

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions.

1. Name of Property

Historic name Christ Church EpiscopalOther names/site number N/AName of related multiple
property listingN/A

(Remove "N/A" if property is part of a multiple property listing and add name)

2. Location

Street & Number: 663 Douglas St.City or town: ChattanoogaState: TNCounty: HamiltonNot For Publication: ☐ N/AVicinity: ☐ N/AZip: 37403

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,

I hereby certify that this ☒ nomination ___ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60.

In my opinion, the property ☒ meets ___ does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:

☐

national

☐

statewide

☒

local

Applicable National Register Criteria:

☐

A

☐

B

☒

C

☐

D

Signature of certifying official/Title:

Date

Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer, Tennessee Historical Commission

State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

In my opinion, the property ___ meets ___ does not meet the National Register criteria.

Signature of Commenting Official:

Date

Title:

State of Federal agency/bureau or Tribal
Government

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4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

- ☐ entered in the National Register
☐ determined eligible for the National Register
☐ determined not eligible for the National Register
☐ removed from the National Register
☐ other (explain:) _____

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply.)

Private ☒
Public – Local ☐
Public – State ☐
Public – Federal ☐

Category of Property

(Check only **one** box.)

Building(s) ☒
District ☐
Site ☐
Structure ☐
Object ☐

Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1	0	buildings
0	0	sites
0	0	structures
0	0	objects
1	0	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

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6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

RELIGION/ religious facility

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

RELIGION/ religious facility

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Late Gothic Revival

Materials: (enter categories from instructions.)

Principal exterior materials of the property:

BRICK; STONE

Narrative Description

Christ Church Episcopal is located in Chattanooga (population 182,799), Hamilton County, Tennessee. The church sits on a city lot on the north corner of McCallie Avenue and Douglas Street.¹ The original ca. 1906 portion of the gable-front rectangular plan building is in the Gothic Revival style and maintains a high degree of integrity with pointed arched windows, buttresses, a beveled slate tile roof, a rose window, a Flemish bond brick pattern, stone detailing, and a highly intact and detailed interior features. The building includes an interior remodel by noted Gothic Revival architect Ralph Adams Cram completed ca. 1929 and a muted Gothic influenced addition ca. 1957 on the rear/north elevation that is compatible with of the architecture of the original sanctuary and helps create a unified building.

¹ U.S. Census Bureau QuickFacts: Chattanooga city, Tennessee. (July 1, 2019). Retrieved September 29, 2020, from <https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/chattanooga-city-tennessee>.

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Exterior

The façade (south elevation) faces McCallie Avenue and features a continuous stone foundation and a structural Flemish bond brick pattern. The south elevation begins to the east with the south elevation of the large square tower. This elevation mirrors the east elevation except for the corner pilaster replacing the tower. The three-story square tower has a flat roof with large overhanging limestone eave and corbelled brick cornice between each corner pilaster featuring a triangular, limestone capped capital and detailing that extends past the roof line and meets in a 90-degree angle to a matching pilaster on the adjacent elevations. The corner of each elevation of the tower extends slightly past the pilasters to meet on the corners of the tower with a limestone capstone on the third floor slightly below the roofline. At the second story, the elevations extend slightly further and are capped with a limestone capital. Between the three-story pilaster is a large brick Gothic arch with brick corbelling detail. Inset from the arch are three fixed single-light wood windows that follow the shape of the arch, with a transom over the central fixed window and limestone sills. The three windows are divided by the brick exterior wall with a triangular limestone finial with triangular capitals and a spire with fountain detail on top of the pilasters below. These pilasters continue down the elevation to an oversized angled limestone sill on the first-floor windows. Between each floor, the pilasters have a limestone triangular capital with a trefoil relief. Traveling down the elevation, the pilasters divide three fixed single-light wood windows and a double-hung central wood sash window with limestone sills on the second floor and a set of three rectangular fixed wood stained-glass windows on the first floor. The stained-glass windows have diamond tracery pattern. The eastern most pilaster has a limestone cornerstone. To the west of the tower is a two-story connector with a flat roof and limestone coping that links the three-story square tower to the main block of the church. The second floor has three wood windows with a central double-hung wood window and central double-hung wood window that are divided by triangular limestone finials to the pilasters below with triangular limestone capitals featuring a trefoil relief. The pilasters divide three first-floor fixed stained-glass windows and have angled limestone stools. An angled limestone belt-course runs along the connector's elevation and serves as the first-floor windows' sills.

Moving west on the south façade is the gable end of the main block of the church that enters the narthex with a Flemish bond brick pattern, limestone coping and a limestone cross finial at the gable's peak. This main block of the church is symmetrical, flanked by two rectangular towers extending past the roofline that are topped with battlements and limestone coping. Moving down these towers are square pilasters projecting at an angle from the corners on the tower with triangular capitals on each side made of limestone with trefoil reliefs. A limestone band runs around the tower two feet below and again further down the tower as the side pilasters fade into the towers edge and it serves as capstones for a central stack of corbelled brick and pilasters on each side of the tower. The bottom sections of the towers are capped with a limestone band and canted bricks on the corners in a triangular shape.

Centered in the gable-end between the two towers is a large, corbelled brick gothic arch that insets into the façade. Inside the arch is large window bay divided into nine rectangular windows with two double-hung sash windows on the bottom row and a limestone beltline running below as its sill. The windows were originally this clear glass to be added as memorial stained glass later, according to church notes.² All of the current stained-glass windows were added in 2002 replacing the original amber glass. It was part of the original design plans for the church to do so when money was available. The original amber glass was incorporated into the new windows. Flanking the windows are two limestone spires with limestone top

² *Notes Toward A History of Christ Church Parish 1900-1960* Part 1, (Working paper)(n.d.).

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connector that imitates a flying buttresses with a pointed arch along the bottom and two cut-outs with pointed arch in the connection piece. Each spire has two sets of triangular pediments and is topped with a fountain detail. Brick stacks with limestone triangular capitals on all four sides depicting a trefoil design hold up these limestone spires. Moving down the columns there are limestone triangular spires with limestone capitals and plinths. Connecting the two columns are brick knee-walls with limestone capstones with a central limestone cross finial. To the east and west of the columns are brick pilasters in battlements. Below the knee walls are Tudor arch limestone entryways leading to the recessed entry. Inside the recessed entry are three doorways with Gothic arch limestone surrounds and detailing. The central door is a paneled double wood door with Gothic arch two-light windows with leaded glass and interior trefoil detailing around the arches. Centered in the square wood panel on each door are inset quatrefoil detailing. Above the doors in the limestone Gothic arch are two panels of limestone with five columns with tracery detailing. Flanking the central double door are single doors in the same style. In the Gothic arch above these two doors is a trefoil made of limestone. All three of these entry doors are from the ca. 1929 remodel by famous Gothic revival church architect, Dr. Ralph Adams Cram. (see figure 1) The floors to the entry are pyro tint tile floors.

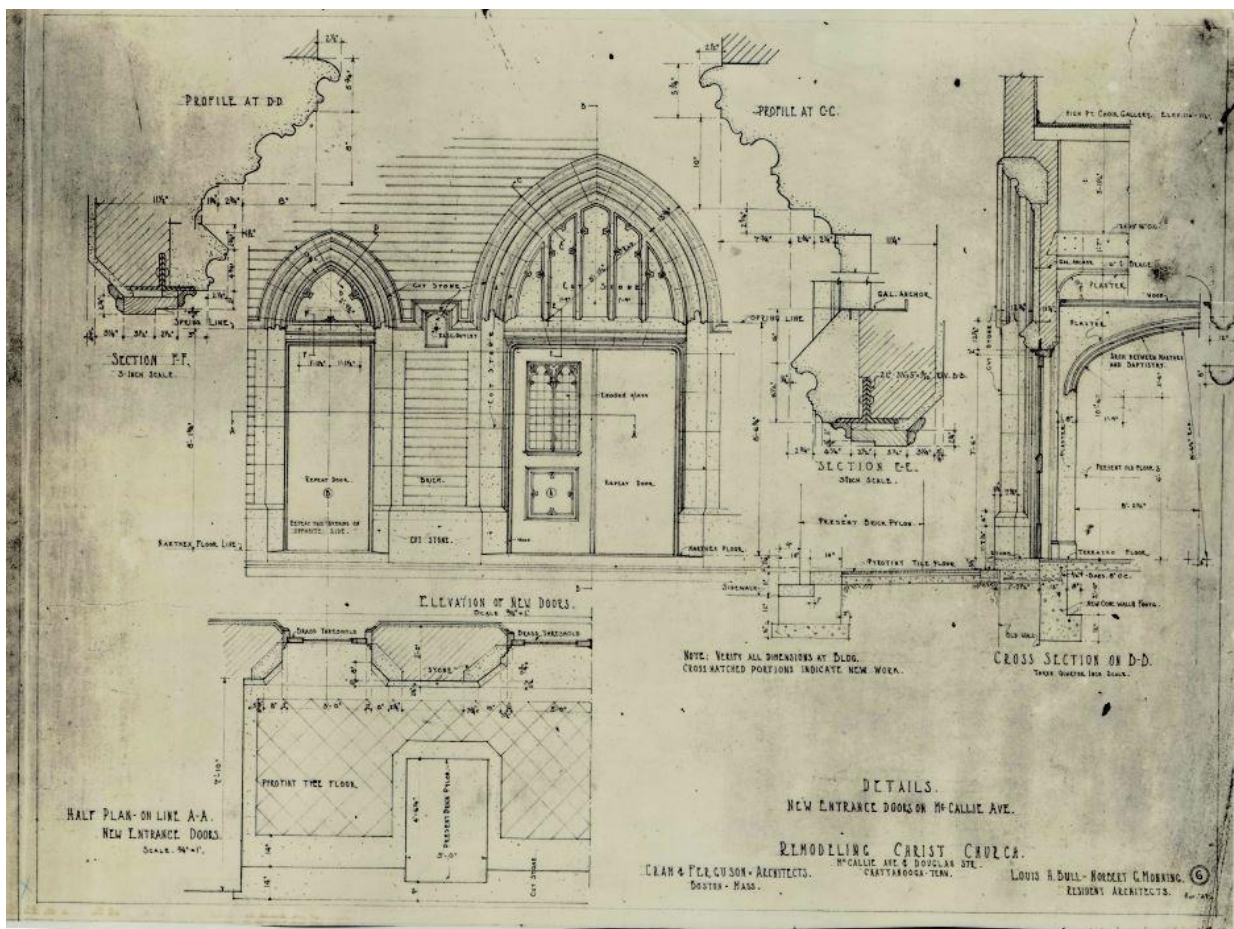


Figure 1 Entrance Doors architectural drawing ca.1929

The west elevation features the side of the gabled roof with beveled and imbricated slate tiles and metal cornice and drainage system. The elevation continues with a stone foundation and a structural Flemish bond brick pattern. The north section of the elevation begins with a stepped buttress with angled limestone capstones. Between the next matching buttresses are four bays of window openings that have now been

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concealed with wood. The limestone windowsills are angled and are connected with the angled limestone beltline. Between each window opening there are brick pilasters with triangular capitals with a trefoil pattern. Moving to the south there begins a pattern of three stained-glass windows between each buttress and repeats a total of four times. Between each window are pilasters that extend to the top of the buttresses with triangular capitals with a trefoil pattern. To the south of the last buttress are two stained-glass windows to the baptistery.

