

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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: Park View Christian Church

Other names/site number: Trinity A.M.E. Church

Name of related multiple property listing:

(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing)

2. Location

Street & number: 625 Park Road, NW

City or town: Washington, D.C. State: _____ County: _____

Not For Publication: Vicinity:

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

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

I hereby certify that this X 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 X 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 X local

Applicable National Register Criteria:

X A ___ B ___ C ___ D

Signature of certifying official/Title:	Date
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 or 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

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Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>1</u>	<u> </u>	buildings
<u> </u>	<u> </u>	sites
<u> </u>	<u> </u>	structures
<u> </u>	<u> </u>	objects
<u>1</u>	<u> </u>	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

RELIGION/Religious Facility

SOCIAL/Civic

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

VACANT

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7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Folk Victorian-Gothic Revival

Materials: (enter categories from instructions.)

Principal exterior materials of the property: Brick

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance and condition of the property. Describe contributing and noncontributing resources if applicable. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, type, style, method of construction, setting, size, and significant features. Indicate whether the property has historic integrity.)

Summary Paragraph

The Park View Christian Church is a modest, but substantial 1-1/2-story brick church designed in a vernacular Gothic Revival style, defined principally by its stepped gable parapet and its arched windows on the façade and side walls. The basilican-plan church building was constructed in two parts: in 1905, a brick gable-roofed auditorium building was constructed, and in 1920, the 1905 auditorium was extended towards the south, and the present façade was erected in front of it. At that time, the interior of the former auditorium was gutted and the entire, rectangular plan structure was renovated into a church sanctuary with a central nave. Located on the north side of Park Road between Georgia Avenue and Warder Street NW on a wide lot in the Park View neighborhood of Washington, D.C., the church is set well back from the lot line and from the neighboring buildings to either side.

The property is bounded on the north by a public alley, on the east by private row house residences, and on the west by a large parking lot.

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Narrative Description

Exterior Description:

The Park View Christian Church is a solid basilican-plan church building constructed of brick and executed in a simplified and almost folk-like, Gothic Revival style. The building faces south to Park Road and extends eight bays deep to the rear of the lot line and to the alleyway. The building is set upon a low brick foundation and is covered with a gable roof hidden on the façade by a stepped parapet wall that historically featured spires on the end piers and at the center parapet/bell tower. The front elevation consists of beige face-brick laid in an all-stretcher bond, while the side walls are common red brick laid in a 6-course American bond. The bays on the front and side walls are defined by pairs of 1/1 stained glass windows set within round-arched openings on the façade and segmental-arched openings on the side walls. A brick buttress, visible on the west side wall of the building delineates the division between the 1905 auditorium and the 1920 front addition.

The Park Road (front) elevation is characterized by its stepped parapet and is divided into three bays, consisting of a central entry with flanking windows. The central entry is raised above ground level and is reached by a straight flight concrete stair with splayed side walls. The entry is filled with a pair of metal and glass replacement doors surmounted by a half-round, stained glass wood fanlight transom. The doors and transom are set within a round-arched brick opening, formed by three rows of brick laid in a soldier course pattern. Directly above this central entrance is a single arched window with a soldier-course brick voussoir. The window is now plate glass, but until recently held a stained glass reproduction of the painting "The Light of The World" by English painter Homan Hunt (1827-1910), one of the founders of the pre-Raphaelite Brotherhood. This stained glass window, dedicated to the first pastor of the church, Rev. Ira W. Kimmel recently become unstable and either fell, or has been removed. To either side of this central bay are round-arched openings with pairs of stained glass windows separated by brick pilasters and surmounted by stained-glass fanlight transoms. The edges of the building's façade have brick quoining extending from the ground to the top of the end piers.

The façade terminates at its roofline with a pronounced stepped gable parapet with a modest bell at the center and visually completing the stepped parapet. The front walls of the bell tower have brick quoining on the edges, and the cap is crenellated; the side and rear walls enclosing the bell, appear to be hollow tile. The stepped parapets to either side of the bell tower are capped with stone cornices. The parapets and bell tower were originally surmounted by metal spires—two each on the end piers and four at the bell tower—no longer extant, but evident in an historic photo.

