church is one of three large ante-bellum Gothic churches in the state built after designs by Frank Wills and Henry Dudley. These churches were Alabama's closest approximations to the principles of Gothic architecture that Pugin, Ruskin and Upjohn stressed. Additionally St. John's was the church of Confederate President Jefferson Davis's family while the Confederate government was located in Montgomery.

St. John's Episcopal Parish was organized in 1834. Two years passed while plans for the church building were perfected. In the meantime services were held in the Baptist and Universalist churches. In the Autumn of 1837 pews were sold and the new church, the first brick church building in Montgomery, was occupied. This structure was on the southeast corner of Jefferson and Perry Streets, directly North of the present structure.

As Montgomery flourished, becoming an agricultural center and in 1847 the state capital, St. John's parish outgrew the church. Plans for a new building were begun in 1852 and 1855 the present church was completed. Designed by Wills and Dudley of New York, it originally consisted of what is now the vestibule or narthex and nave. Since the old building was given to the Negro Episcopalians, new St. John's was built without the usual slave gallery, the loft being designed for the choir and organ.

In 1853 the Rt. Rev. Nicholas Hammer Cobbs, first bishop of the Diocese of Alabama, accepted the additional duty of rector of St. John's and for five years he acted in the dual capacity. After resigning as rector he continued to live in Montgomery where he died January 11, 1861.

While Montgomery was the capital of the Confederacy from February through May, 1861, many men prominent first in the United States government and then in the Confederacy worshipped in St. John's Church. President Jefferson Davis, though not an Episcopalian at that time, rented a pew for his family who were. After the Confederate government was moved to Richmond, St. John's Parish supported the war effort by contributions to the military hospitals in Montgomery and to widows and orphans of Confederate soldiers.

The organizational meeting of the General Council of the Protestant Episcopal Church of the Confederate States of America was held in

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Cook, May A., Historical St. John's Church: A Centennial, 1936.
 Howard, Milo B., Jr., A Brief History of St. John's Church, 1966.
 Thompson, Alan Smith, Gothic Revival Architecture in Ante-Bellum Alabama.
 Unpublished M. A. Thesis, University of Alabama, 1963
 Whitaker, W. C., The History of the Protestant Episcopal Church in Alabama,
 1763-1891.
 Wood, Mattie Peques, The Life of St. John's Parish, 1955.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

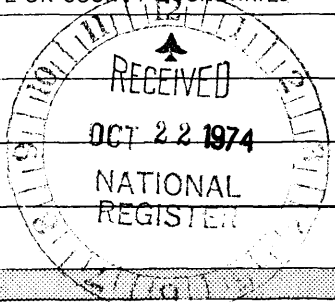
LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY				O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES				
CORNER	LATITUDE		LONGITUDE		LATITUDE		LONGITUDE		
	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
NW	°	'	"	°	'	"	32°	22'	48"
NE	°	'	"	°	'	"	86°	15'	26"
SE	°	'	"	°	'	"			
SW	°	'	"	°	'	"			

16/515170
3582560
CP

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: **less than 1 acre**

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
W. Warner Floyd, Executive Director

ORGANIZATION: **Alabama Historical Commission** DATE: **Oct. 9, 1974**

STREET AND NUMBER:
725 Monroe Street

CITY OR TOWN: **Montgomery** STATE: **Alabama** CODE: **01**

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 Milo B. Howard, Jr.

Title SNPO Ala.

Date October 14, 1974

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

AR Montrose
 Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date 2/24/75

ATTEST:

George F. Emery
 Keeper of The National Register

Date Feb. 20, 1975

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(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	Alabama	
COUNTY	Montgomery	
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(Number all entries)

8. Significance (continued)

St. John's Church. At the close of the war St. John's and all Episcopal Churches in the Diocese of Alabama were closed by order of Maj. Gen. Charles R. Woods, military commander of the Department of Alabama, because the bishop, Richard Hooker Wilmer, suspended the use of the prayer for the President and all in Civil Authority so long as Alabama was under military government. The ban having been lifted in 1866, the Diocesan Convention met in St. John's, voted to withdraw from the General Council and to rejoin the Church of the United States.

In 1869 St. John's underwent its first major renovation and enlargement. The old church on Jefferson Street was pulled down and the bricks used to build the present chancel and sanctuary. The organ and choir stalls were moved to the chancel and the loft was turned over to the Negro members of the Parish. At the same time the plaster ceiling was replaced by the present wooden ceiling which was stenciled according to designs made by a New York artist. These stencilings and those in the window facings inside the chancel have been carefully preserved while the elaborate stencilings on the walls have been painted over.

The building complex of the Parish was completed in 1955 with the erection of the Educational Building. In 1961 the last major alterations in the church were undertaken. The organ and choir were again placed in the choir loft and the Parish House was remodeled. In 1969 the choir loft was extended five feet.