The north elevation is a gable end with brick walls in the common bond pattern and a stone foundation. The brick used on this elevation is smaller and of a lighter color than the brick used on the other three elevations. This elevation's main feature is a central rosary window to the sanctuary. The rose window has stone tracery, quatrefoils and leaded glass. Flanking the rose window are two exterior chimneys that divide the elevation into thirds. The western 166' exterior chimney that serviced the boiler extends past the roofline and has a limestone cap while the eastern chimney ends at the roofline and has a limestone cap. The roof has limestone parapet, and a limestone cross is placed at the peak of the gable and two stepped landings with limestone caps running down the parapet. A one-story concrete block addition that is one-bay wide attaches to the original building in the center of the elevation. The addition changes to two stories toward the far east side of the original building's elevation. A modern cloth awning attaches to the original building at the corner of the one-story addition with three poured concrete steps leading to a metal door to the west of the western exterior chimney. Continuing to the west, above the awning, is a Gothic arch stained-glass window with stone tracery above and a limestone lintel. The south edge of the elevation is a stepped buttress with angled limestone caps and brick coining wrapping from the south elevation.

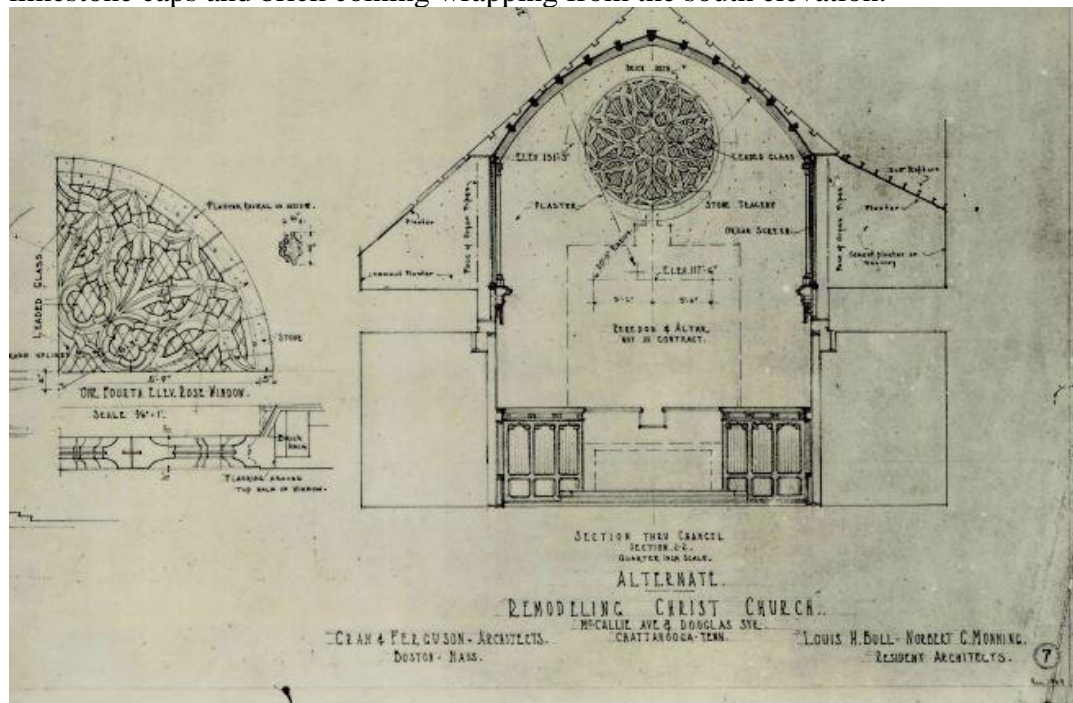


Figure 2 Rose window architectural detail drawing ca. 1929.

The ca. 1957 rear addition's west elevation is four bays wide with concrete block siding and a flat roof. The second story elevation is set back from the one-story elevation. The one-story elevation has three, two-over-two metal double-hung windows with horizontal muntins and a metal door to the south with a poured concrete ramp and metal railing leading to it. The second story has two two-over-two metal double-hung

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windows with horizontal muntins to the south and one to the north of the elevation. An A/C unit sits on the top of the one-story addition.

The north elevation of the 1957 addition is two stories and four bays wide to the east with a flat roof, a parapet with stone coping, and one story and one-bay wide to the west with a parapet and metal flashing. The elevation has a brick façade with a row of the Flemish bond pattern every six courses. The two-story addition's windows are two-over-two double-hung metal windows with horizontal muntins and limestone sills that line up vertically on the first and second floors. Under the window to the far east is a recessed metal door with enclosed transom above with poured concrete steps.

The east elevation of the 1957 addition is two stories and three bays wide with a one-story single bay to the south. This elevation continues with the same parapet and limestone coping and masonry courses. The three bays are separated by buttresses with angled limestone caps. Above the buttresses are pilasters that extend to the parapet with a triangular limestone decorative cap. The first-floor features clearstory windows in each bay with the central windows being a ribbon of three two-over-two double hung metal windows with horizontal muntins. The clearstory windows in the two flanking bays are single, two-over-two, double hung metal windows with horizontal muntins. Below the windows is an angled limestone belt course that connects the sills and extends across all four bays of the elevation. The second story has the same pattern of windows with a central ribbon of three, two-over-two, double-hung, metal windows with horizontal muntins and single, two-over-two, double-hung, metal windows in each adjoining bay. Between the first and second floor windows the brick is laid in a soldier pattern. The single bay to the south has one clearstory one-over-one, double hung metal window, a brick parapet and stone coping. Set back to the west by three bays, is a two-story, two-bay projection to the 1957 addition's main block. This projection extends south with a yellow brick relief of a Celtic cross above a one story, one-bay projection with a flat roof, limestone coping and a Tudor style arch opening with corner stone detailing.

The south elevation of the two-story 1957 addition is three bays wide with two-over-two, double-hung, metal windows with horizontal muntins and limestone sills. This elevation continues with the same parapet and limestone coping with the same brick façade. Below is the one-story portion of the main one-story addition with a one-over-one, metal casement window in the west corner with the limestone belt course that wraps from the east elevation below. To the west is the two-story projection with two stacked eight-over-eight, double-hung metal windows and a limestone sill centered in the elevation. Along the same plane as the projection is a one-story entrance vestibule to the east with limestone capstones and three tall rectangular openings with limestone sills and metal grating. Inside the entrance vestibule on the south elevation is a paneled double door.

The east elevation of the 1906 building begins with a gable end elevation in the Flemish bond pattern with limestone capstones, set behind the 1957 two-story addition and entrance vestibule. To the south of the addition is a first-floor, double-hung, wood sash, stained-glass, Gothic arch window with a diamond pattern and rectangular border and a central rectangular dedication frame. The window opening is rectangular with limestone tracery above and a limestone sill. Moving to the south on the elevation continues with a stone foundation and a structural Flemish bond brick pattern while displaying the gabled roof with beveled slate tiles and metal cornice and drainage system. This section of the elevation begins with a stepped buttress with angled limestone capstones. Continuing south there begins a pattern of three stained-glass windows between each buttress and repeats a total of three times ending with a single matching stained-glass window following

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the fourth buttress. Between each window are pilasters that extend to the top of the buttresses with triangular capitals engraved with a trefoil pattern.

The north elevation of the hallway and stair tower adjoins to the east elevation and continues with a stone foundation and a structural Flemish bond brick pattern. The elevation has a flat roof with a parapet and limestone coping. The parapet begins wrapped in slate shingles until it extends past the roofline where it begins the Flemish bond brick. The elevation insets slightly to a single bay with a third-floor rectangular fixed stained-glass window with lead tracery in diamond patterns and limestone sill. Above the first-floor entry is with a tall rectangular fixed window with a limestone sill. The entry has wood panel door single-light door with tracery and a wood surround that replaced a window that is shown on the 1929 floor plans. Moving to the east, the elevation projects around two-feet and extends with its flat roof and parapet with limestone coping until it meets a three-story octagonal stair tower with battlement to the east. Set behind this elevation is the north elevation of the three-story square tower, with its corner pilaster and triangular capital. On the first floor of the tower, there is a small, one-bay, one-and-a-half-story projection with an angled limestone cap with brick coining along its eastern side.

The east elevation of the Lady Chapel and stair tower continues with the Flemish bond brick pattern and begins to the north with the three-story octagonal stair tower. The tower has fixed single-light wood windows with limestone sills on a north and south elevation octagonal tower, which are slightly inset. The tower has a recessed entry with wood panel detailing and a single-light panel door that has been enclosed to make an interior bathroom space. To the south of the stair tower is a larger three-story square tower that has a flat roof with a large, overhanging, limestone eave and corbelled brick cornice. Each corner ends with a pilaster featuring a triangular, limestone capped capital and detailing that extends past the roof line. Here it meets in a ninety-degree angle to a matching pilaster on the adjacent elevations, except for the north corner of the tower, which is met by the stair tower. The corner of each elevation of the tower extends slightly past the pilasters to meet on the corners of the tower with a limestone capstone on the third floor slightly below the roofline. At the second floor, the elevations extend slightly further and are capped with a limestone capital. Between the three-story pilaster and the tower is a large brick Gothic arch with a double rib detail. Inset from the arch are three fixed single-light wood windows that follow the shape of the arch, with a transom over the central fixed window and limestone sills. The three windows are divided by the brick exterior wall with a limestone finial with triangular capitals and a spire with a fountain detail on top of the pilasters below. These pilasters continue down the elevation to a first-floor angled limestone belt-course that continues to the north and wraps the tower. The pilasters divide three fixed single-light wood windows with limestone sills on the first and second floors. Between each floor, the pilasters have a limestone triangular capital with a trefoil design. The first-floor, rectangular, fixed, wood windows are stained glass.

Interior

The interior features terrazzo floors, wood ceiling with exposed wood purlins and gothic arch trusses, plaster Tuscan columns in an arcade, and carved woodwork detailing throughout the narthex, sanctuary, chapel and baptistery. Overall, the interior reflects a high degree of integrity with intact decorative features throughout the primary spaces. The interior features of the 1957 addition are much simpler and reflect the use as educational and office spaces.

The narthex has asbestos tile flooring over the original terrazzo with plaster walls and wood molding. The plaster ceilings curve upward above the simple wood crown molding. Pilasters and a ribbed plaster Gothic

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arch leads to the baptistery to the west. A central double entrance way into the sanctuary features a wooden Tudor arch with trefoil and acanthus leaf carvings with half round corbels on each side. To the east is the Lady Chapel with a single door entry. The door is a paneled door with a quatrefoil wood panel detail below two 28-light glass windows shaped into gothic arches with trefoil designs inside.

The Lady Chapel to the east of the narthex, features carpeted floors and a central aisle with wood pews with bench ends shaped into gothic arches with a carved quatrefoil. Steps lead up to a wood communion rail with trefoil detailing and a large gothic arch opening to the chancel. Flanking the opening are Gothic arch niches. Stained-glass windows in the chapel have angled stone stools.

The baptistery to the west of the narthex has asbestos tile floor over the terrazzo floor with gothic arch windows, angled large window stools and plaster ceilings curve upward above the simple wood crown molding. Pilasters and a ribbed plaster Gothic arch leads to the narthex. A single opening to the sanctuary features a wood Tudor arch with trefoil and acanthus leaf carvings with half round corbels on each side.

The stair tower leads up a wood staircase with turned spindles and a large square newel post with fluting and Greek key carvings along the top molding. The third floor is a classroom with a four-panel wood panel door, wood molding and flooring, and plaster walls. The second floor is the choir room with five-panel wood doors, plaster walls, wood molding and original wood flooring. The choir room leads to the choir loft.

The sanctuary follows a traditional church plan with a central aisle with an arcade of ribbed gothic arches and plaster columns with Doric capitals separating the pews from side aisles in the nave. The nave's ceiling is wood with a wood cornice and exposed rafter beams following the gable shape of the roof. Wood trusses shaped in Gothic arches sit above each column along the nave. The wood pews' bench ends are shaped into Gothic arches with carved quatrefoil. Original hexagon pendant lights hang along the nave and side aisles from the ceiling. The sanctuary has plaster walls with wood wainscoting wrapping throughout. The southern wall of the nave has a full-floor height wood narthex screen and is topped adorned with a crown molding with dentil detailing above. The southern wall's central double doorway into the narthex features a wooden Tudor arch with trefoil and acanthus leaf carvings with half round corbels on each side. A smaller, single opening replicates the same detailing to the west, entering the baptistery from the side aisle. Located above the narthex, is the choir loft open to the nave with a paneled wood balcony railing with carved lace lattice trim below. A large wood organ with intricate carvings along the top of the pipes sits in the balcony.

