

United States Department of the Interior  
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service

# National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*  
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

For NCRS use only

received APR 28 1980

date entered MAY 29 1980

## 1. Name

historic St. John's A.M.E. Church (D009:6-9)

and/or common St. John's A.M.E. Church

## 2. Location

street & number 2402 North 22nd Street not for publication

city, town Omaha vicinity of congressional district Second

state Nebraska code 031 county Douglas code 055

## 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	<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:

## 4. Owner of Property

name St. John's A.M.E. Church

street & number 2402 North 22nd Street

city, town Omaha vicinity of state Nebraska

## 5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Register of Deeds, Omaha/Douglas County Civic Center

street & number 18th and Farnam Streets

city, town Omaha state Nebraska

## 6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Omaha City Planning Department  
Historic Structure Survey has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

date 1978  federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records Omaha/Douglas County Civic Center

city, town Omaha state Nebraska

## 7. Description

<b>Condition</b>		<b>Check one</b>	<b>Check one</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

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

St. John's African Methodist Episcopal Church at 2402 North 22nd Street in Omaha is located in a mixed residential/commercial neighborhood in which community development programs are initiating major redevelopment efforts. In close proximity is the Webster Telephone Exchange (listed in the National Register 12-5-77), now housing the Great Plains Black Museum.

Designed by Omaha architect Frederick S. Stott, this L-shaped, 78' x 114' Prairie School building was constructed between 1921-56. Walls are of brick construction and there is a partial steel frame system: the foundation is granite, and the two levels are articulated by a continuous stone band.

In 1923, completed work included the raised basement with projecting exterior masonry strips and a stairtower at the northeast and southeast corners that provided access to both the basement (where services were conducted for many years) and to the then-anticipated auditorium. Natural light for the basement is provided by sash windows near the ground level. The entrances contain double doors with transoms and are surrounded by frontispieces that are classical, yet in relation with the other stone and concrete elements of the exterior.

The 42' x 112' auditorium, completed in 1947, is a large rectangular space with a lower side extension on the west. Light is admitted through cantilever-shaded clerestory windows which are partially filled with stained glass illustrating biblical scenes. The flat concrete roof sheltering the auditorium is supported by brick-sheathed steel columns -- ornamentation on the exterior of each column being provided by a small field of blue tile with a red square insert and a slender cross of white tile. Five meeting rooms east of the auditorium were completed in 1956.

# 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 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** 1921, 1947, 1956      **Builder/Architect** Frederick S. Stott

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

St. John's A.M.E. Church is architecturally significant to Nebraska as a fine product of the Prairie School style. Designed by Omaha architect Frederick S. Stott, the structure represents a progressive attitude on the behalf of this black congregation at a time when traditional values in religious architecture remained prevalent.

Antedating Nebraska's statehood by two years, St. John's was organized in 1865 with a membership of five persons. The third and present building to serve the congregation was commenced in 1921 -- worship services being held in the basement for 21 years due to a decision that construction would proceed only as funds allowed. The auditorium was first used in 1947 and auxiliary rooms were finished in 1956.

Frederick Stott, the architect for St. John's, was born in St. Paul, Minnesota, in 1889. He served an apprenticeship in the office of St. Paul architect C. H. Johnson and later worked in Boston, Minneapolis, and with the Construction Division of the U.S. Army in Omaha. From 1919 until the early 1930's, Stott practiced in Omaha alone. Low proportions, emphatic horizontality, and sheltering overhangs are basic design principles of Frank Lloyd Wright that Stott employed in the church building for St. John's. Despite its somewhat lengthy period of construction, all work is as the architect specified: financial limitations prohibited the building campaign from being a one-phased project. Significantly, the congregation agreed to an unadulterated Prairie School building during a period when the Colonial and late Gothic revivals were the norm for ecclesiastical architecture.

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

See continuation sheet

# 10. Geographical Data

UTM NOT VERIFIED

Acreage of nominated property less than one

ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED

Quadrangle name Omaha North

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UMT References

A 

1	5	2	5	3	3	5	0	4	5	7	3	9	0	0
Zone		Easting				Northing								

B 

Zone		Easting				Northing								

C 

Zone		Easting				Northing								

D 

Zone		Easting				Northing								

E 

Zone		Easting				Northing								

F 

Zone		Easting				Northing								

G 

Zone		Easting				Northing								

H 

Zone		Easting				Northing								

Verbal boundary description and justification

Lot 1, east 81 feet of the south half of Lot 2 and the north half of Lot 2, and the east 81 feet of Lot 3, Block 1, Idlewild Addition, City of Omaha.

