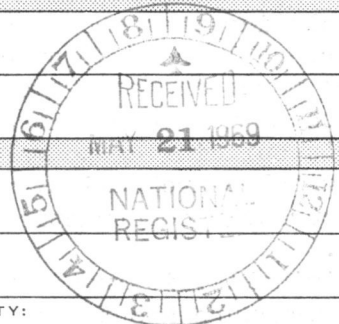


PH0011525

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: District of Columbia	
COUNTY: District of Columbia	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER 69-05-08-0013	DATE 5/25/69



1. NAME

COMMON:
Christ Church, Washington Parish

AND/OR HISTORIC:
Christ Church, Navy Yard

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
620 G Street, S.E.

CITY OR TOWN:
Washington

STATE District of Columbia	CODE 08	COUNTY: District of Columbia	CODE 001
-------------------------------	------------	---------------------------------	-------------

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP		STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
District <input type="checkbox"/> Building <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Public <input type="checkbox"/>	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/>	Occupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Yes: <input type="checkbox"/>
Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/>	Private <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	In Process <input type="checkbox"/>	Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/>	Restricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Object <input type="checkbox"/>	Both <input type="checkbox"/>	Being Considered <input type="checkbox"/>	Preservation work in progress <input type="checkbox"/>	Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/>
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)				
Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/>	Government <input type="checkbox"/>	Park <input type="checkbox"/>	Transportation <input type="checkbox"/>	Comments <input type="checkbox"/>
Commercial <input type="checkbox"/>	Industrial <input type="checkbox"/>	Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/>	Other (Specify) <input type="checkbox"/>	
Educational <input type="checkbox"/>	Military <input type="checkbox"/>	Religious <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
Entertainment <input type="checkbox"/>	Museum <input type="checkbox"/>	Scientific <input type="checkbox"/>		

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNERS NAME:
Christ Church, Washington Parish

STREET AND NUMBER:
620 G Street, S.E.

CITY OR TOWN:
Washington

STATE: District of Columbia	CODE 08
--------------------------------	------------

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:
Recorder of Deeds

STREET AND NUMBER:
6th and D Streets, N.W.

CITY OR TOWN:
Washington

STATE: District of Columbia	CODE 08
--------------------------------	------------

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 30,212 square feet

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY: Proposed District of Columbia Additions to the National Register of Historic Properties recommended by Joint Committee on Landmarks

DATE OF SURVEY: March 7, 1968 Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:
National Capital Planning Commission

STREET AND NUMBER:
726 Jackson Place, N.W.

CITY OR TOWN:
Washington

STATE: District of Columbia	CODE 08
--------------------------------	------------

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: Dist. of Col.
COUNTY: Dist. of Col.
ENTRY NUMBER: 69-05-08-0013
DATE: 5/25/69
FOR NPS USE ONLY

7. DESCRIPTION

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

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Christ Church, facing south at 620 G St., S.E., and set back from the street behind an iron fence and wide expanse of lawn, is 46'3" side x 111'8" long including the porch, narthex, nave and chancel. It is basically a rectangular, gable-roofed, stuccoed building in Gothic style with a small entrance porch and a high square tower over the narthex. The church as it exists today is the result of a number of additions which have so altered Latrobe's building as to make it almost unrecognizable. Although no plans of the original church exist, vestry records and other sources permit a reasonably accurate reconstruction of its 163-year evolution from Latrobe to the present.

Originally, it must have been a very simple rectangular 2-story gable-roofed structure about 38' wide x 45' long on the interior with a U-shaped gallery over a 2-aisled ground floor. The ceiling treatment was much as it is today, flat over the side aisles with the elliptically vaulted cove ceiling over the nave. The exterior was of flemish-bond brick probably with four window bays in the side walls and two doors in the gabled front leading directly into the two aisles. The style of the church may have been Gothic since Latrobe's Bank of Philadelphia of the same year had battlements of a sort and stone pinnacles similar to those on Christ Church now.

In the first alteration of 1824 the building was extended about 20' at the north end adding two window bays and increasing the number of pews from 42 to 58. In 1849 the narthex (40'6" wide x 11'6" deep) and the square bell tower (approx. 57' high) were added. The new narthex with its central entrance door protected the congregation from cold drafts previously suffered when the exterior doors led directly into the nave. It also allowed the gallery stairs to be moved to their present position in the vestibule, making room inside the nave for a pair of stoves. The battlemented Gothic exterior design that emerged after this alteration may have been derived from an illustration in Bishop Hopkins' 1844 Essay on Gothic Architecture.

In 1877 under the direction of architect William H. Hoffman, the east and west galleries were removed and the old gallery supports were replaced by the present tall, slender cast-iron columns which had become essential for the support of the roof. The stained glass lancet windows were probably installed at this time, and a convex apse cut into the north wall to make a chancel section for the altar. The present grey-brown pebbledash stucco intended to give the exterior the appearance of stone must also have been applied around this period.

In 1891 the tower was raised some 16' to its present 73' height and the single-story projecting entrance porch (4'11" deep x 9'8" wide) was added to the narthex. The original joists and floor were also removed, a cellar dug, and the new floor then laid on joists placed on sustaining walls independent of the outside walls. At the same time the chancel windows were removed and the interior frescoed and elaborately decorated in the Victorian manner.

In 1921 architect Delos H. Smith removed the frescoes and treated the walls to resemble Venetian Marble blocks. To make room for the choir the chancel was enlarged to its present 23'11" length x 19' width with a gable roof. The south remnant of the original gallery which had been used for the

(Continued on Form 10-300a)

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	
District of Columbia	
COUNTY	
District of Columbia	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
69-05-08-0013	5/25/69

(Number all entries)

7. Description--Christ Church

choir was then removed. Two new stained-glass windows, one dedicated to the WWI soldiers from the church and one in memory of Rev. Charles D. Andrews, were installed in the two northernmost windows of the side walls. The Crucifixion window at the end of the chancel, a memorial to the mothers of the church, dates from 1927.

The last alteration of the church in 1953-54 under the direction of architect Horace M. Peaslee was an attempt to reconcile the additions of the years with the basic plan and intention of Latrobe. The high pointed arch leading into the chancel was removed and the gable roof of the chancel raised to enable the cove ceiling to be extended the full length of the church. The two chancel columns added at this time are wood copies of the earlier cast-iron columns. Piers supporting the tower were covered to restore some of the simplicity of the south nave wall. Cut into the center of this wall is a pointed arch opening which overlooks the nave from the small gallery on the second floor of the tower. In addition to new fixtures, wiring, plastering and painting, the foundations were secured and the floor repaired. The interior today which is a result of this 1953-54 "reconciliation" has simple plaster walls, ceiling and columns painted white with stained walnut panelled wainscoting and oak pews with cherry molding. The principal decorative elements are the stained-glass windows, the altar, modern lighting fixtures and red velvet seat cushions.

On the exterior/south facade, little changed since 1891, the small flat-roofed entrance porch has a pointed-arch double entrance door, small lancet windows in either side wall and a crowning crenellated parapet with small corner towers. On either wall of the gabled narthex a two-pointed lancet, wood framed, stained-glass window is set within a pointed arch. At either end of the narthex wall is a small vertical buttress ending above the roof line in a white, pointed, galvanized iron pinnacle. The top of the gabled wall is crenellated. The bell tower behind the porch is framed by slender, double, two-stage buttresses with gabled caps. On the second story level above the porch is a three-pointed stained glass window set within a pointed arch. Above this window three pointed-arch niches with common mullions and sills are topped with tiny trefoil windows. Over these niches two stained-glass lancet window with a small pointed-arch niche between share a common sill moulding. On each side of the fifth level of the tower there is a circular stained-glass window composed of six circles surrounding a central one. The top of the tower has a dogtooth cornice and a crenellated parapet, with galvanized iron pinnacles on square piers at each of the four corners.