Wainscoting runs along the side aisles on the east and west of the nave end under the stained-glass windows, sloping downward, while connecting to the window's stools. The flooring throughout the nave is asbestos tile, which is presumed to be added on top of the original terrazzo flooring. Pine flooring is located under the pews in the nave. The final archway in the arcade that connects to a final pilaster to the north has a wood beam across it with a Tudor arch with trefoil and acanthus leaf carvings with half round corbels on each side, topped with a wooden cross. The wall extends down from the ceiling at this final column to the east and west above the side aisles into a gothic arch to create chapel space.

The north end of the sanctuary features a large central, ribbed plaster Gothic arch entering the chancel, with two smaller Gothic arches at the termination of the side aisles. Inside these arches are smaller recessed Gothic arches with altars for the chapel space and doorways to the priest's sacristy to the west and the working sacristy to the east. The elevated pulpit with Gothic arches and trefoils is located against the pilaster of the arcade of columns to the east. Terrazzo steps lead to the chancel with pine banisters with quatrefoil

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and trefoil detailing. The communion rail matches the communion rail in the Lady Chapel. The chancel has carpet over the terrazzo floor with wood screens featuring an arcade of arches and paneling surrounding the chancel. There is a central raised altar with intricate wood carved detailing and a large rose window above with stone tracery. The walls of the chancel to the east and west are plaster above the screens with verge board wood carved detailing under the organ pipe screens above. Over the pipes is a wooden Tudor arch with trefoil and acanthus leaf carvings with half round corbels on each side.

Behind the working sacristy is the 1957 parsonage addition. The addition features concrete block walls, linoleum tile flooring, and a large fellowship hall with access to an adjoining commercial kitchen through two doorways. The second-floor features six classrooms and a small bathroom with carpet and concrete block walls. A small bathroom on the second floor is located at the termination of the hallway. All the interior spaces are original to the 1957 construction with exception of tile flooring updates in the first-floor bathrooms.

Site and Setting

Christ Episcopal directly faces the front elevation of First Presbyterian Church across McCallie Avenue, with the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga's Fletcher Hall across on Douglas Street. The south façade (south elevation) sits directly on McCallie Avenue with a sidewalk in front. The site is surrounded by a parking lot to the north and west of the building with a small garden to the east along Douglas Street. The land around the church is limited taking full advantage of its smaller urban lot. Smaller bushes and landscaping surround the church building. There are no outbuildings.

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8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- ☐ A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- ☐ B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- ☒ C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- ☐ D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

☐

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|--|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | A Owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | B removed from its original location. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | C a birthplace or grave. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | D a cemetery. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | E a reconstructed building, object, or structure. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | F a commemorative property. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | G less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years. |

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Architecture

Period of Significance

1906-1957

Significant Dates

1929

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Trimby, Joseph; Stroup

Bull, Louis

Maury, Mason

Cram, Dr Ralph Adams

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Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph

Christ Church Episcopal is significant under criterion C for architecture. Christ Church Episcopal is an excellent local example of Gothic Revival style architecture. The original building has elements that include buttresses, Gothic arches, rosary window, and tracery. The building includes a detailed and intact interior remodel by noted Gothic Revival architect Ralph Adams Cram begun ca. 1929, completing several phases of construction from 1906 to 1930. The period of significance is 1906-1957, corresponding to the original construction and construction of the compatible Gothic influenced addition, which encompasses the 1929 major remodel. The church meets the requirements of Criterion Consideration A as it has been used for religious purposes throughout its history, but it is nominated for its architectural significance.

Narrative Statement of Significance

Christ Church Episcopal is representative of the trends in the late 19th century religious architecture. Reaching the United States by the 1830s, the Gothic Revival style gained popularity in the late 18th and early 19th centuries as Europe and the United State entered the Romantic Movement. This movement proclaimed the superiority of the Christian medieval past and revived the Gothic architectural style. It influenced residential, commercial, and religious buildings throughout the 19th century.³ According to architectural historian James Patrick, the 1845 St. John's Lutheran Church in Knoxville (NR Listed 4/4/1985) was one of the first examples of Gothic Revival style east of the Tennessee River. Declining in popularity among residential buildings by the mid-1860s, the style remained popular for public and religious buildings until the early decades of the 20th century.⁴

The Gothic Revival style was modeled after the Gothic architecture that dominated western European building practices during the High Middle Ages, reaching its peak of popularity for religious building by the 16th century. Gothic architecture, and the eventual Gothic Revival architecture, was an effort to glorify God through buildings that incorporated spires, towers, and windows that pointed heavenward. The Gothic Revival period in the United States has been divided into two phases: Early Gothic Revival and High Victorian Gothic. The early Gothic Revival grew in popularity after the Civil War with high-style versions of the style focused on verticality with steeply pitched roofs, spires, and detailed towers. Pointed arch windows, often called Gothic arches, are key indicators of the style and often made use of stained glass when congregations could afford it. It often replaced original clear or amber glass in Gothic arch windows in later decades, which is exactly what Christ Church did with its windows.⁵ Many of the stained-glass windows replaced the original amber-colored glass windows in 2002, following the original plans for the church.⁶

Built in 1906 and remodeled ca. 1929, Christ Church exemplifies the Gothic Revival style in an urban city. The church features Gothic arches, buttresses, flying buttresses, spires, a square tower, a rose window,

³ Crockett, Lindsay. "Shults Grove Methodist Church, Sevier County National Register of Historic Places Nomination," Tennessee. Nashville: Tennessee Historical Commission, 2016.

⁴ Patrick, James. *Architecture in Tennessee: 1768-1897*. Knoxville: University of Tennessee Press, 1981.

⁵ Crockett, Lindsay. "Shults Grove Methodist Church, Sevier County National Register of Historic Places Nomination," Tennessee. Nashville: Tennessee Historical Commission, 2016.

⁶ Cooper, C. (2002, December 14). A New Light Stained-glass Windows Give Christ Church- Episcopal a New Look. Chattanooga Times Free Press, p. F1 .

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battlements and brick and stone masonry, and high-style interior detailing in the Gothic Revival style.⁷ Christ Church Episcopal maintains a high degree of integrity, as little has been altered to the church after its 1929 remodel that was planned since the construction of the church in 1906. The only exception to this is the architecturally compatible addition in 1957 that attaches to the rear, northern elevation of the church.

While there are several brick churches in the city of Chattanooga that represent the Gothic Revival style, they all vary in design and uniqueness. Christ Church's exterior stands out from other Gothic Revival examples by its use of detailing that puts emphasis on forms and shapes to create depth and a layering to the façade with pilasters, spires, and flying buttresses. Christ Church's interior wood detailing is also very intricate and unlike any other church interior in Chattanooga with its center and side aisle plan separated with large colonnades of ribbed plaster in Gothic arches designed by the Dr. Ralph Adams Cram of Boston and New York. Cram was a prominent Gothic architect. The *Chattanooga Times Free Press* wrote, "the church, exterior and interior, is considered one of the best examples of English Gothic type of the 20th century."⁸ This opinion still stands today, evidenced by the meticulous architectural detailing and woodwork throughout the church.

Ralph Adams Cram (Dec. 16, 1863–Sept. 22, 1942), in his time, was the foremost Gothic Revival architect in the United States. During his career he became an advocate of and authority of English and French Gothic styles. Together with his firm's partner, F.W. Ferguson, he designed many prominent churches such as St. Thomas' Church in New York City, the Euclid Ave. Presbyterian Church in Cleveland, the First Baptist Church in Pittsburgh, and many buildings at the U.S. Military Academy and West Point. Cram believed that to design buildings to convey spiritual values they must be done as a corrective to technological civilization. He is believed to have also influenced higher education buildings on colleges and university campuses to use the Gothic Revival style as a standard.⁹

Other churches constructed in the Gothic Revival style in Chattanooga feature towers, the use of Gothic or pointed arch windows, rose windows, battlements, buttresses, and the use of brick and stone.¹⁰ National Register listed Gothic Revival style churches in Chattanooga include Highland Mark Methodist Episcopal Church (NR listed November 20, 1979), First Presbyterian Church (NR listed October 14, 2009), First Baptist Church (NR listed January 19, 1979), Basilica of St. Peter's and St. Paul's (NR listed December 11, 1979), Wiley United Methodist Church (NR listed August 1, 1979) and Trinity Methodist Episcopal Church (NR listed November 20, 1979).

⁷Virginia and Lee McAlester, *A Field Guide to American Houses* (New York: Alfred A. Knopf, Inc., 1984, 2009). 197-200.

⁸ Loop, Sue Mills. "Christ Church to Celebrate; Bishop Maxon Will Conduct Consecration Services Honoring Robertson." *Chattanooga Times Free Press*, April 30, 1944.

⁹ The Editors of Encyclopedia Britannica. (2020, September 18). Ralph Adams Cram. Retrieved September 24, 2020, from <https://www.britannica.com/biography/Ralph-Adams-Cram>

¹⁰ Virginia and Lee McAlester, *A Field Guide to American Houses* (New York: Alfred A. Knopf, Inc., 1984, 2009). 197-200.

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History

The notes on the Church's history state that around one-hundred members from St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Chattanooga requested to begin a new parish on the east side of town in 1900. Christ Church Episcopal held its first meeting of the vestry at the residence of Professor J.R. Baylor on December 18, 1900.¹¹ In February 1901, the church signed a contract with the Chattanooga Masonic Temple to use the space for a temporary place of worship. In March 1901, the Shepard lot was purchased.¹² The first service was held here on June 23, 1902, in the parlors of the old residence that previously stood where the church now resides.¹³ At the first parish meeting, March 31, 1902, at the church on the corner of McCallie Avenue and Douglas Street, the rector reported the growth of the parish was phenomenal and the old Shepard property had been altered so there was a very neat little chapel for worship. On June 21, 1904, the vestry met with architect Mason Maury from Louisville, Kentucky, to present his plans for the new church building. His plans were accepted and the foundation for the new church building was underway in April 1905.¹⁴ In 1906, the building committee authorized a contract from architect Stroup and Joseph Trimby as the contractor for \$22,950 to build certain portions of the church; the brick cost \$1,050 in addition to the base bid.¹⁵ The contract includes the nave and two stories of the tower, but none of the interior furnishings. These furnishings, such as the altar, organs, pews and stained-glass windows, were to be put in later by members of the church as memorials. For temporary measures, the church placed plain glass in the window openings.¹⁶

On October 28, 1906, the *Times Free Press* announced that Rev. Thomas Frank Gailor, the Southern Tennessee Diocese Bishop of Tennessee, would lay the cornerstone of the new Christ Church. The foundation of the present building was laid in 1906, but because of the rise in material and labor costs, the original stone church was changed to a very dark vitrified brick made by Lasley Brothers. This change caused a great delay in the construction of the church building.¹⁷ The first service was held in the new church on April 12, 1908.¹⁸ At this time, the church was not yet fully complete. There were plans for a great broad screen of three arches to go between the choir and the nave of the church, and the pipe organ was to be placed that summer. The pulpit of oak and brass is in memorial of Mr. and Mrs. Elbert T. Sevier.¹⁹ A letter to the parish went out after the April 20, 1908, celebrating, stating they had spent \$42,162.36 on the lot and new building, not including the old building and repairs: \$6,000 was for the lot, \$1,750 for the stone foundation and \$33,912.36 for the building and excavation.²⁰

¹¹ *Notes Toward A History of Christ Church Parish 1900-1960* Part 1, (Working paper)(n.d.),4.