Unlike the beige brick front façade, the east and west elevations are constructed of red brick. Each elevation is divided into eight bays, with six regularly spaced window bays filling the majority of the wall and corresponding with the church nave; an unfenestrated front bay; and a rear bay with a window slightly larger than the center six bays and without a half-round window

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above. A brick buttress between the third and fourth bays from the façade indicates the division between the 1905 auditorium forming the 6 bays to the rear and the 1920 front addition.

On both the east and west elevations, each of the center six bays has a single opening beneath a jack-arched brick lintel, filled with a pair of 1/1 double-hung stained glass windows. Each of these six bays is in turn surmounted by a half-round clerestory fanlight in various states of repair. Some of the fanlights retain the original green-slag glass, while others have replacement glass, and still others are boarded up entirely. While the front bay on both of these side walls have no windows, the rear bays offer single openings with a pair of double-hung wood windows set beneath a brick jack-arched window. This window is presently and was historically fitted with plate glass as opposed to the stained glass windows of the nave.

The north end elevation terminates in a gable and is relatively utilitarian in appearance. Three small equally spaced windows are located at the clerestory level and have 1/1 double-hung wood replacement windows. Three equally spaced vents are located above the window level, but interspersed with them. A single large window opening on-center of the wall has been filled in with brick, while a small basement-level opening exists below it.

The building is covered by a simple gable roof, hidden from view on the façade by the stepped parapet, but clearly distinguished on the side and rear elevations. A small brick chimney projects from the roof slope at its northeast corner.

Interior Description:

The Park View Christian Church has a basilican-plan sanctuary with a central nave on the first floor, and a balcony level above. The exterior door leads into an entry narthex with wooden quarter-turn stairs at either end leading to the balcony level. The sanctuary has rows of wooden pews on either side of the nave and has a seating capacity of 500. The balcony level extends around three sides of the sanctuary and features a solid wood paneled balustrade. The interior is a product of the 1920 building campaign.

INTEGRITY

The Park View Christian Church has high integrity of location, setting, design, workmanship, materials, association and feeling. The building retains the exterior side and rear walls of the 1905 auditorium and the 1920 front addition, including the character-defining stepped parapet roof. The building retains integrity of materials except for the replacement of its front doors and a few windows, and the loss of the eight unusual pinnacles from the façade.

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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.)

- A. Owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes
- B. Removed from its original location
- C. A birthplace or grave
- D. A cemetery
- E. A reconstructed building, object, or structure
- F. A commemorative property
- G. Less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years

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Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions.)

RELIGION
SOCIAL HISTORY

Period of Significance

1905-1983

Significant Dates

1905; 1920; 1945; 1964

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

Cultural Affiliation

Architect/Builder

O.L. Beardsley (Architect)
James F. Blakeney (Builder)

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Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance, applicable criteria, justification for the period of significance, and any applicable criteria considerations.)

The Park View Christian Church was constructed in two phases, in 1905 and 1920 on the site of an older chapel, built in 1877, and served as a house of worship for the surrounding Park View community. The origins of the church lie in a multi-denominational Sunday school that was established for the instruction of children in this formerly rural section of the District. Area residents organized as the "Whitney Avenue Union Mission Association" and purchased a 50-foot-wide lot on Whitney Avenue, now known as Park Road. The Sunday school, a subsequent sewing circle, and other groups met in the 1877 brick chapel. In 1905, a large auditorium, the Kimmel Memorial Hall, was built at the rear (north) of the 1877 chapel, and in 1920 the present church was constructed in front (south) of this hall. The 1920 building which includes the character-defining front parapet façade was designed by Orie L. Beardsley a young Army engineer and inventor, and a resident of Park Place and a member of the Park View congregation. The Park View Christian Church was active in the building until 1945, when it relocated to Eastern Avenue in the Shepherd Park neighborhood. At that time, the Park View Christian Church sold its Park Road property to Trinity A.M.E. Zion Church. In addition to being an old congregation and a representative of one of the oldest African-American denominations, Trinity was the site of an important experiment in the War on Poverty, a pilot of a Great Society program that is still active.