1969
16
1806



8. SIGNIFICANCE

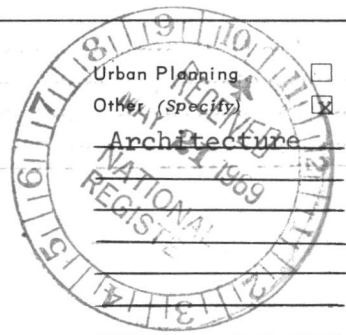
PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

Pre-Columbian 16th Century 18th Century 20th Century
 15th Century 17th Century 19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) 1806-1807

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

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



STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE (Include Personages, Dates, Events, Etc.)

The Joint Committee on Landmarks has designated Christ Church, Washington Parish, a Category II Landmark of importance which contributes significantly to the cultural heritage and visual beauty of the District of Columbia. Christ Church is the mother church of Washington's Episcopal parish. For 175 years this church and its congregation have played an important role in the life of Capitol Hill. Several early Presidents worshipped there. One of its most prominent recent members was John Philip Sousa who was baptized, confirmed, married and buried from Christ Church. The church was designed by the great American architect Benjamin H. Latrobe; and, although it has been greatly altered and enlarged, it still retains elements of Latrobe's original design. It should be preserved.

Washington Parish (Episcopal) including all of Washington and Georgetown, was incorporated by an Act of the Maryland Legislature on December 24, 1794. On May 25, 1795, the Reverend George Ralph was chosen as the first rector. Among the first vestrymen were William Deakins, Jr., John Templeman, Thomas Johnson, Jr., and Gustavus Scott, one of the City Commissioners. The Reverend Andrew McCormick, the second rector, served for 25 years, from 1798. Services were held in an old tobacco warehouse on New Jersey Avenue near D Street, S.E., until 1807. Thomas Jefferson regularly attended services at this warehouse church.

In 1806 William Prout donated the present site near the Navy Yard on the provision that a church be built within one year. Latrobe reportedly designed the building in five days. [R.P. Ennis of the University of Delaware has recently advanced the theory that Robert Alexander and not Latrobe designed the church. In view of the long tradition and substantial data linking Latrobe's name to the design of the church, Ennis' arguments do not appear conclusive enough to warrant a change of attribution at this time.] The cornerstone of the building was laid on August 3, 1806, by the Masons of Washington Naval Lodge Number 41. George Blagden, the principal masonry contractor for Latrobe at the Capitol, was the contractor. William Thackara, Latrobe's favorite plasterer, also working with him at the Capitol, plastered the cove part of the ceiling free of charge. On August 9, 1807, the first service was held in the church at first known only as the "New Church in the Navy Yard." On August 20, 1807, the vestry formally adopted the name "Christ Church." The church was formally consecrated on October 8, 1809, by the Right Reverend Thomas John Claggett, "Bishop of the Protestant Episcopal Church of the State of Maryland and that part of the District of

(Continued on Form 10-300a)

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Hamlin, Talbot, Benjamin Henry Latrobe, N.Y.: Oxford Univ. Press, 1955.
 Ennis, R.B., "A Brief History of the Architecture of Christ Church, Washington Parish," Unpublished Manuscript. Historic American Buildings Survey, (DC-48) 10 sheets (1953, including plot plan, plan, elevations, sections, details); 2 ext. photos (1939); 2 data pages (1941). Vestry Records, Christ Church. Washingtoniana Collection, D.C. Public Library. Eberlein, Harold Donaldson, and Cortlandt Van Dyke Hubbard, Historic Houses of Georgetown and Washington City, Richmond, Va: The Dietz Press, Inc., 1958.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY				OR	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN ONE ACRE					
CORNER	LATITUDE				LATITUDE			LONGITUDE		
	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	
NW	0	'	"	0	'	"	38	0	52	54
NE	0	'	"	0	'	"	76	0	59	52
SE	0	'	"	0	'	"				
SW	0	'	"	0	'	"				

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
 Nancy C. Taylor, Landmarks Historian

ORGANIZATION: National Capital Planning Commission

DATE: May 6, 1969

STREET AND NUMBER:
 726 Jackson Place, N.W.

CITY OR TOWN: Washington

STATE: District of Columbia

CODE: 08

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

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: *Wm F. Latham*

Title: Deputy Mayor-Commissioner

Date: May 12, 1969

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

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

Ernest Allen Canaval
 Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date: MAY 25 1969

ATTEST:

William J. Woodlough
 Keeper of The National Register

Date: MAY 26 1969

18/326920/4305320
 UTM REF
 12-14-75
 SEE INSTRUCTIONS

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	
District of Columbia	
COUNTY	
District of Columbia	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
69-05-08-0013	5/25/69

(Number all entries)

8. Significance--Christ Church

Columbia, north of the Potomac." Rental of pews provided the parish's chief source of income. Three free pews were regularly reserved: one for the President of the United States; one for the donor of the land, Mr. Prout; and one for the rector's family. Presidents Madison and Monroe reportedly attended services in the church, as did the U.S. Marines from the Marine Barracks.

The church's first rectory was built in 1824, at the time the nave was extended. The bell tower added in 1849 was used as an observation post during the Civil War. The present Parish Hall was built in 1874. In 1924 the first rectory was razed and the present one built on the same site. In 1966 a two-story addition to the Parish Hall was constructed and the enlarged building dedicated to the memory of Reverend Edward Gabler, priest and rector from 1928 to 1944. Christ Church is celebrating its 175th anniversary this May 25th.



NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

*Christ Church
Washington DC*

69000291

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

Working No. _____
 Fed. Reg. Date: _____
 Date Due: _____
 Action: ACCEPT _____
 RETURN _____
 REJECT _____
 Federal Agency: _____

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
- good
- fair
- deteriorated
- ruins
- unexposed