¹² Ibid 6

¹³ Ibid 10

¹⁴ Ibid 7

¹⁵ Ibid

¹⁶ Ibid 8

¹⁷ Ibid 8

¹⁸ Ibid 10

¹⁹ Ibid 11

²⁰ Ibid 12

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In March 1913, the warden's report discussed the funds used for building repairs and the hopes of beautifying the interior of the church that had been put on hold because of depleted funds. The altar was reported to have been gifted to the church from St. John's Parish in Toledo, Ohio, valued at \$500 and installed by the guild at no expense. The rector, wardens, and vestry closed a contract with Pilcher & Company of Louisville, Kentucky, for the installation of a \$6,500 organ to be installed in July 1913. It is believed that the remainder of the brick tower and its rooms were furnished and completed by July 1913 as well because of the mention of meetings being held in the tower of the church in minutes from that July.

In 1922, Father Robertson wrote a reminder to the church that he was still anxious for the vestry to complete three main undertakings for the church: the paneling of the vestibule in the back of the church, arranging for a baptistery and a small chapel of penitence with a confessional, and a good bell in the tower. He also spoke on encouraging the installation of art glass memorial windows. Unfortunately, there is still no bell or chapel of penitence.²¹ The parish purchased C.A. Lysely's residential property in 1923 that sat adjacent to the church at the price of \$30,000 was used as the parish house which held church offices and had space for gatherings and classes.²² The house is no longer extant.

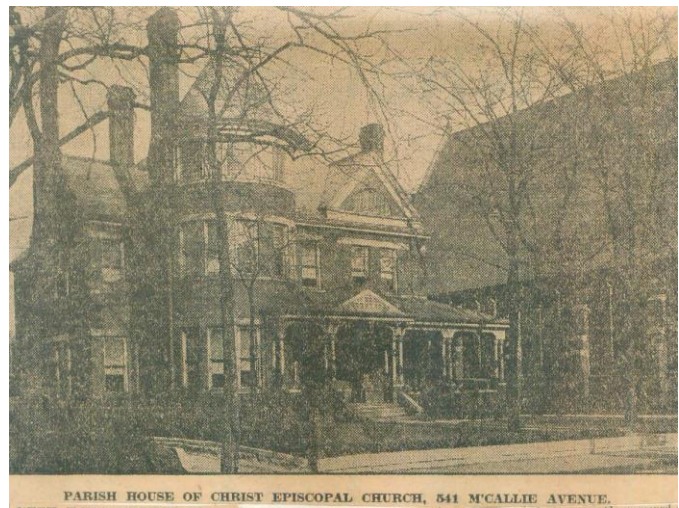


Figure 3: Parish House "Christ Church Parish House Social Center Old Lysely Home Will Be Occupied This Week; Valuable Addition to Church Property; History of Episcopal Institution Reveals Remarkable Progress Since Inception of Parish in 1900." *Chattanooga Times Free Press*, February 3, 1924.

An offering of \$20,000 in 1927 was given to complete Christ Church, provided the congregation would subscribe the present debt and agree to make no more debt. Father Robertson discussed the plans for the church with Dr. Ralph Adams Cram, the architect of the New York Cathedral and the West Park buildings. Robertson wrote that Cram was thought to be, at present, probably the greatest Gothic architect in the world. As a good Catholic and having a Southern wife, Cram was said to draw the plans for free. Along with this, Cram said if the church bought the back lot on Douglas Street, which contained a two-story frame residence, to build the chancel behind, they could have a beautiful church. The plans discussed between Dr. Crams and Father Robertson outlined rows of arches and columns of concrete down the church on the extension of the lateral organ pipes, leaving the present chapel in the chancel and choir. An altar as a chapel under each of the side organ pipes against the back wall and create a sanctuary about 25' deep.²³

²¹ Ibid 31

²² Ibid 25

²³ Ibid 27-28

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On May 2, 1927, a letter was sent out to everyone at the church who had contributed to clear the church of debt to receive the \$20,000 offering. The letter stated that the church was debt free and the offering had been received to be used in enlarging and completing the interior of Christ Church according to the plans prepared by Cram. At the time of the letter, Cram was working on two Episcopal cathedrals, one in New York City and one in Washington, D.C. The letter went on to state, "When Christ Church is completed it should be the foremost example of Gothic interior in the South and a matter of pride to Chattanooga."²⁴

Acting on Cram's plans, the church purchased the lot directly behind the church on Douglas Street and advertised for bids for demolishing and removing the residence. Unfortunately, because Cram's office was creating the plans for free, they fell behind to other contract work. In November 1928, plans were still not completed. In December, the rector stated informally that progress on the alterations of the church was unavoidable because of the expensive materials specified by the architect's plans that the committee was working to substitute for less expensive materials.

In 1929, a motion was carried to ask the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga to use its chapel for services so that the building committee could move forward with bids for the church interior under the revised sketch of Mr. Louis Bull, resident architect, submitted to Cram with review. When finances permitted in the future, they would then extend and carry out the rest of Cram's plans in full.²⁵

With the blueprints and specifications came a bill from Ralph Adams Cram and his Boston firm, Cram and Ferguson. Despite the original understanding that the design was free, Cram explained that was a misunderstanding and he had to at least charge for basic costs to the firm, totaling \$733.44.²⁶ Bull, a local architect, was recommended to be hired to supervise the building superintendent and carry out the plans drawn from Cram and Ferguson's plans.

The renovation was completed in 1930. Although the minutes of the vestry were lost for December 1929 and 1930, a letter in January 1931 from Senior Warden Jesse Dugger states that the renovations had begun in March 1929 and were completed in time for the opening festival November 2-5, 1930. The letter went on to say that Christ Church now had the most beautiful church in the entire South in which to worship.²⁷

As the Depression took hold of the country, Christ Church felt its toll. Still in debt and defaulting on the second mortgage on the parish house, the church was unable to collect on notes from members promised for the church renovations. This struggle led to the inability to further finance the parish house and rectory, also referred to as St. Lawrence Hall at 541 McCallie Ave., and the property was turned back into the mortgage, ending the ownership by First National Bank on February 1, 1933.²⁸ In January 1935 Metropolitan Insurance Company gave final notice that unless the parish pays a minimum of \$75 a month on their indebtedness, they would begin the foreclosure process. In 1936, the church was still battling threatened

²⁴ Ibid 38

²⁵ Ibid 46

²⁶ Ibid 48

²⁷ Ibid 50

²⁸ Ibid 77

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foreclosure, owing \$16,000 and not paying any interest since 1934. The parish members adopted a campaign to save the church building, and the mortgage company agreed to postpone payment on the principal of the mortgage until 1939.²⁹ On May 7, 1944, after over a decade of financial struggles, the church was consecrated and all debts liquidated.³⁰

In October 1950, the Executive Committee decided to begin a Parish Pence Plan to raise money for a proposed addition to the church with offices and educational spaces. Plans were submitted by Harrison Gill, a local architect, and estimated to be completed for \$35,000. By May 1956, plans were moving forward for the construction of the addition under contractors Collins and Hobbs with a contract for \$47,000. The addition was nearing completion in July 1957 when the *Times Free Press* wrote about the new two-story brick addition to the building to soon be used at a rough total cost of \$50,000. The addition was said to be used for office space, a kitchen, dining room and Sunday school classrooms.³¹ The new addition connects internally through what was the back outside door of the church building.³² This addition reflects the growth in the church congregation and programmatic needs in the mid-century.

Since the completion of the addition in the 1950s, the church has operated as Christ Church Episcopal with continuous restoration and maintenance efforts. Some of these include: the installation of stained-glass windows in the sanctuary that replaced the amber glass that was originally placed to only be temporary, the tower's masonry has been repointed with the cast iron lintels replaced in-kind after they began to fail, and the building's windows and their surrounds are currently being restored.

²⁹ Ibid 98

³⁰ Ibid 107

³¹ Ibid, 117

³² Ibid

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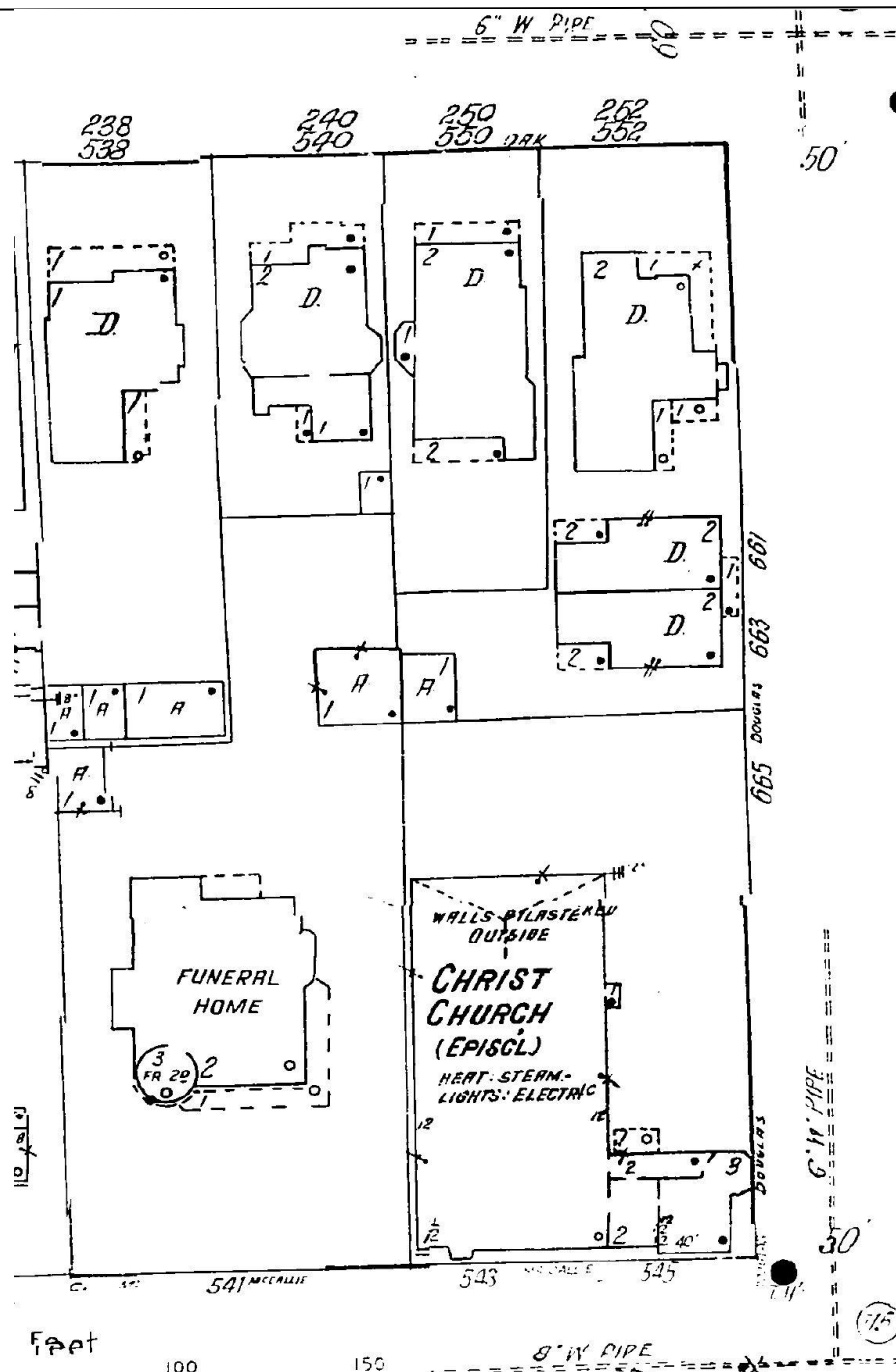


Figure 5 Sanborn Fire Insurance Map 1917- May 1951, vol.1, 1917-Jan 1951, sheet 24

Christ Church Episcopal
Name of Property

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9. Major Bibliographic References

Bibliography

“Christ Church Parish House Social Center Old Lyerly Home Will Be Occupied This Week; Valuable Addition to Church Property; History of Episcopal Institution Reveals Remarkable Progress Since Inception of Parish in 1900.” *Chattanooga Times Free Press*, February 3, 1924.