The Park View Christian Church is eligible for listing in the National Register at the local level of significance under Criterion A due to its association with the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). This property is closely associated with the church's missionary work and its efforts to bring spiritual support in the late 19th century to the rural area within the District of Columbia, but outside of the City of Washington and known as Washington County. The church is further eligible under Criterion A for its active role in the community. The church participated in the creation of the Park View Citizens' Association and the establishment of the Park View neighborhood's identity at a time when citizens' associations regularly presented the needs of their communities to the District's commissioners and Members of Congress, and provided the highest level of local representation available to residents of the District of Columbia between 1874 and 1972.

Furthermore, the church, under the leadership of the Trinity A.M.E. Zion church was one of five churches selected to house the nation's pilot Head Start program, established President Lyndon B. Johnson, and was visited by Mrs. Lyndon B. Johnson on May 5, 1965. The church contributed in a significant way to the establishment of Head Start on the National level. Trinity A.M.E. Zion Church moved to the former Park View Christian Church in 1945 and continued to provide worship services there until 1983.

The Period of Significance extends from 1905, when Kimmel Auditorium (the rear section of the present church) was constructed, until 1983 when the Trinity A.M.E. Zion Church left the building.

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Narrative Statement of Significance (Provide at least **one** paragraph for each area of significance.)

Park View Christian Church is significant in the area of Religion as it played a major role in the development of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Washington, D.C. It is a notable example of the Church's support of the rural community located outside the City of Washington, providing a rare public place where residents of the area could gather for both spiritual and secular purposes. The church is significant in the Area of Social History due to its role in the founding of the Park View Citizen's Association. On March 6, 1908, residents and property owners of the community gathered in the 1905 Kimmel Memorial Hall of the Whitney Avenue Christian Church for the purpose of forming a citizens' association, which they did. At the meeting, the association was formed and 31 members enrolled. The assembly adopted a constitution and code of by-laws, and elected their first officers. The organization regularly met in the large hall behind the church between 1908 and 1916, later replaced by the 1920 building.

The building is further significant in the Area of Social History for its association with Trinity A.M.E Zion Church and the role it played in the development of the Head Start program under President Lyndon Johnson. The Head Start program began as part of President Lyndon Johnson's Great Society campaign. The United Planning Organization, the designated community action agency for Washington, DC, was established December 10, 1962 to plan, coordinate, and implement human services programs for low-income residents in the Nation's Capital. In 1964, the UPO was designated the area's community action agency following passage of the Economic Opportunity Act of 1964. In its first year as a CAP agency, UPO used \$15.8 million in grants to establish eight neighborhood development centers, inaugurate a Neighborhood Youth Corps, fund a Model School System, inaugurate a pilot Head Start program, and launch the community credit union movement with founding loans to three credit unions. Trinity A.M.E. Zion Church was selected as one of the five churches in which the pilot Head Start program was located, and the site that Mrs. Lyndon B. Johnson visited on May 5, 1965, prior to the national launch of the program. Head Start was originally conceived as a catch-up summer school program that would teach low-income children in a few weeks what they needed to know to start elementary school. The program provides comprehensive early childhood education, health, nutrition, and parent involvement services to low-income children and their families. The program's services and resources are designed to foster stable family relationships, enhance children's physical and emotional well-being, and establish an environment to develop strong cognitive skills.