Check one

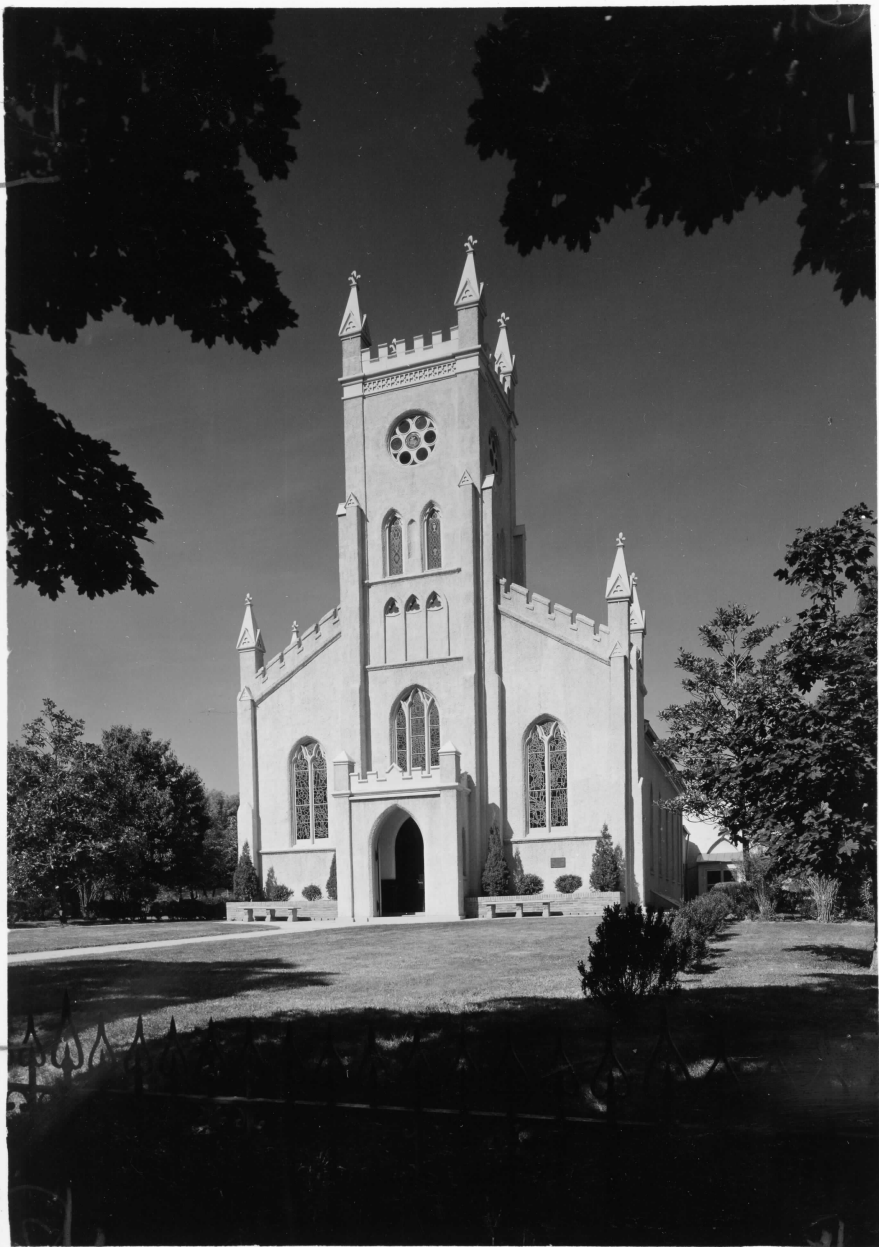
- unaltered
- altered

Check one

- original site
- moved date _____

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

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



35 miles

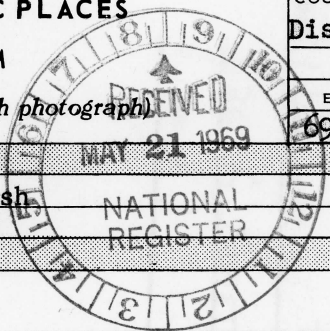
3 1/2 miles

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM

(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with photograph)

STATE	
District of Columbia	
COUNTY	
District of Columbia	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
69-05-08-0013	5/25/69



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

1. NAME			
COMMON: Christ Church, Washington Parish			
AND/OR HISTORIC: Christ Church, Navy Yard			
2. LOCATION			
STREET AND NUMBER:			
620 G Street, S.E.			
CITY OR TOWN:			
Washington			
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
District of Columbia	08	District of Columbia	001
3. PHOTO REFERENCE			
PHOTO CREDIT: J. Alexander, 11230 Triangle Lande, Wheaton, Maryland (copyright)			
DATE OF PHOTO: 1964			
NEGATIVE FILED AT: National Capital Planning Commission, 726 Jackson Place, N.W. Washington, D.C.			
4. IDENTIFICATION			
DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.			
View of south front of Christ Church			

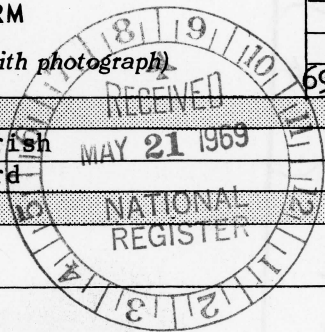


UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM

(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with photograph)

STATE District of Columbia	
COUNTY District of Columbia	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER 69-05-08-0013	DATE 5/25/69



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

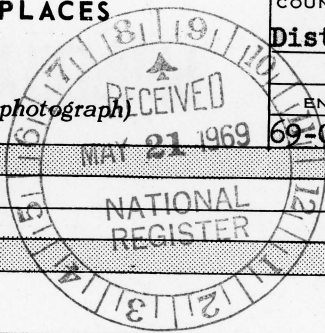
1. NAME			
COMMON: Christ Church, Washington Parish			
AND/OR HISTORIC: Christ Church, Navy Yard			
2. LOCATION			
STREET AND NUMBER: 620 G Street, S.E			
CITY OR TOWN: Washington			
STATE: District of Columbia	CODE 08	COUNTY: District of Columbia	CODE 001
3. PHOTO REFERENCE			
PHOTO CREDIT: Unknown			
DATE OF PHOTO: circa 1920			
NEGATIVE FILED AT: National Capital Planning Commission, 725 Jackson Place, N.W. Washington, D.C. 20576			
4. IDENTIFICATION			
DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC. View of south facade, showing original rectory in left rear, taken from S.W.			



NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM

(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with photograph)

STATE District of Columbia	
COUNTY District of Columbia	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER 69-05-08-0013	DATE 5/25/69



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

1. NAME

COMMON: Christ Church, Washington Parish
AND/OR HISTORIC: Christ Church, Navy Yard

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
620 G Street, S.E.
CITY OR TOWN:
Washington
STATE: District of Columbia CODE 08 COUNTY: District of Columbia CODE 001

3. PHOTO REFERENCE

PHOTO CREDIT: Leo J. Schmittel, National Capital Planning Commission
DATE OF PHOTO: April 1969
NEGATIVE FILED AT: National Capital Planning Commission, 726 Jackson Place, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20576

4. IDENTIFICATION

DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.

View of present interior looking down nave toward chancel

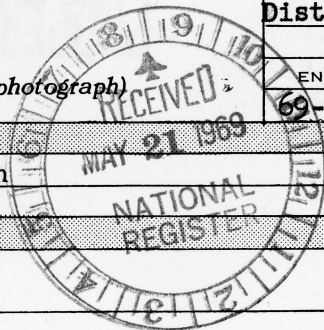


UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM

(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with photograph)

STATE District of Columbia	
COUNTY District of Columbia	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER 69-05-08-0013	DATE 5/25/69



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

1. NAME			
COMMON: Christ Church, Washington Parish			
AND/OR HISTORIC: Christ Church, Navy Yard			
2. LOCATION			
STREET AND NUMBER: 620 G Street, S.E.			
CITY OR TOWN: Washington			
STATE: District of Columbia	CODE 08	COUNTY: District of Columbia	CODE 001
3. PHOTO REFERENCE			
PHOTO CREDIT: unknown			
DATE OF PHOTO: between 1921 and 1927			
NEGATIVE FILED AT: National Capital Planning Commission, 726 Jackson Place, N.W. Washington, D.C. 20576			
4. IDENTIFICATION			
DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC. View of chancel enlarged in 1921, prior to 1927 installation of Crucifixion window. Taken from S.W.			