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Christ Church Episcopal

Hamilton, TN

Name of Property

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Previous documentation on file (NPS):		Primary location of additional data:	
<input type="checkbox"/>	preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67 has been requested)	<input type="checkbox"/>	State Historic Preservation Office
<input type="checkbox"/>	previously listed in the National Register	<input type="checkbox"/>	Other State agency
<input type="checkbox"/>	previously determined eligible by the National Register	<input type="checkbox"/>	Federal agency
<input type="checkbox"/>	designated a National Historic Landmark	<input type="checkbox"/>	Local government
<input type="checkbox"/>	recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey #	<input type="checkbox"/>	University
<input type="checkbox"/>	recorded by Historic American Engineering Record #	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Other
<input type="checkbox"/>	recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey #	Name of repository: Christ Church Episcopal	
Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): N/A			

Christ Church Episcopal
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10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 0.32 USGS Quadrangle Chattanooga 105-SE

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates

Datum if other than WGS84: N/A

1. Latitude: 35.046057	Longitude: -85.301638
2. Latitude: 35.046165	Longitude: -85.301921
3. Latitude: 35.046551	Longitude: -85.301711
4. Latitude: 35.046440	Longitude: -85.301419

Verbal Boundary Description

The National Register boundaries correspond to the boundaries of Hamilton County Parcel 145D_J_012.01. In general, the property is bounded by McCallie Avenue to the south and Douglas Street to the east with parking lots to the north and west with a driveway along the northern property line. These boundaries are depicted on the enclosed tax and boundary map. The reference coordinates noted above correspond to the corners of the boundary.

Boundary Justification

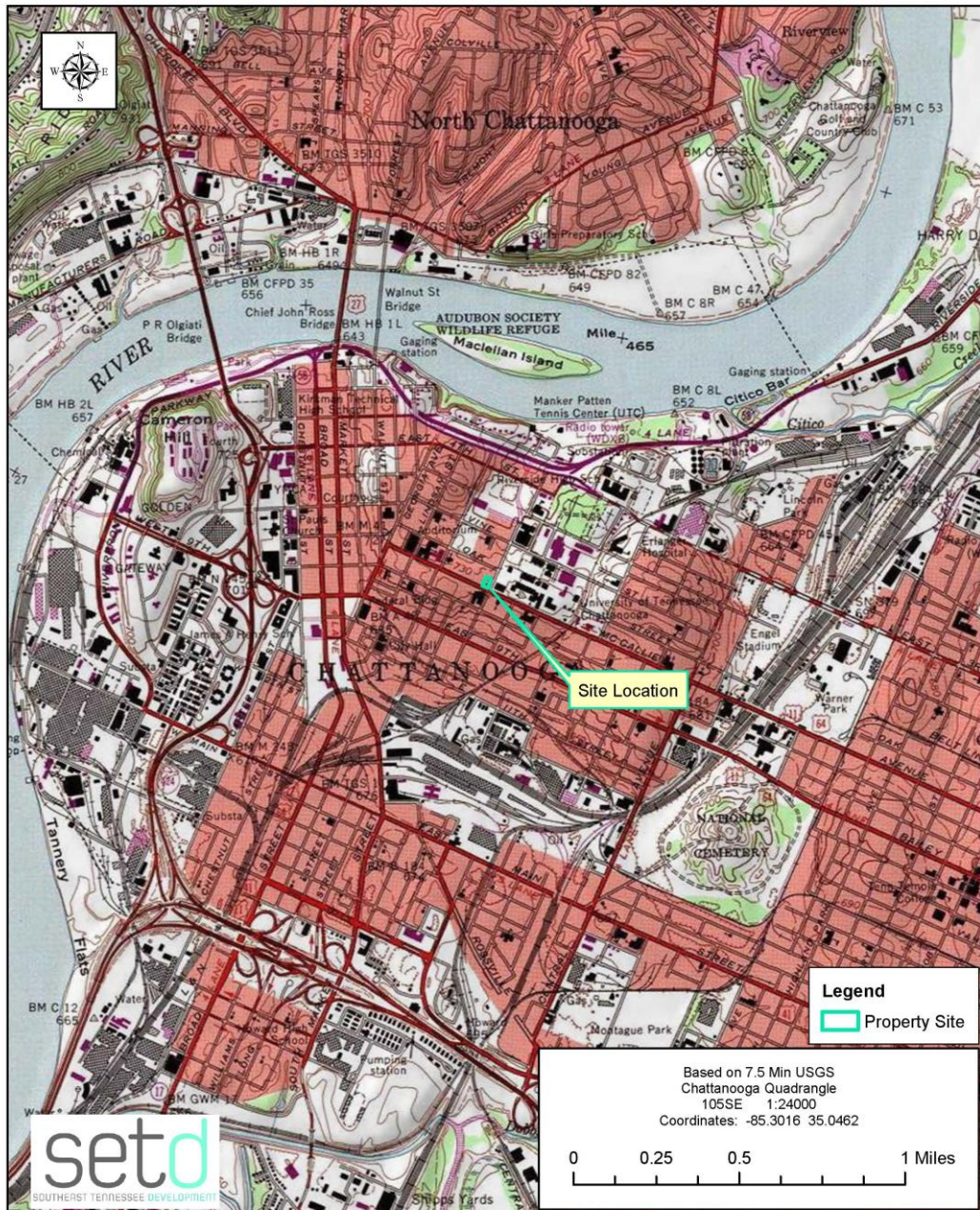
Parcel 145D_J_012.01 was chosen as the property boundary lines because it is the sole parcel that has been owned continuously by the church and encloses the property's architectural significance resources. These boundaries are sufficient for the property to convey its significance. The church also owns an adjoining parcel, but this parcel was excluded because it was not purchased within the period of significance and does not lend to the architectural significance of the property.

Christ Church Episcopal
Name of Property

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USGS Topographic Location Map