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

state	code	county	code

# 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Robert Peters, Planner

organization City of Omaha Planning Department date April, 1980

street & number 18th and Farnam telephone 402/471-3270

city or town Omaha state Nebraska

# 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 Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature Marion E. Kivett

title Director, Nebraska State Historical Society date

For HCERS use only

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

for W. Ray Face date 5/29/80  
Keeper of the National Register

Attest: William H. Bralham date 5.27.80  
Chief of Registration

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED APR 28 1980

DATE ENTERED

MAY 29 1980

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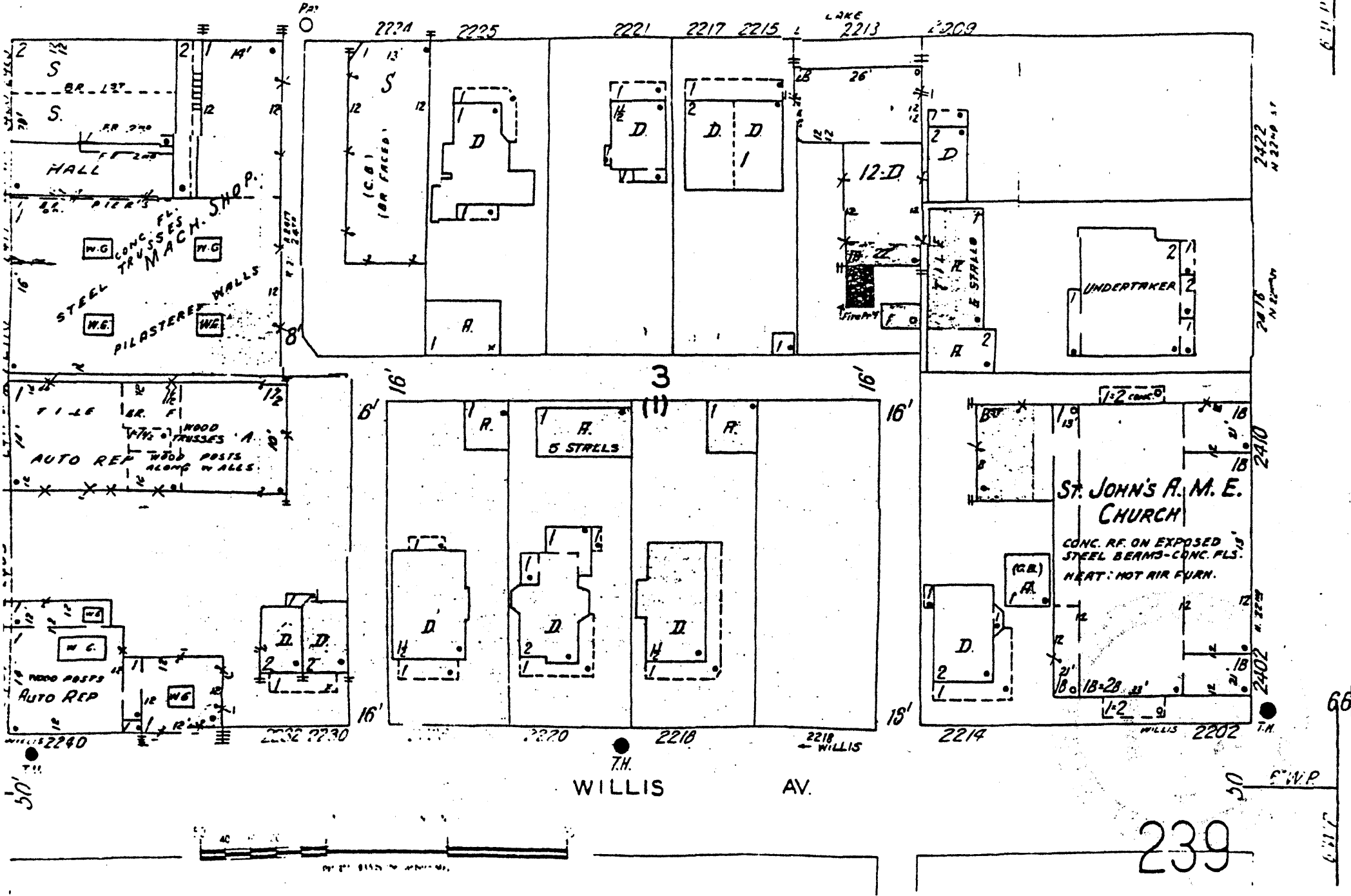
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Omaha City Architecture. Omaha: Landmarks, Inc. and the Junior League of Omaha, Inc., 1977.