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM

(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with photograph)

STATE

District of Columbia

COUNTY

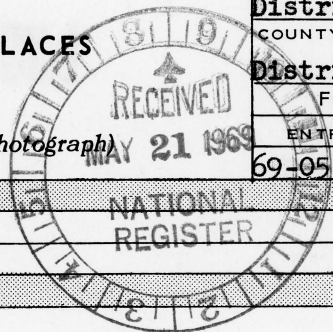
District of Columbia

FOR NPS USE ONLY

ENTRY NUMBER

DATE

69-05-08-0013 5/25/69



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

1. NAME			
COMMON: Christ Church, Washington Parish			
AND/OR HISTORIC: Christ Church, Navy Yard			
2. LOCATION			
STREET AND NUMBER:			
620 G Street, S.E.			
CITY OR TOWN:			
Washington			
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
District of Columbia	08	District of Columbia	001
3. PHOTO REFERENCE			
PHOTO CREDIT: unknown			
DATE OF PHOTO: circa 1920 ^s			
NEGATIVE FILED AT: National Capital Planning Commission, 725 Jackson Place, N.W. Washington, D.C. 20576			
4. IDENTIFICATION			
DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.			
View of north end of nave showing chancel apse and 1891 fresco decorations, taken from the south.			

Form 10-301
(Dec. 1968)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PROPERTY MAP FORM

(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with map)

STATE

District of Columbia

COUNTY

District of Columbia

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED
MAY 21 1968

ENTRY NUMBER

DATE

69-05-08-0013 5/25/69

NATIONAL
REGISTER

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

1. NAME

COMMON: Christ Church, Washington Parish

AND/OR HISTORIC: Christ Church, Navy Yard

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:

620 G Street, S.E.

CITY OR TOWN:

Washington

STATE:

District of Columbia

CODE

08

COUNTY:

District of Columbia

CODE

001

3. MAP REFERENCE

SOURCE:

District of Columbia Department of Highways and Traffic

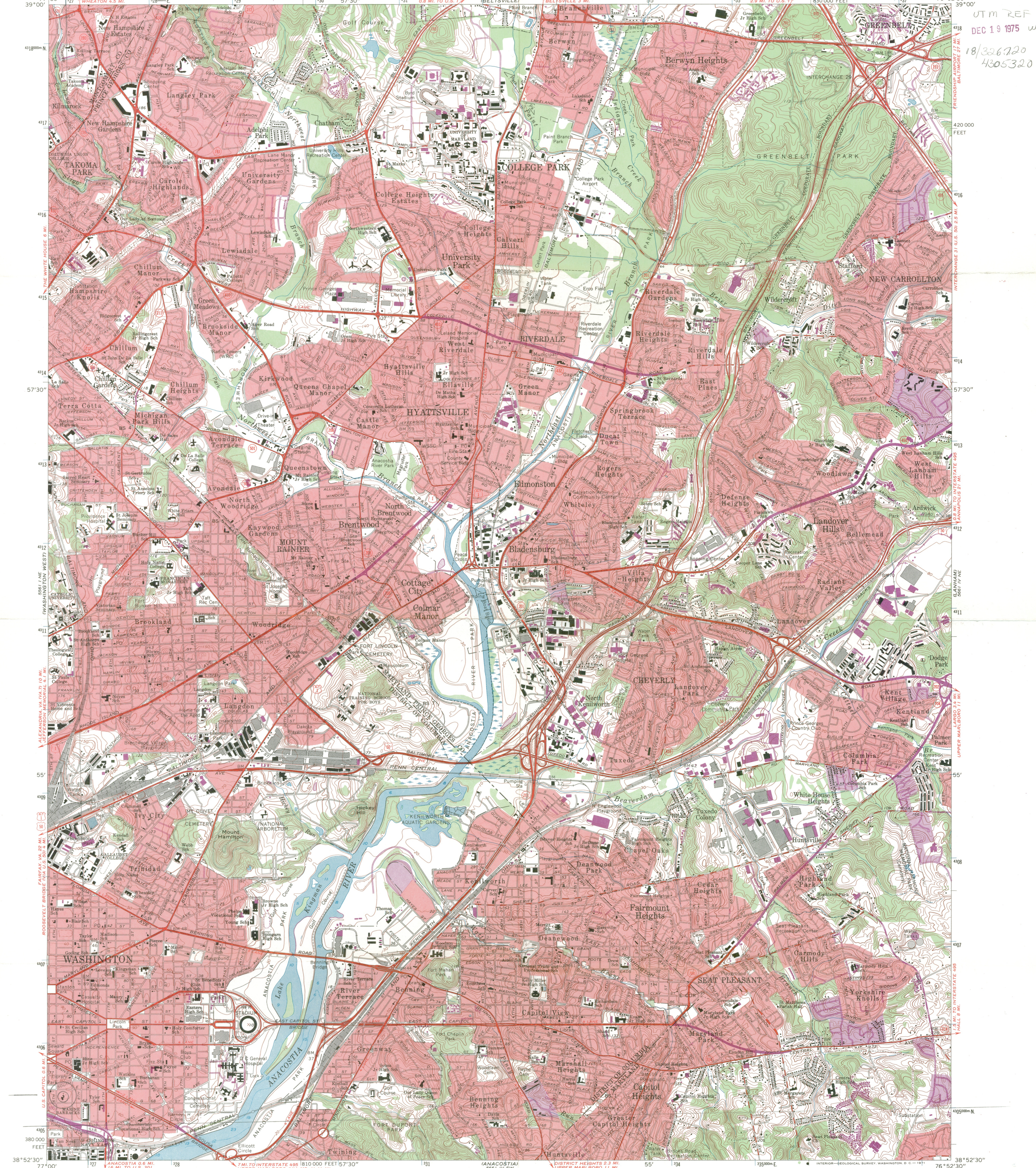
SCALE: 1" = 400'

DATE: February 1965

4. REQUIREMENTS

TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS

1. Property boundaries where required.
2. North arrow.
3. Latitude and longitude reference.



Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey
 Control by USGS, USC&GS, USCE, NCPS, and WSSC
 Topography by photogrammetric methods from aerial photographs taken 1955. Field checked 1957. Revised 1965
 Selected hydrographic data compiled from USC&GS Chart 560 (1965)
 This information is not intended for navigational purposes
 Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum
 10,000-foot grid based on Maryland coordinate system
 1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks, zone 18, shown in blue
 Red tint indicates areas in which only landmark buildings are shown
 Revisions shown in purple compiled from aerial photographs taken 1971. This information not field checked
 Purple tint indicates extension of urban areas

UTM GRID AND 1971 MAGNETIC NORTH DECLINATION AT CENTER OF SHEET

SCALE 1:24000

CONTOUR INTERVAL 10 FEET
 DATUM IS MEAN SEA LEVEL
 DEPTH CURVES AND SOUNDINGS IN FEET—DATUM IS MEAN LOW WATER
 SHORELINE SHOWN REPRESENTS THE APPROXIMATE LINE OF MEAN HIGH WATER
 THE MEAN RANGE OF TIDE IS APPROXIMATELY 2.9 FEET

ROAD CLASSIFICATION
 Heavy-duty ——— Light-duty ———
 Medium-duty ——— Unimproved dirt ———
 Interstate Route U.S. Route State Route