CHRIST CHURCH EPISCOPAL
663 Douglas Street
Chattanooga, TN 37403

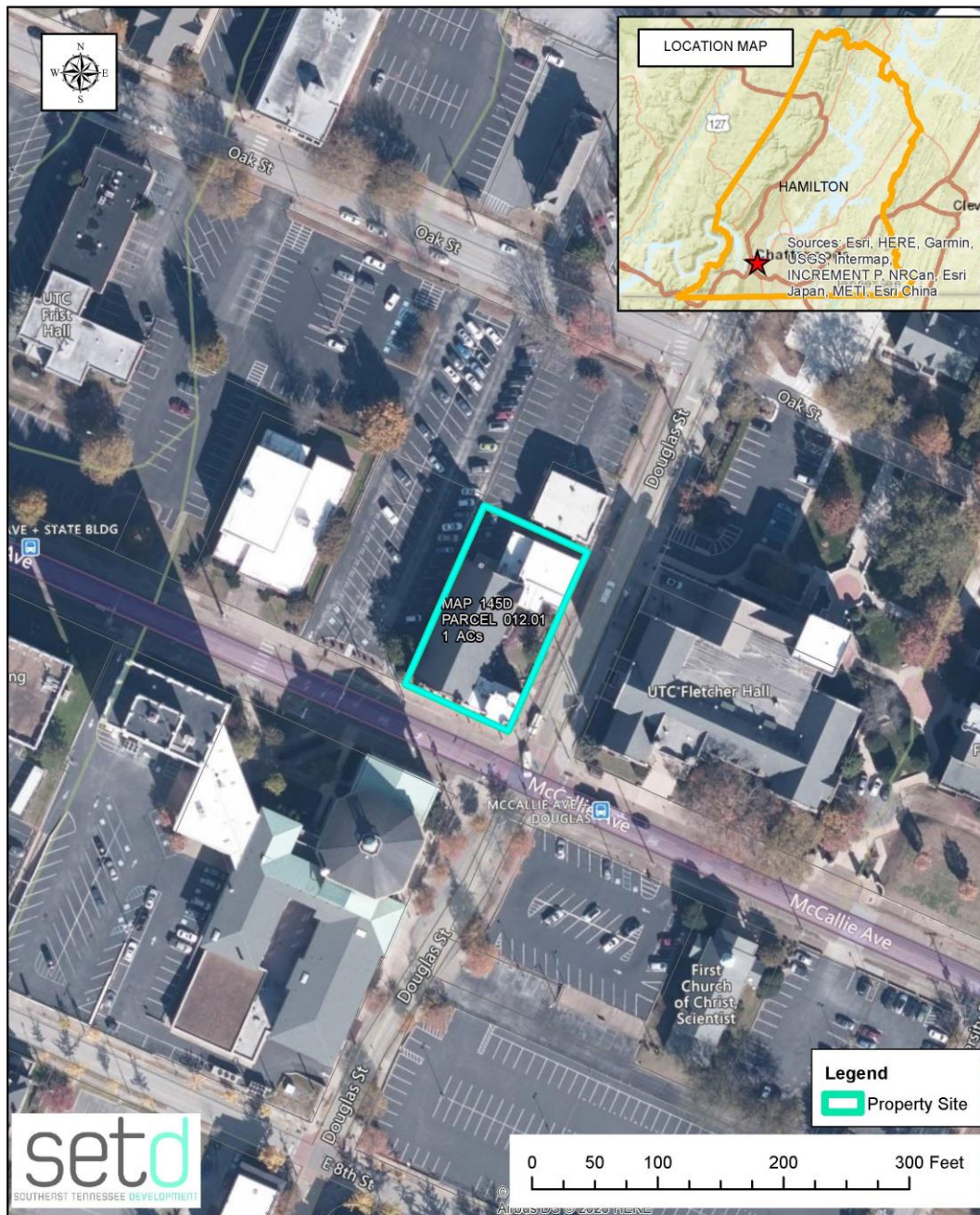


Christ Church Episcopal
Name of Property

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County and State

Aerial National Register Boundary Map

CHRIST CHURCH EPISCOPAL
663 Douglas Street
Chattanooga, TN 37403

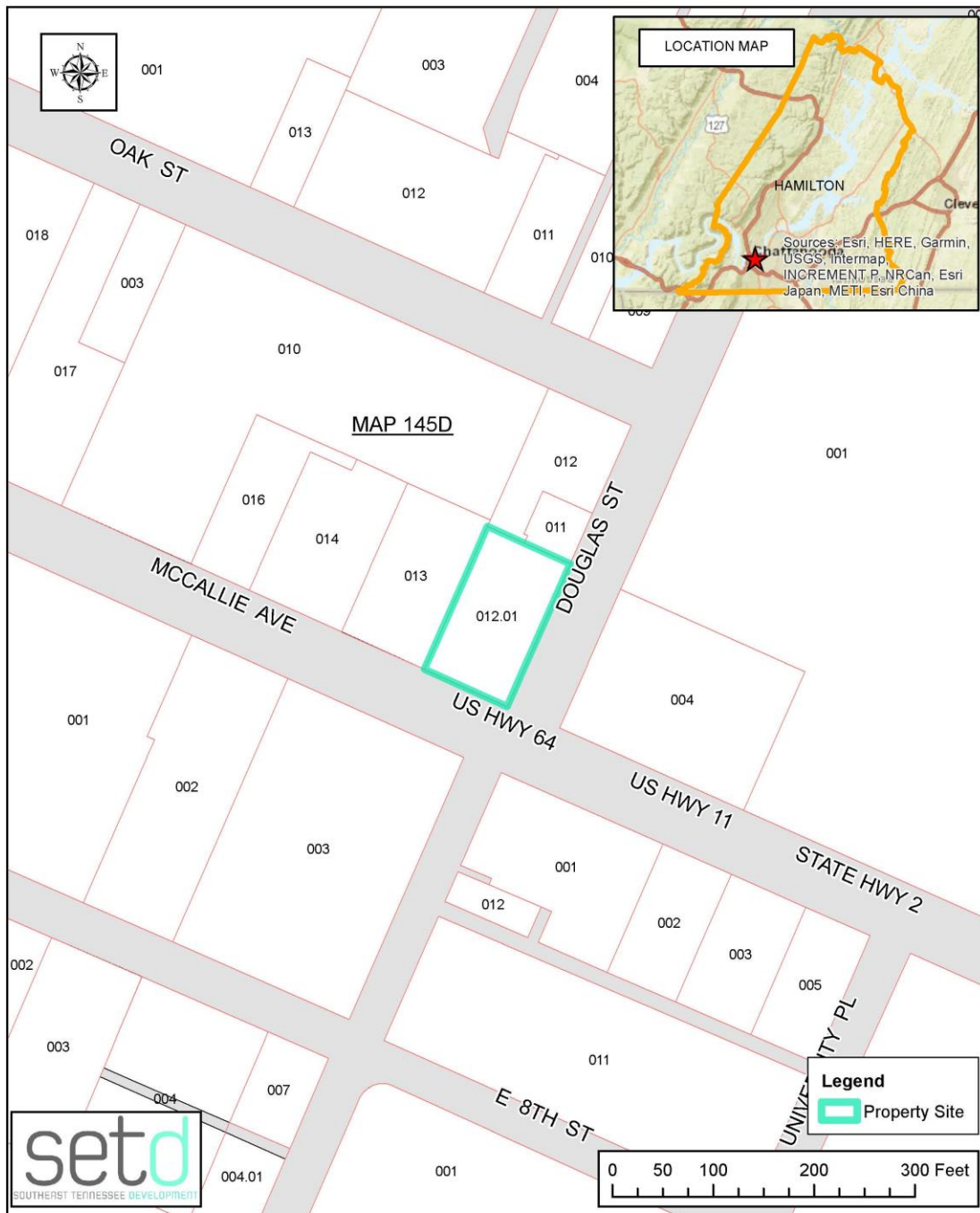


Christ Church Episcopal
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County and State

National Register Boundary Tax Map

CHRIST CHURCH EPISCOPAL
663 Douglas Street
Chattanooga, TN 37403



Christ Church Episcopal
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11. Form Prepared By

Name	Melissa Mortimer		
Organization	Southeast Tennessee Development District		
Street & Number	1000 Riverfront Pkwy	Date	January 2021
City or Town	Chattanooga	Telephone	423-424-4266
E-mail	mmortimer@sedev.org	State	TN 37402

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Maps:** A **USGS map** or equivalent (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to map.
- **Photographs** (refer to Tennessee Historical Commission National Register *Photo Policy* for submittal of digital images and prints)
- **Additional items:** (additional supporting documentation including historic photographs, historic maps, etc. should be included on a Continuation Sheet following the photographic log and sketch maps)

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C.460 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 100 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Office of Planning and Performance Management, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.

Christ Church Episcopal

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Photo Log

Name of Property: Christ Church Episcopal

City or Vicinity: Chattanooga

County: Hamilton

State: Tennessee

Photographer: Melissa Mortimer

Date Photographed: 9/4/2020

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera:

- 1 of 35. Façade. Photographer facing north.
- 2 of 35. Façade. Photographer facing northeast.
- 3 of 35. Façade entrance detail. Photographer facing northeast.
- 4 of 35. Southeast oblique. Photographer facing northeast.
- 5 of 35. West elevation. Photographer facing east.
- 6 of 35. Northwest oblique. Photographer facing south.
- 7 of 35. North/rear elevation. Photographer facing southwest.
- 8 of 35. North/rear elevation rose window detail. Photographer facing southwest.
- 9 of 35. Northeast oblique. Photographer facing southwest.
- 10 of 35. South elevation of 1957 addition. Photographer facing northeast.
- 11 of 35. East Elevation. Photographer facing southwest.
- 12 of 35. East elevation. Photographer facing southwest.
- 13 of 35. East elevation. Photographer facing southwest
- 14 of 35. Narthex. Photographer facing northwest.
- 15 of 35. Lady's Chapel. Photographer facing southeast.
- 16 of 35. Sanctuary. Photographer facing northeast.
- 17 of 35. Stairwell and hallway. Photographer facing southeast.
- 18 of 35. Choir Room. Photographer facing northwest.

Christ Church Episcopal

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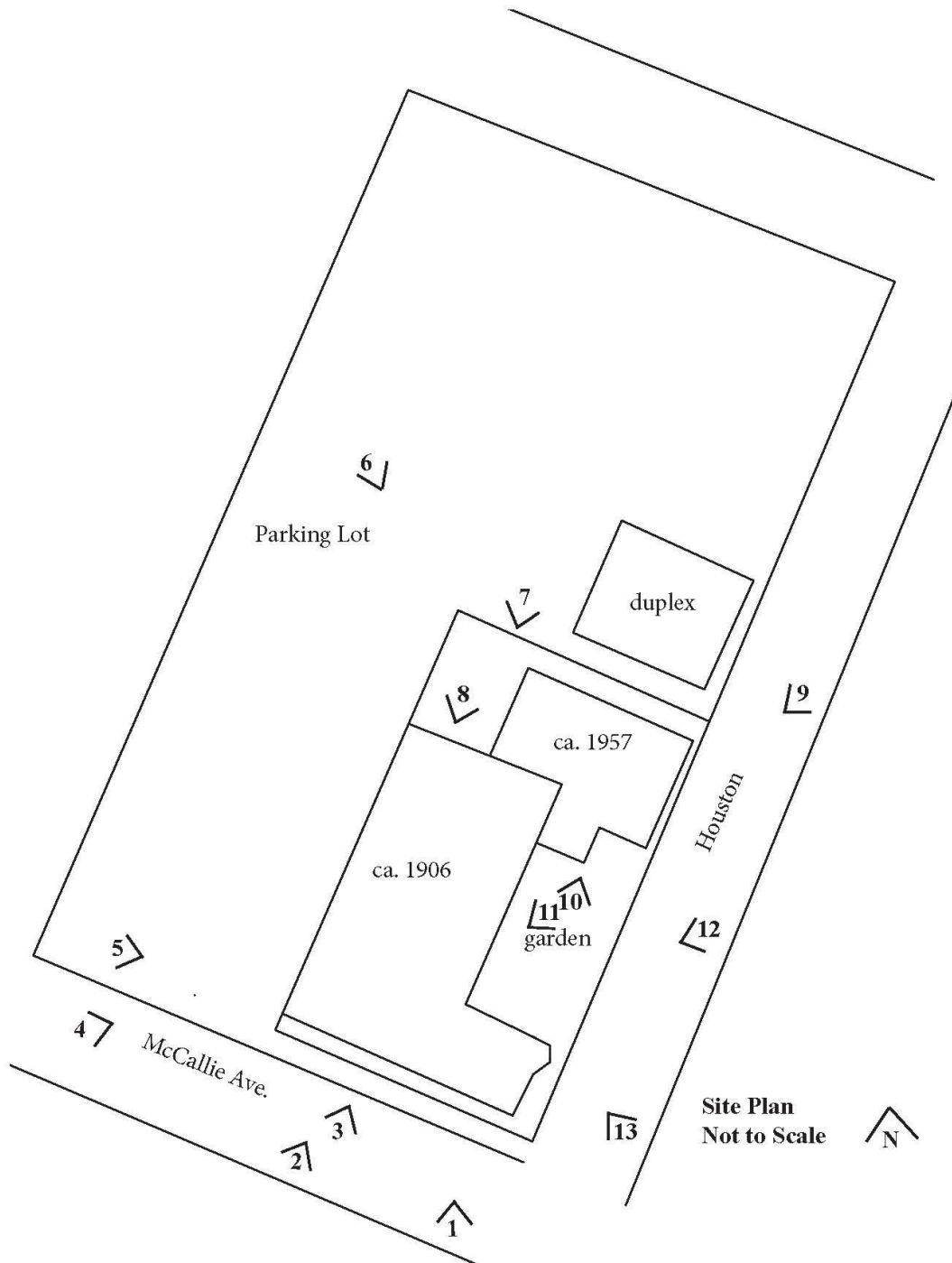
County and State

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- 19 of 35. Sanctuary from Choir loft. Photographer facing northeast.
- 20 of 35. Sanctuary arcade and ceiling from Choir Loft. Photographer facing north.
- 21 of 35. Stairwell looking down from third floor. Photographer facing northeast.
- 22 of 35. Third Floor Tower Room. Photographer facing southeast.
- 23 of 35. Sanctuary looking into narthex. Photographer facing southwest.
- 24 of 35. Narthex doorway looking into sanctuary. Photographer facing southwest.
- 25 of 35. Sanctuary looking at Choir Loft. Photographer facing southwest.
- 26 of 35. Sanctuary arcade. Photographer facing northwest.
- 27 of 35. Choir Loft from Sanctuary. Photographer facing southwest.
- 28 of 35. Sanctuary. Photographer facing northwest.
- 29 of 35. Pulpit. Photographer facing northeast.
- 30 of 35. Altar. Photographer facing northeast.
- 31 of 35. Classroom addition hallway and stairwell. Photographer facing southeast.
- 32 of 35. Classroom. Photographer facing northwest.
- 33 of 35. First floor hallway of 1957 addition. Photographer facing southeast.
- 34 of 35. Kitchen. Photographer facing northeast.
- 35 of 35. Fellowship Hall. Photographer facing east.