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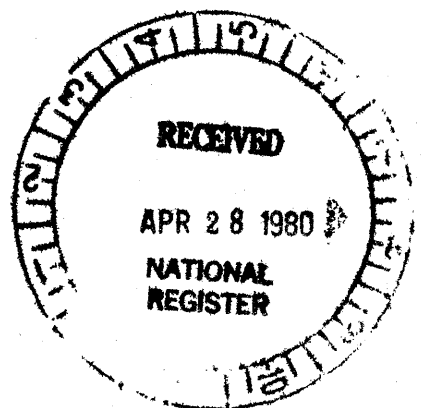
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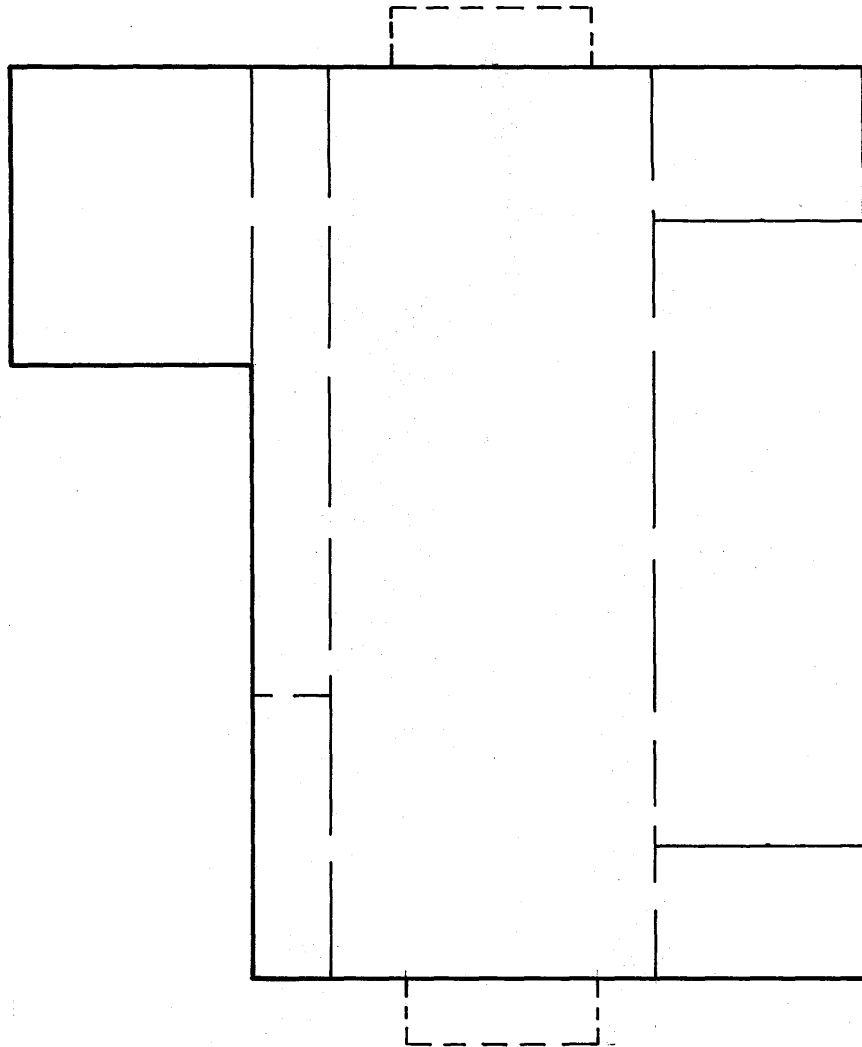
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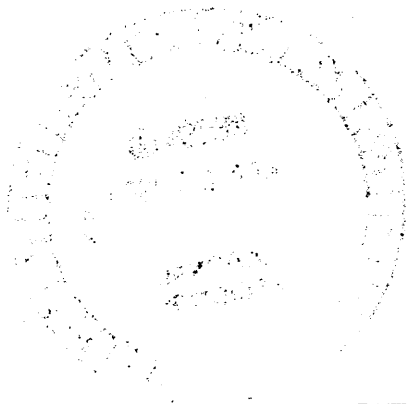