QUADRANGLE LOCATION

WASHINGTON EAST, MD.—D.C.
 N3852.5—W7652.5/7.5
 1965
 PHOTOREVISED 1971
 AMS 5661 IV NW—SERIES V833

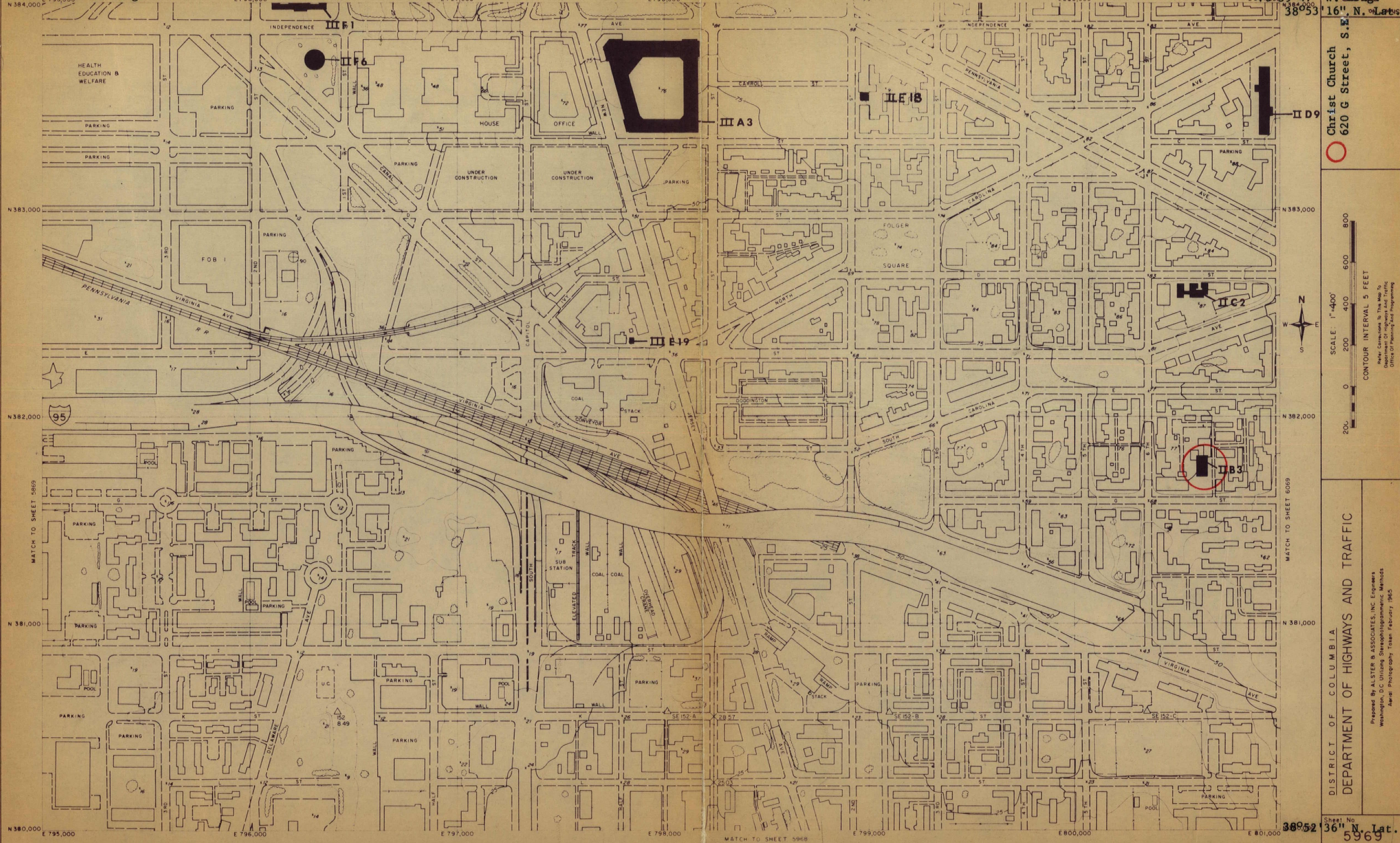
77°00' 39°00' 418000 N
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76°52'30" 39°00'
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 406
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 38°52'30"

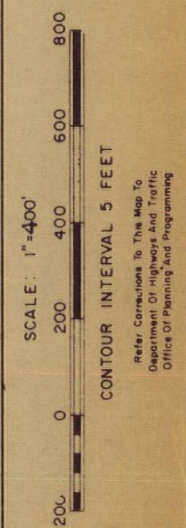
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 Christ Church
 620 G Street, S.E.



DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
 DEPARTMENT OF HIGHWAYS AND TRAFFIC

Sheet No.
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Prepared By ALSTER & ASSOCIATES, INC. Engineers
 Washington, D.C. Utilizing Stereogrammetric Methods
 Aerial Photography Taken February 1965

620 G STREET, S.E. + WASHINGTON, D. C. 20003 + (202)547-9300

The Rev. David Dunning, *Rector*

April 14, 1969

Dr. Ernest Connally
Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation
National Parks Service
Washington, D.C. 20025

Dear Dr. Connally:

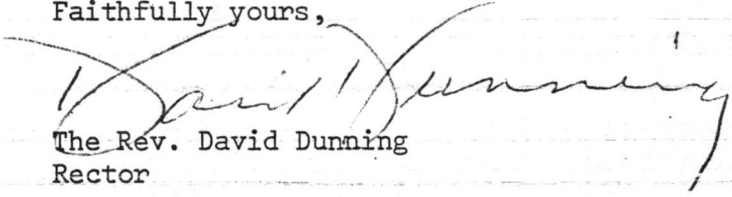
We are delighted that you have consented to participate in a signing ceremony on Sunday afternoon, May 25, which will officially place the Christ Church, Washington Parish on the National Register.

It would be an honor for our congregation and the community if you would say a few remarks just before the signing ceremony. If you prefer not to do so, we understand, but it would be a special plus for our audience and add immeasurably to this historic occasion. We are planning to have a band concert and light refreshments immediately following the signing, and of course, we hope very much that you and Mrs. Connally will be our guests.

As soon as we firm up the other details of the afternoon, I will be back in touch with you. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call me.

With my deep appreciation for your help, and all best wishes,

Faithfully yours,


The Rev. David Dunning
Rector

DD/sal

A20-H

May 9, 1969

The Reverend David Dunning
Rector, Christ Church
620 G Street, S. E.
Washington, D. C. 20003

Dear Mr. Dunning:

Confirming the recent telephone call from my office, I am pleased and honored to participate in the ceremony on Sunday afternoon, May 25. I shall be prepared to say a few remarks before formally signing the entry of Christ Church into the National Register.

When it is convenient I should be pleased to know further details of the program. Particularly I should like to know where and at what time you expect me. It probably will be most convenient simply to telephone this information to my office. My number is 343-2573 or 343-2532.

Please be assured how much I look forward to being with you.

Sincerely yours,

Ernest Allen Connolly

Ernest Allen Connolly
Chief, Office of Archeology
and Historic Preservation

cc:
Regional Director, National Capital - w/c inc.

HR - w/c inc.

T - w/c inc.

H - w/c inc.

EAConnolly:mlw

BASIC FILE RETAINED IN H

CHRIST CHURCH + WASHINGTON PARISH + ON CAPITOL HILL

620 G STREET, S.E. + WASHINGTON, D.C. 20003 + (202) 547-9300

The Rev. David Dunning, Rector

May 7, 1969

Dear Dr. Murtag:

On Sunday, May 25, 1969, the oldest Episcopal parish in Washington will celebrate the 175th anniversary of its founding in 1794. We would be honored if you could be with us and other Washington officials for the 11 AM service that day in Christ Church on Capitol Hill.