Christ Church Episcopal
Name of Property

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Site Plan with Photos Keyed

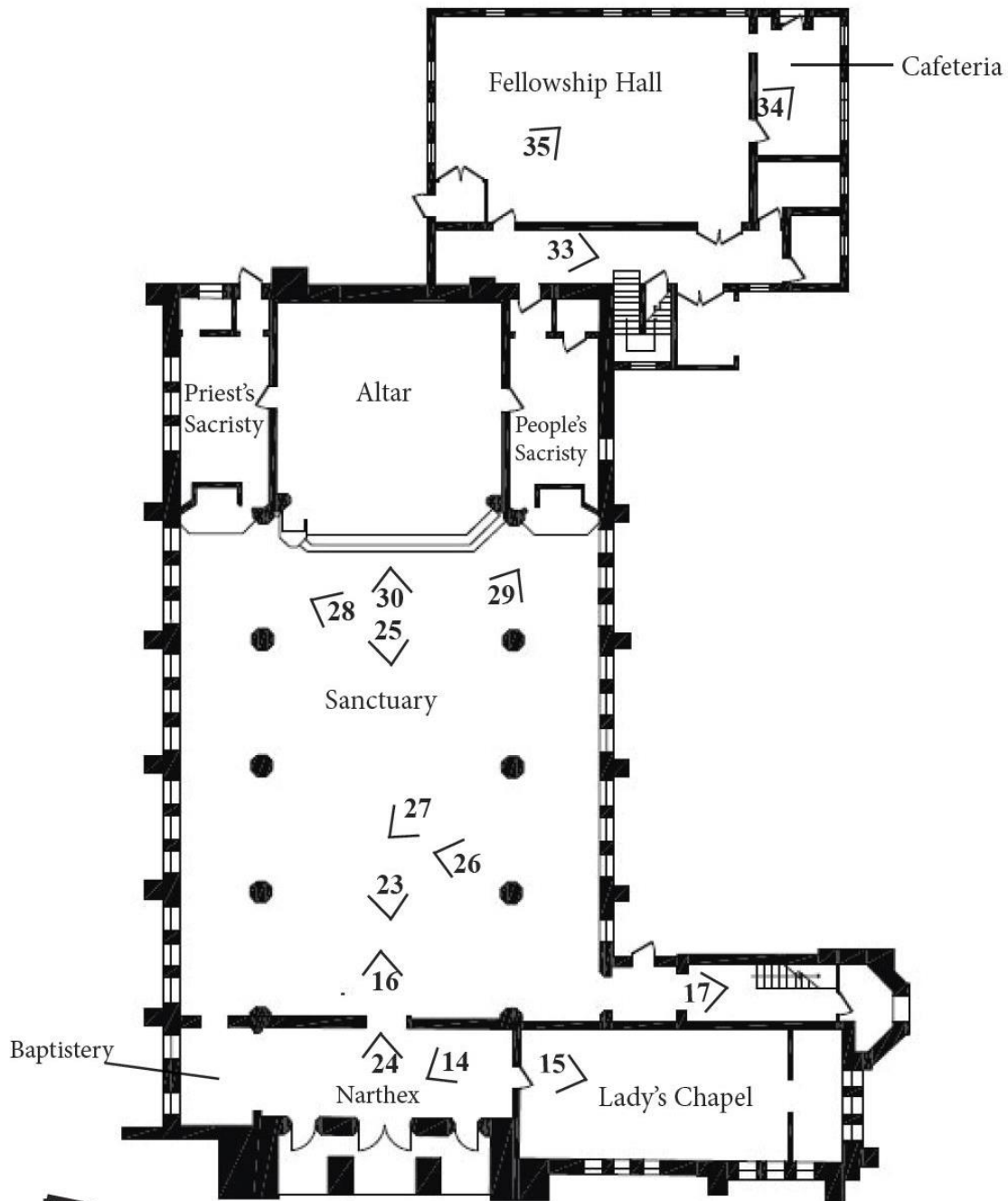


The parking lot and duplex are excluded from the National Register Boundaries

Christ Church Episcopal
Name of Property

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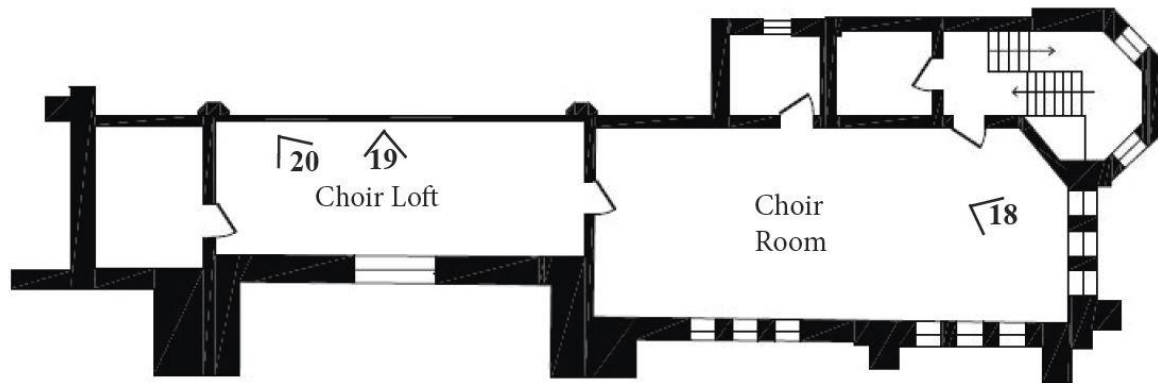
Floor Plans with Photos Keyed



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Not to Scale

Christ Church Episcopal
Name of Property

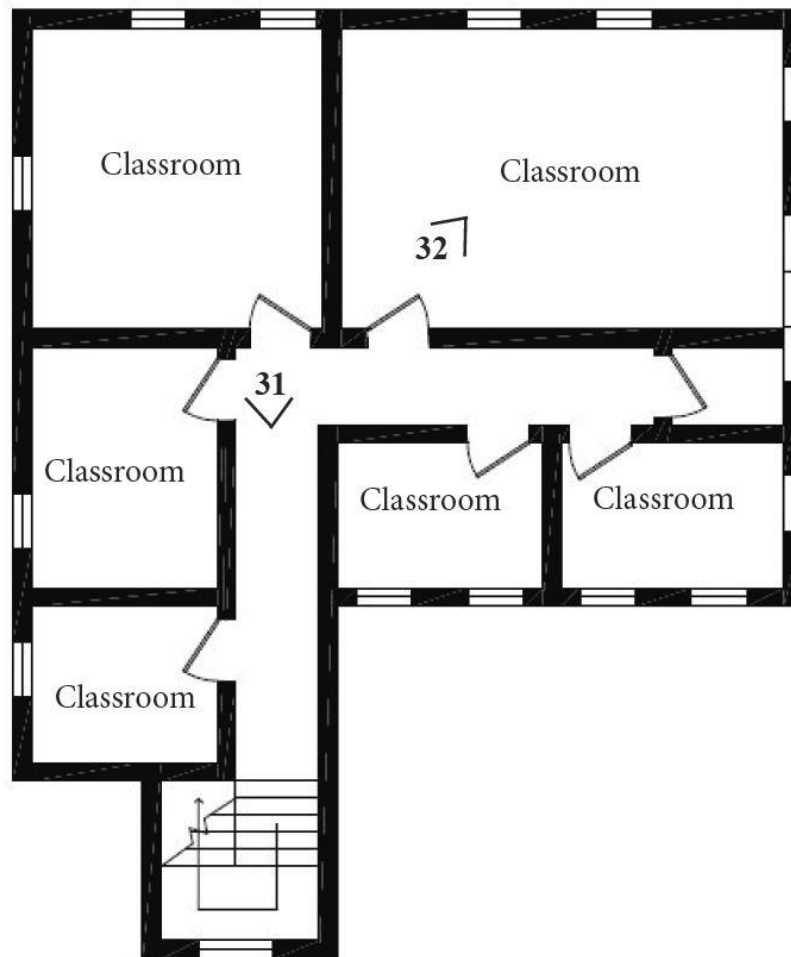
Hamilton, TN
County and State



Second Floor Floorplan
Not to Scale

Christ Church Episcopal
Name of Property

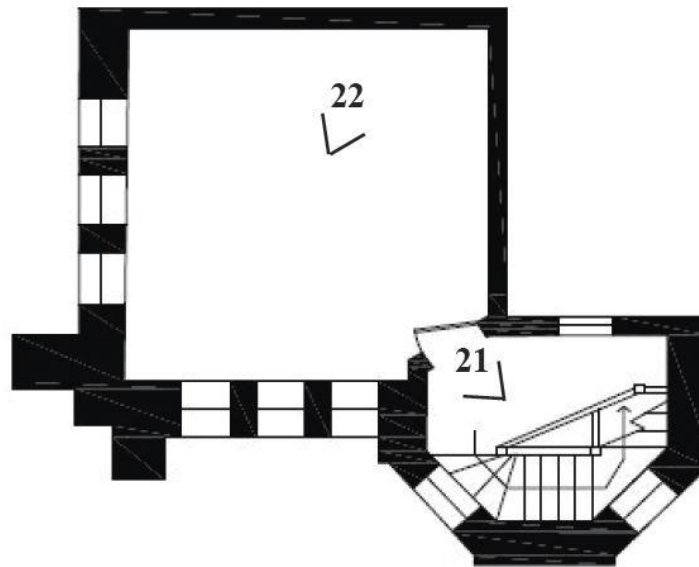
Hamilton, TN
County and State



Second Floor Floorplan
1957 addition
Not to Scale

Christ Church Episcopal
Name of Property

Hamilton, TN
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Third Floorplan
Not to Scale

National Register Listed
4/9/2021

Property Owner:

SG100006386

(This information will not be submitted to the National Park Service, but will remain on file at the Tennessee Historical Commission)