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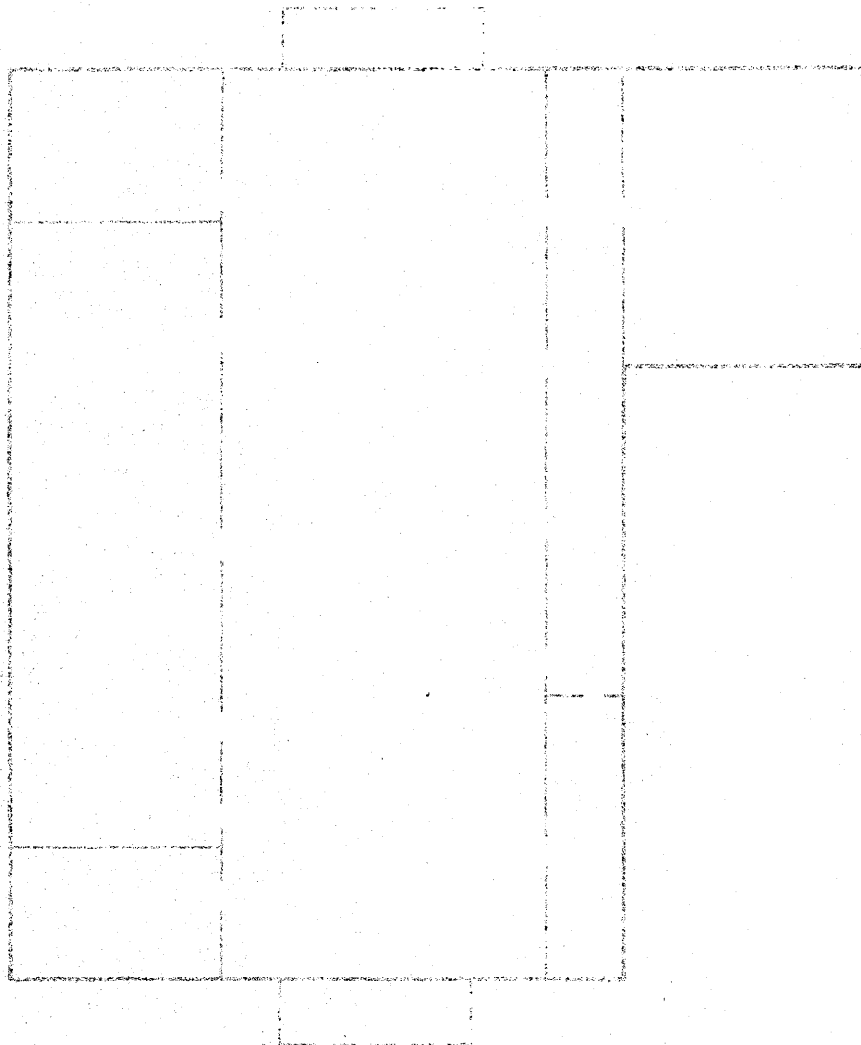




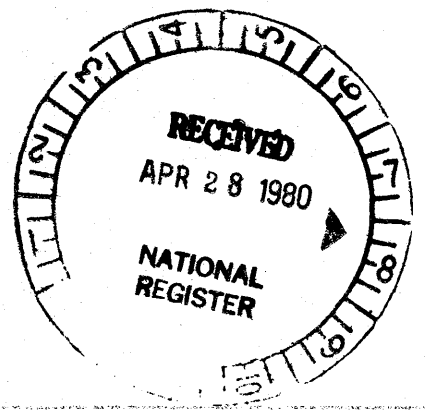
**ST. JOHN'S A.M.E. CHURCH**







ST JOHN'S AMERICAN CHURCH



MAY 29 1980