Christ Church was designed by the great architect Benjamin Latrobe in 1807. It is considered to be a small jewel of folk-Gothic architecture, one of the earliest examples of the kind in the United States. Two presidents worshipped in the structure: James Madison and James Monroe. A third, Thomas Jefferson, was a member of the original congregation, which held services in an old tobacco barn on Capitol Hill. John Phillip Sousa was born on the same street as Christ Church, was baptized and married here, and is buried in our graveyard, Congressional Cemetery.

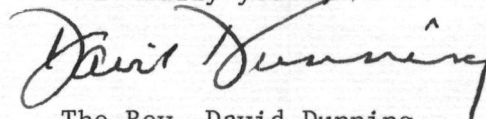
We are planning an exciting program for May 25; one that goes back to the roots of this church. We will celebrate with the original 18th century service, costumes, and music of the period, with the collaboration of the Marine Corps Band, associated with Christ Church since its early days. A reception with light refreshments will follow.

We realize that you have full schedules. However, we would be most pleased if you could worship with us in this beautiful and historic place.

Since Christ Church is small, we would be grateful if your secretary could call our office, 547-9300, between 9:30 AM and 2:30 PM, and let us know if you will be able to join our distinguished guests.

With all best wishes.

Faithfully yours,



The Rev. David Dunning
Rector

P.S. I understand you have other obligations, but I just wanted to invite you in case things change so you might be able to be with us. D.D.

WASHINGTON'S FIRST PARISH CHURCH + FOUNDED A.D. 1794

Called 5/19

620 G STREET, S.E. + WASHINGTON, D. C. 20003 + (202) 547-9300

The Rev. David Dunning, Rector

May 12, 1969

Dear Dr. Murtog:

In conjunction with the 175th Anniversary of Christ Church, Washington Parish, on Capitol Hill we would be honored if you could join us for a signing ceremony and band concert at 4:00 pm on Sunday, May 25, 1969.

Dr. Ernest A. Connally, Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation will officially authorize Christ Church to be put on the National Register for Historic Places. Immediately following this ceremony, the United States Marine Band will present a community concert on the front lawn of the church grounds.

I do hope that you can be with us and participate in this historic occasion. Since we will have reserved seating for the ceremony, would you please have your secretary call 547-9300 between 9:30 am and 2:00 pm and let us know if you can join us.

With all best wishes,

Sincerely,

David Dunning
The Rev. David Dunning
Rector

CHRIST CHURCH + WASHINGTON PARISH + ON CAPITOL HILL

D.C.

H30-HR

May 19, 1969

The Rev. David Dunning, Rector
Christ Church
620 G Street, S.E.
Washington, D. C. 20003

Dear Mr. Dunning:

Thank you for your kind invitation to be present at the official signing of a property on to the National Register. As my secretary has already informed you by telephone it is necessary for me to be Georgia this weekend on business and I will therefore be unable to attend the ceremony at Christ Church on Sunday, May 25. It is my hope that you have a pleasant day and that the ceremony and band concert will be well attended.

Sincerely yours,

William J. Murtagh (Sgd.)

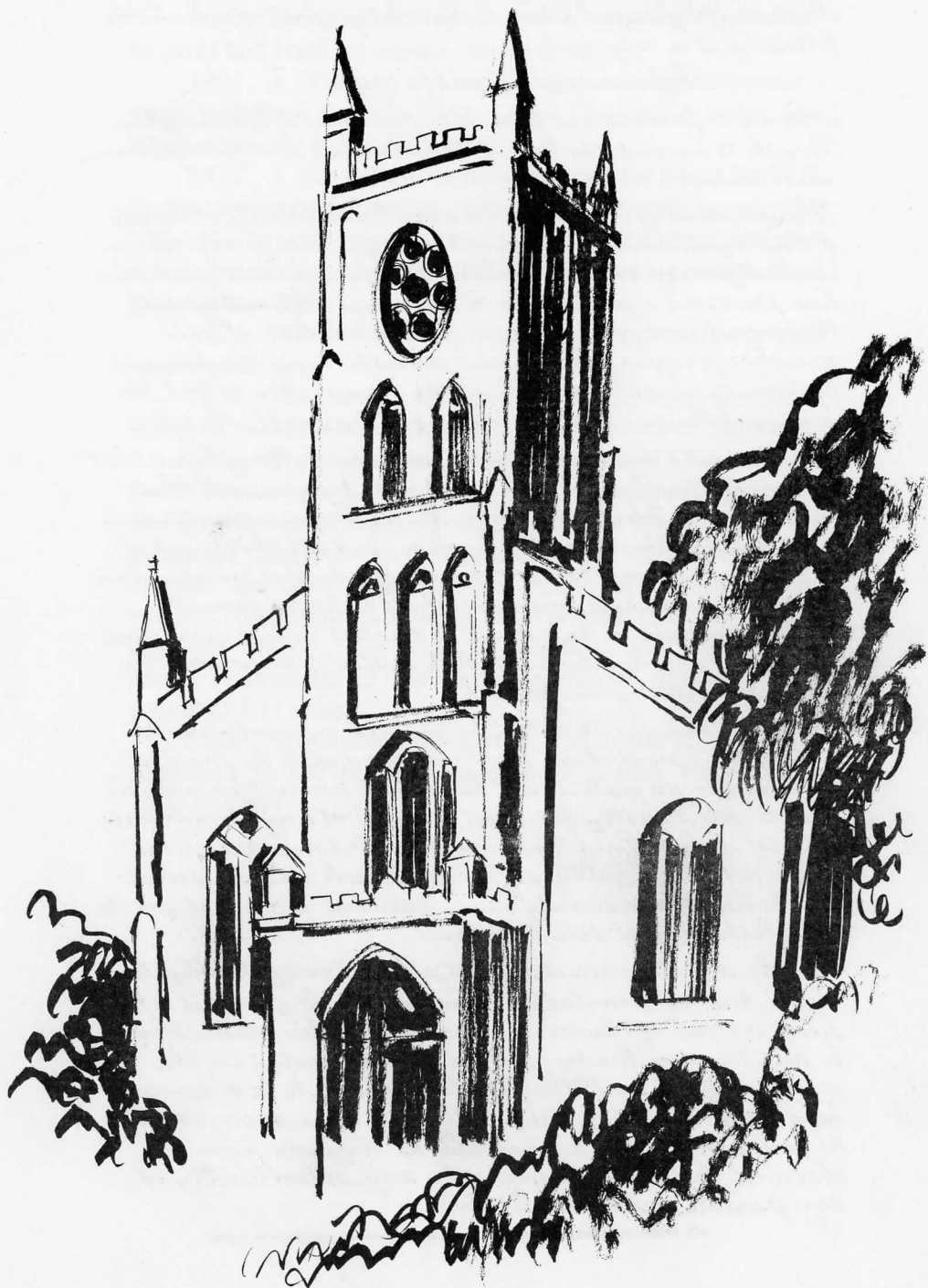
William J. Murtagh
Keeper of the National
Register

cc:
Regional Director, National Capital Region w/c inc.

HR

EDippel:jah 5/19

"NOT LARGE
BUT SUFFICIENTLY ELEGANT".....



CHRIST CHURCH, WASHINGTON PARISH ♦ Founded A. D. 1794
Washington's First Parish

In compliance with a petition presented to the legislature of the state of Maryland, & signed by several members of the Protestant Episcopal Church, an Act passed, of which the following is a copy -

Session of Assembly 1794.