Name Christ Church Parish at McCallie Ave c/o Nancy Poston

Street &

Number

663 Douglas Street

Telephone

City or Town

Chattanooga

State/Zip

TN/37403



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4 OF 35



5 OF 35



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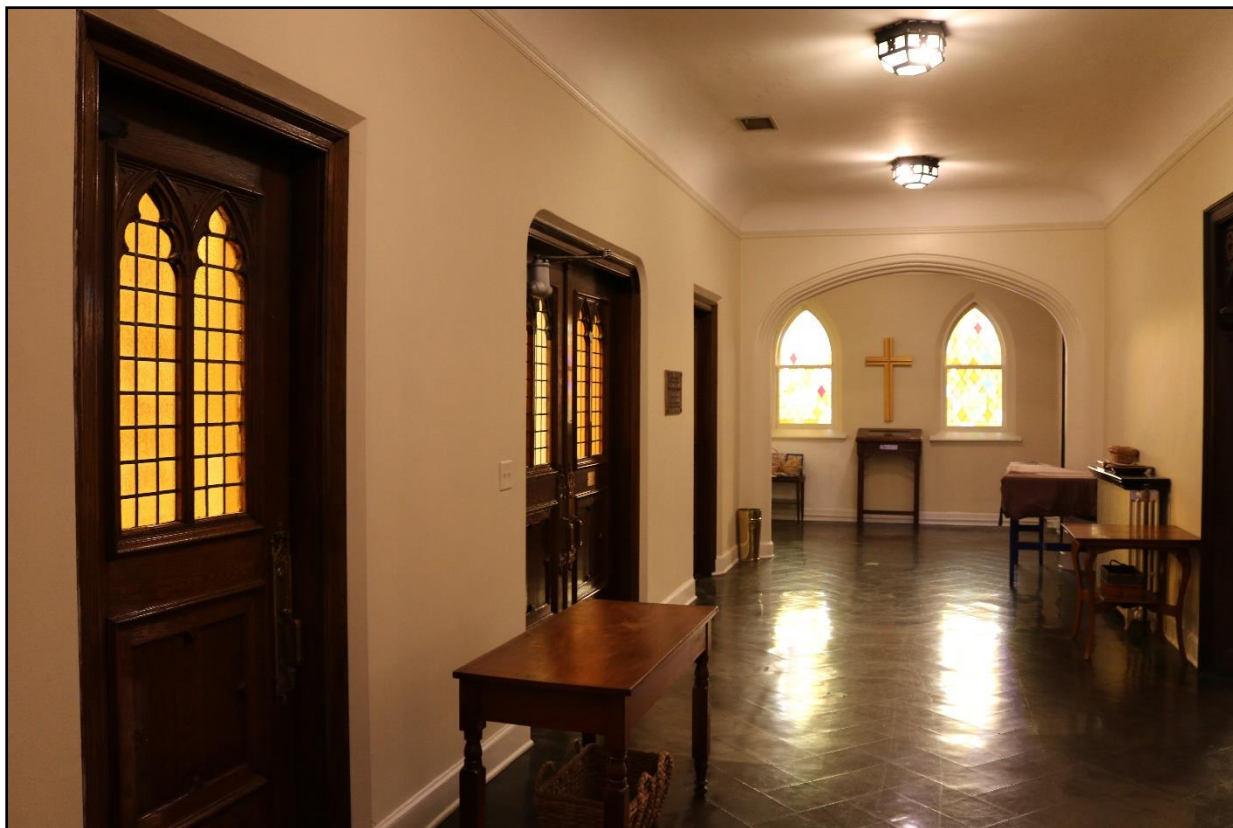
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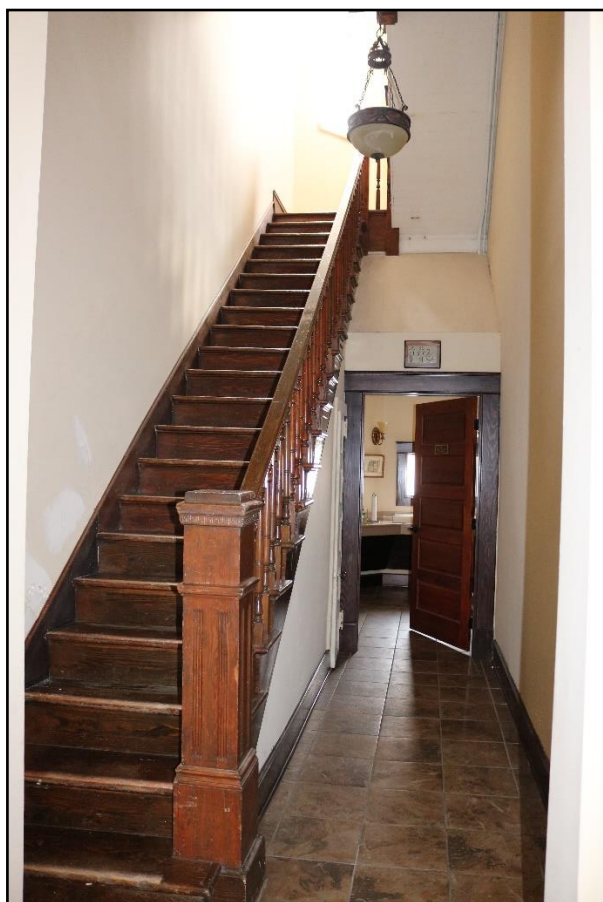
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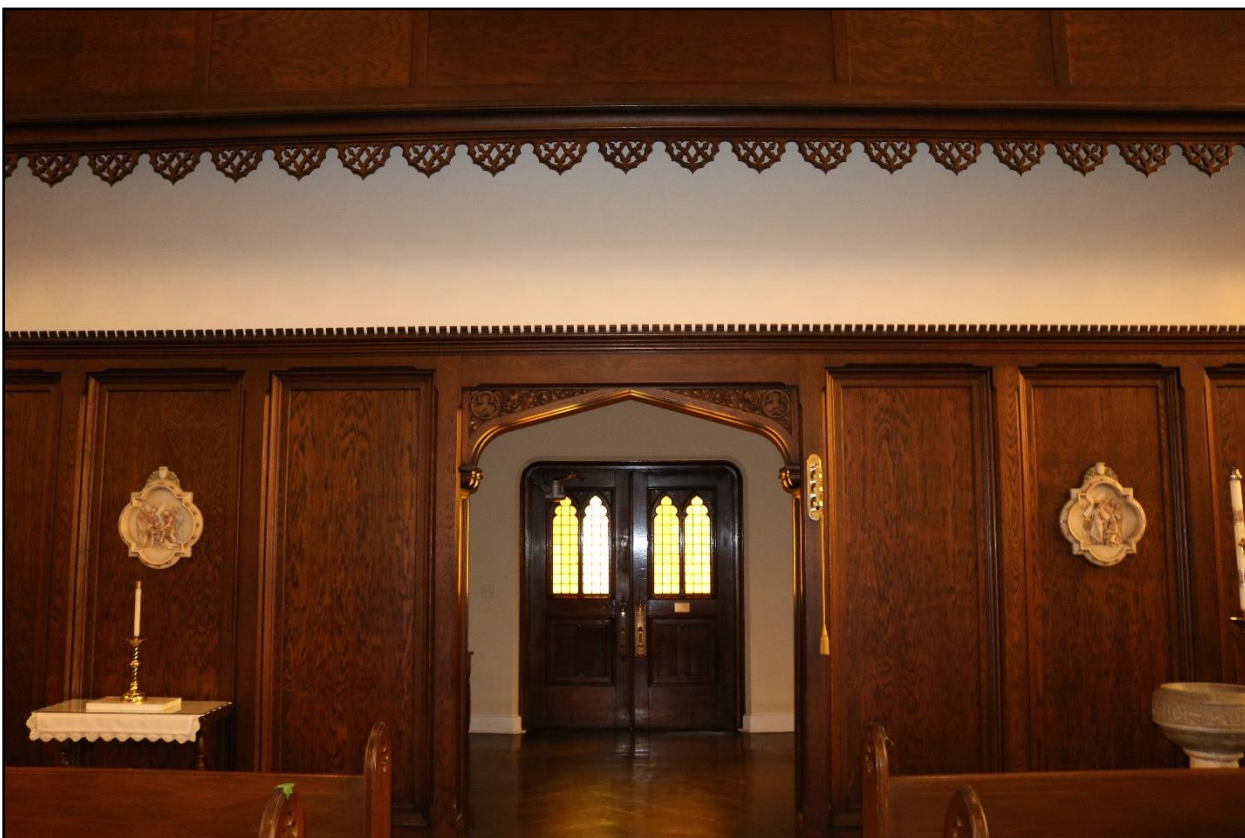
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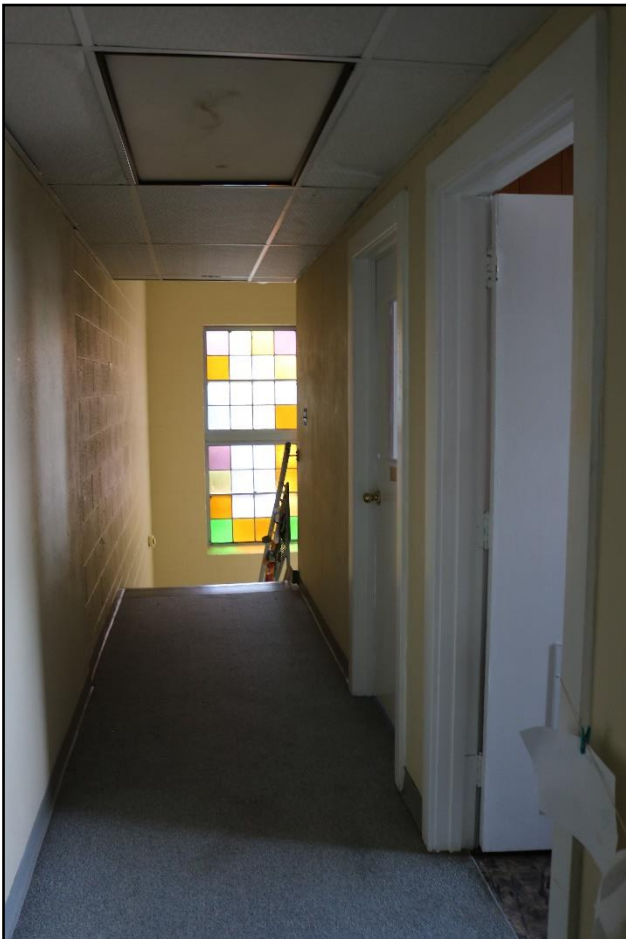








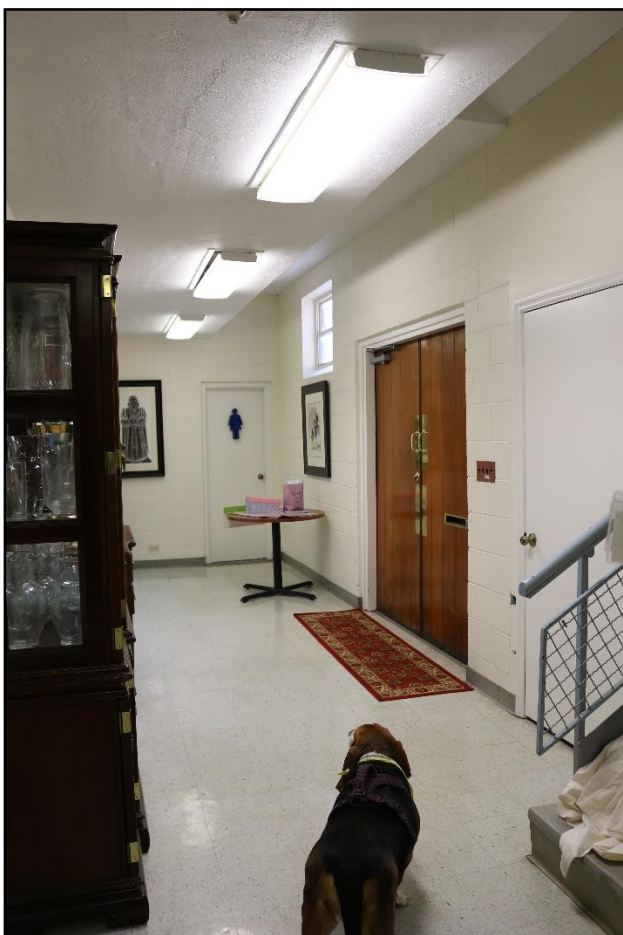
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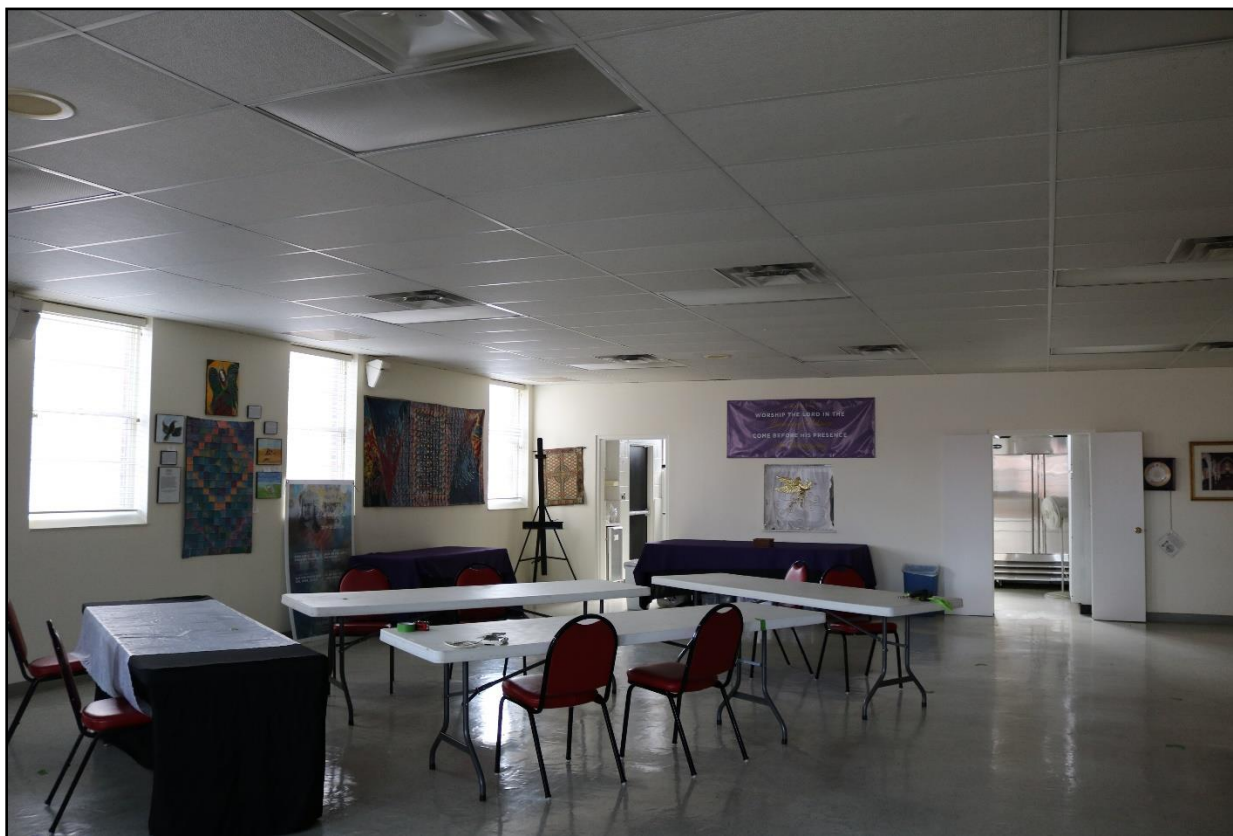
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