

PH0011525

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

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

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

**1. NAME**

COMMON:  
**Christ Church, Washington Parish**

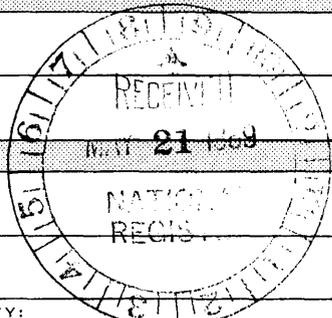
AND/OR HISTORIC:  
**Christ Church, Navy Yard**

**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"/>
No: <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

8. SIGNIFICANCE

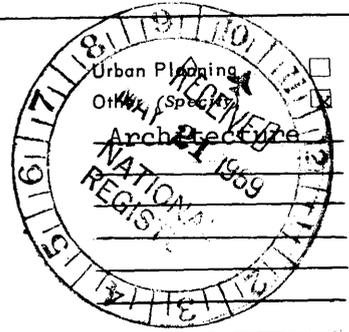
PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- 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                              | Education    | <input type="checkbox"/> | Political      | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| Prehistoric <input type="checkbox"/>    | Engineering  | <input type="checkbox"/> | Religion/Phi-  | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| Historic <input type="checkbox"/>       | Industry     | <input type="checkbox"/> | losophy        | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Agriculture <input type="checkbox"/>    | Invention    | <input type="checkbox"/> | Science        | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| Art <input type="checkbox"/>            | Landscape    | <input type="checkbox"/> | Sculpture      | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| Commerce <input type="checkbox"/>       | Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> | Social/Human-  | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| Communications <input type="checkbox"/> | Literature   | <input type="checkbox"/> | itarian        | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Conservation <input type="checkbox"/>   | Military     | <input type="checkbox"/> | Theater        | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
|   | Music        | <input type="checkbox"/> | Transportation | <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	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	° ' "	° ' "		38 ° 52' 54"	76 ° 59' 52"	
NE	° ' "	° ' "				
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
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**

**NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION**

As the designated State Liaison Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National  State  Local

Name *Wm F. L...*

Title Deputy Mayor-Commissioner

Date May 12, 1969

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

*Ernest Allen Casanally*  
 Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date MAY 25 1969

ATTEST:

*William J. Woodruff*  
 Keeper of The National Register

Date MAY 26 1969

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

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STATE	
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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.



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(Number all entries)

8. Significance--Christ Church

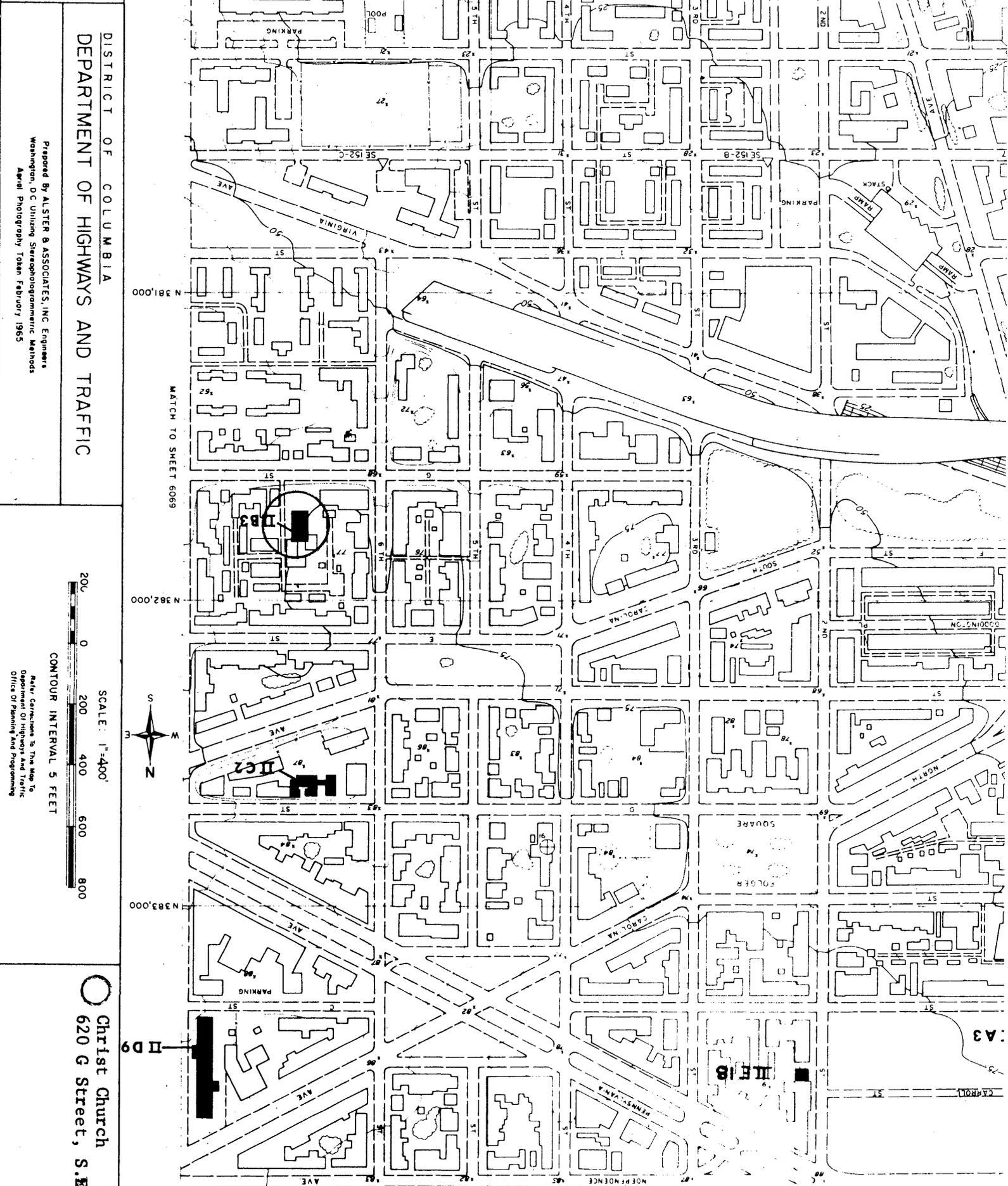
Columbia, north of the Potomac." Rental of pews provided the parish's chief source of income. Three free pews were regularly reserved: one for the President of the United States; one for the donor of the land, Mr. Prout; and one for the rector's family. Presidents Madison and Monroe reportedly attended 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.



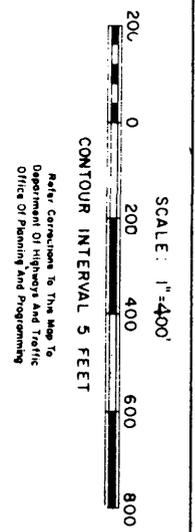
Sheet No. 3611 N. 5966 Lat.

Sheet No. 1611 N. 6955 Lat.



DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
 DEPARTMENT OF HIGHWAYS AND TRAFFIC

Prepared by ALSTER & ASSOCIATES, INC. Engineers  
 Washington, DC Utilizing Stereogrammetric Methods  
 Aerial Photography Taken February 1965



SCALE: 1"=400'  
 CONTOUR INTERVAL 5 FEET

Christ Church  
 620 G Street, S.E.