An act to form a new parish by the name of Washington Parish to include the City of Washington, and George Town on Potomac.

Whereas sundry Protestant Episcopal inhabitants of the city of Washington in Prince Georges county, and of George Town in Montgomery county dwelling in two separate parishes have presented a petition to the General Assembly with the consent and approbation of the ministers of said parishes praying that a new parish may be formed containing a part of each of the former two. And, the prayer of the said petition is thought reasonable, therefore

Be it enacted by the general assembly of Maryland, that from and after the end of this present session, all that part of Saint John's parish in Prince Georges county which is contained in the city of Washington, and all that part of St. Paul's parish in Montgomery county which is contained in George-town, and its additions, shall be taken from the parishes aforesaid, and shall be erected into a new and separate parish which shall be called & known by the name of Washington parish.

And be it enacted, that the Protestant Episcopal inhabitants of the said district hereby intended to be formed into a new parish shall have full power to choose and elect a select vestry for said parish at any time before the first day of June next in manner & form prescribed by the act of Assembly passed at March session seventeen hundred and seventy nine, entitled - An act for the establishment of select vestries.

And be it further enacted, that all and every the obligations, rights, powers, & priviledges imposed on, and granted to the select vestries of the several parishes in this state, shall be, and they are hereby imposed on, and vested in the select vestry of said Washington parish, to be observed, held, and enjoyed by said vestry and their successor in as full and ample a manner as they are now observed, held, and enjoyed by any select vestry of any parish within this state.

Christ Church on Capitol Hill, one of the oldest churches in Washington, in the city's oldest Episcopal parish, is extraordinarily rich in both history and beauty. A great architect, a celebrated composer and three Presidents of the United States are associated with its earliest days.

Washington Parish was founded in 1794; its first and only formal house of worship was built in 1807. From that year to this, it has been dedicated to the service of God.

Thomas John Claggett, the first Episcopal bishop to be consecrated on American soil, said of Christ Church after consecrating it in 1809:

"It is not large, but sufficiently elegant, and is the first building that hath been erected by the Protestant Episcopalians, for public worship, at the seat of government. . ."

The building has been cited as the design of Benjamin Henry Latrobe, the greatest American architect of his day and one of the greatest in the history of this nation. Architects and artisans closely associated with Latrobe also helped build and finish the structure in 1807; Latrobe credits himself with its design in his own listing of architectural works. His daughter, Lydia, was married there the year after its completion.

Two Presidents of the United States worshipped in Christ Church: James Madison and James Monroe. A third, Thomas Jefferson, is thought to have been a member of the original congregation, which held services in a rustic tobacco warehouse near New Jersey Avenue and D Street, southeast, until Christ Church was constructed. The vestry minutes show, however, that Jefferson refused the offer of a free pew in 1807.

John Philip Sousa, the celebrated bandmaster and march composer, was born on the same block as Christ Church, was baptized and married there and is buried in its graveyard, Congressional Cemetery. The church records bear witness to the entire Sousa family's involvement in its religious life, along with the United States Marine Band that Sousa directed. The brick barracks that are Marine headquarters and the superb Federal mansion that houses the Commandant of the Corps are only a block away from the church.

The cemetery itself, at 18th and E streets southeast, is a kind of mortuary curiosity. In use almost since Christ Church was built, operated by the vestry of Washington Parish, it was once the semi-official burial ground for Congress and was called "the American Westminster Abbey."

Buried there are many U.S. Senators and Representatives; Tobias Lear, the friend and private secretary of George Washington; Elbridge Gerry, a Vice President of the United States under James Madison and a signer of the Declaration of Independence; three distinguished architects of the Capitol, William Thornton, George Hadfield and William Elliott; virtually every prominent Indian to die in the District of Columbia in the 19th century and the first automobile victim in Washington in the 20th.

The gloomiest monuments in an otherwise attractive and historically fascinating cemetery are a clutch of cenotaphs designed by Latrobe. Being interred beneath them, a 19th century Senator from Massachusetts said, would add a new terror to death.

Historical Chronology

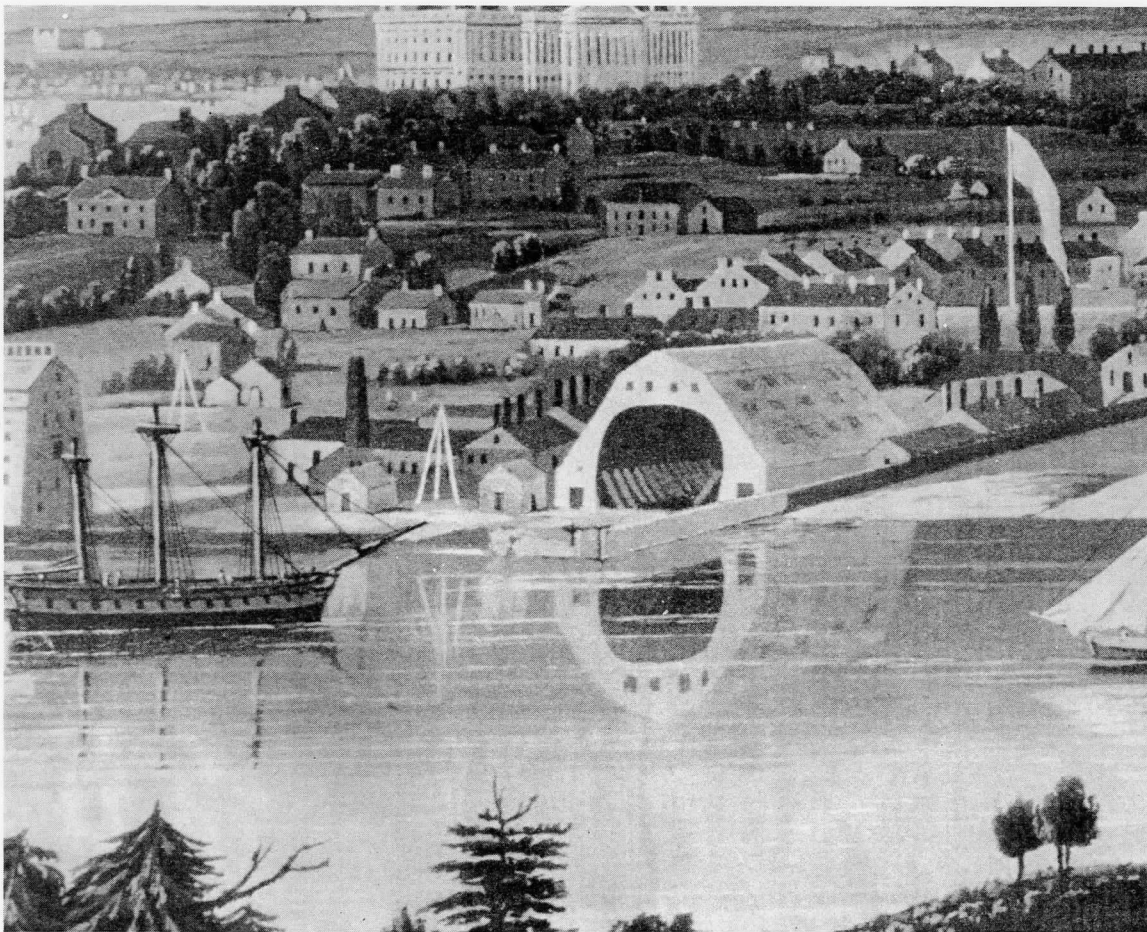
1794. Washington Parish is incorporated by an act of the Maryland legislature; it then includes the whole of Washington city proper.

1795. The first vestry is elected and the Reverend George Ralph chosen as the first Rector.

1798. The Reverend Andrew McCormick begins a 25-year ministry that includes service as Chaplain to the Senate for several years.

May 11, 1806. The tobacco warehouse is in dire need of repair. One William Prout offers to donate a lot for a church at its present site on G Street between 6th and 7th streets, southeast. The offer is made providing a church be built upon the land "within a year." The vestry sworn in that year includes the Commandant of the Navy Yard on Capitol Hill.

Aug. 9, 1807. The first service is held in the present building, called then "the new church by the Navy Yard." Walls and general plan remain unaltered to this day, although the later additions of a bell-tower, entrance foyer and chancel and the stuccoing of the outside walls have changed Christ Church's outer profile and texture. The original building was "of brick, 38 x 45 in the clear, two stories high." There were 42 pews on the ground floor, all rented. The U-shaped gallery that ran around the back and sides seated parishioners' slaves and the choir; additional places were reserved for the "music & men" of the U.S. Marines. Offering bags to contain their money were poked up on a stick through a hole in the gallery floor. Three pews downstairs were reserved free of charge:



*Detail of "City of Washington from Beyond the Navy Yard" by William J. Bennett, 1834
Christ Church is probably the Building located just to the left of the white flag. Research by R. P. Ennis
Courtesy of National Collection of Fine Arts, Smithsonian Institution.*

for the President of the United States; William Prout, the land donor; and the Rector's family. The Rector's salary was set at \$300 a year.

Aug. 20, 1807. The name "Christ Church" is formally adopted. (The converted tobacco warehouse had been called "Christ's Church" for some years previously.)

Oct. 8, 1809. Bishop Claggett consecrates Christ Church.

March 30, 1812. The vestry of Christ Church, Washington Parish, receives the deed of land and plan of "the new burial ground," later nicknamed Congressional Cemetery. (Its formal name was first "Washington Parish Burial Ground;" then, from 1849, "Washington Cemetery.")

1825. The Rector, Ethan Allen, is given leave to build a dwelling house on the site of the present Rectory. It costs \$1,500; the vestry reimburses him. His salary is raised to \$750 per annum.

1830. Mr. Allen resigns; the Rector and his family cannot live on his salary.

1842. All boys are banned from the gallery unless their parents become responsible for their conduct, which has been fractious. The same problem crops up in later years.

1849. The Rector suggests "the expediency of having a bell to assemble the congregation." Cost: \$456.84. The altered front, with its battlemented bell-tower and cornices, gives Christ Church its latter-day "folk Gothic" profile.

1851. Elisha Acton is paid \$15 a year for ringing the church bell.

1862. An officer of the Union Army informs Christ Church that it is to be used as a hospital for sick and wounded soldiers. Six days later the demand is withdrawn; the Army finds the structure unsuited. The tower is used during the Civil War as an observation post without disrupting services.

1874. The present Parish Hall is built.

1877. More major changes. The side galleries are removed; the walls wainscoted and frescoed above; the old, probably wood pillars removed and replaced with the present delicate Corinthian columns of cast iron that distinguish the church architecturally and visually. The vestry wrangles about them, finds them "neither useful nor ornamental" but finally agrees to let them stay. A chancel is added. The interior is rampant Victorian, Latrobe's simple design obscured by "discreet ornamentation." This includes gilt stars overlaid on a pale blue ceiling that often drifted loose during humid

weather. The brick facade is covered with pebble-dash stucco to look like stone.

1885. The Wardens report they consider it "impolitic" to plant and train ivy on the church front.

1891. A fifth and last story is added to the belltower; a projecting front porch is built. Christ Church's exterior now appears exactly as it does today.

1921. A third major transformation. Architect Delos H. Smith removes the frescoes, paints interior walls to resemble stone blocks, enlarges the chancel to hold the choir and gives it a grotto-like look by embellishing the entrance with a huge, dark Gothic arch.

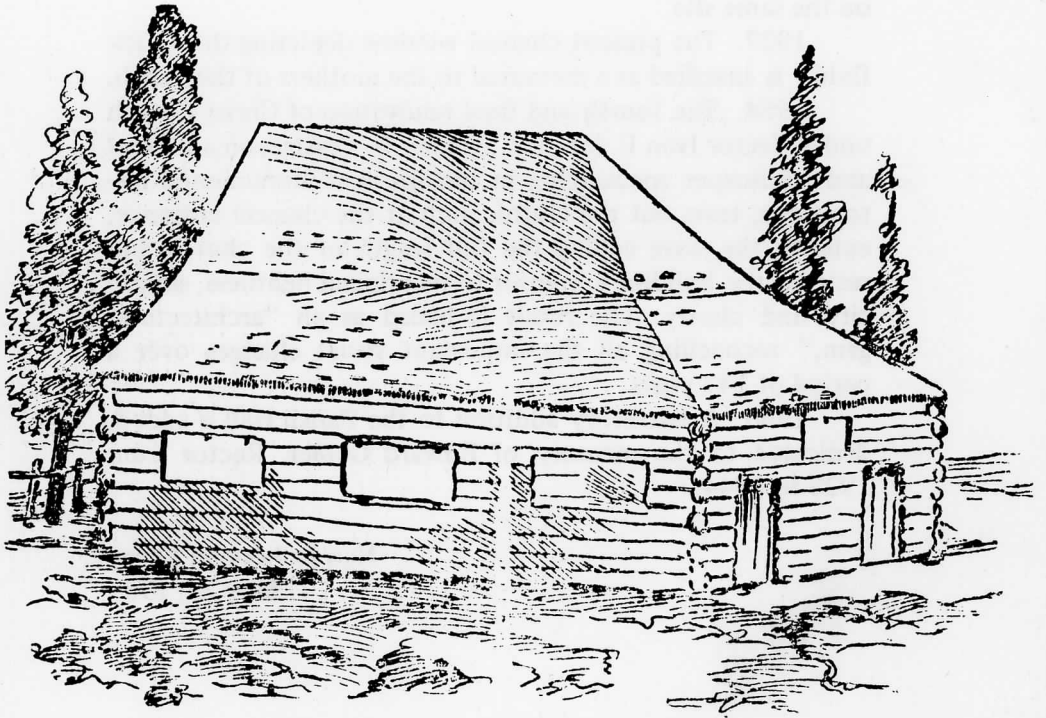
1924. The first Rectory razed and the present one built on the same site.

1927. The present chancel window depicting the Crucifixion is installed as a memorial to the mothers of the parish.

1954. The fourth and final renovation of Christ Church under Rector Ivan E. Merrick. Horace W. Peaslee, an architect and landscaper specializing in historic and monumental restorations, tears out the Gothic arch at the chancel entrance, extends the cove ceiling the full length of the church and restores the building's interior to its original lightness, simplicity and clarity. The result is hailed as an "architectural gem," reconciling all the important visual changes over a period of 147 years.

1966. A two-story addition to the Parish Hall is added, dedicated to the memory of Edward Gabler, Rector from 1928 to 1944.

Nan Robertson Levey
May 25, 1969



Drawing by E. P. Cranch of the remodelled tobacco barn on New Jersey Avenue near D Street, S. E., called Christ's Church, bought from Daniel Carroll of Duddington. When the new church was built, the congregation of Washington Parish sold the log building to the Methodist Congregation.