Building History: The Park View Christian Church

The Park View Christian Church's roots date to 1877. Reportedly Gerard Smith, a twelve-year-old invalid boy living in the area immediately west of the Soldiers' Home, was unable to travel to church in the City of Washington and expressed a desire that a Sunday school might be started that he could attend. His mother, Mrs. C.B. Smith, called a meeting of the residents of the neighborhood at her house on February 9, 1877, to consider the possibility of organizing a school. Approximately 25 persons attended the meeting representing seven different

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denominations, with several of the members belonging to the Vermont Avenue Christian Church. All agreed that a federation was the only practical approach and consented to work together.

The Sunday school was organized on February 28, 1877, with H. Clay Steir, an elder of the Vermont Avenue Christian Church elected superintendent. The first meeting of the school was held in a building on 7th Street Road, near the toll gate, with 80 persons present. Gradually, the school grew in numbers, and a sewing circle and other organizations were started. Within two months a subscription was begun for the erection of a building. On April 30, 1877, the Whitney Avenue Union Mission was formally organized, trustees chosen, and a lot, which is the present site of the church, was purchased.

The chapel erected by the Whitney Avenue Union Mission Association was completed and dedicated on October 7, 1877. Contemporary accounts report that over 500 persons were present for the dedication. Among those attending the ceremony were President and Mrs. Hayes and their daughter Fanny, being among the financial contributors to the mission. From the time of the chapel's construction in 1877 to the present, the mission and the buildings later replacing it remain the only purpose built church building constructed in the Park View neighborhood.

For over twenty-two years the mission continued to hold only Sunday-school services. In 1899 those supporting the mission realized that to accomplish the best results there would have to be an enlargement of the idea with regular preaching services. With this purpose in mind, they discovered that it was not feasible under an interdenominational board of managers. The permanency of the work demanded that a single religious body assume responsibility, and it was finally decided that the Christian Church should do it.

The Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)

The Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) arose from the Restoration Movement during the Second Great Awakening of the early 19th century. The church grew out of two movements seeking Christian unity that sprang up almost simultaneously in western Pennsylvania and Kentucky—movements that were backlashes against the rigid denominationalism of the early 1800s.

Thomas and Alexander Campbell, a Scottish Presbyterian father and son in Pennsylvania, rebelled against the dogmatic sectarianism that kept members of different denominations - and even factions within the same denomination - from partaking of the Lord's Supper together.

Barton W. Stone in Kentucky, also a Presbyterian, objected to the use of creeds as tests of "fellowship" within the church, which were a cause of disunity, especially at the Lord's table.

"Christians," the name adopted by Stone's movement, represented what he felt to be a shedding of denominational labels in favor of a scriptural and inclusive term. Campbell had similar reasons for settling on "Disciples of Christ" but he felt the term "Disciples" less presumptuous than "Christians." The aims and practices of the two groups were similar, and the Campbell and Stone movements united in 1832 after about a quarter of a century of separate development.

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The founders of the Christian Church hoped to restore Christian unity by returning to New Testament faith and practices. But the church found that even this led to division. One group which opposed practices not specifically authorized by the New Testament, such as instrumental music in the church and organized missionary activity, gradually pulled away. That group finally was listed separately in the 1906 federal religious census as the "Churches of Christ."

Another group remained with the Disciples but began a separation in 1926 over what it felt were too liberal policies on the mission field in the practice of baptism. More than 40 years later (1967-69) some 3,000 of those congregations formally withdrew at the time of Disciples restructure. They refer to themselves as the Christian Churches/Churches of Christ.

Whitney Avenue Christian Church

Reverend Ira Wells Kimmel was selected to be the leader of the new church, and in November 1899 the Whitney Avenue Memorial Christian Church was organized. It was made a mission point of the Vermont Avenue Christian Church which continued until 1904, when it became self-supporting. With the residential growth of the neighborhood, the old chapel was soon too small to serve the congregation, and in 1905 the members constructed Kimmel Memorial Hall, named for the first pastor. Ground was broken on the new hall on April 18, 1905. On May 26th the foundation was completed and a service was held in the church as part of the cornerstone laying ceremony. Upon completion, Kimmel Memorial Hall was used as the Sunday School, the drill hall, and as a gymnasium. Kimmel Memorial Hall, a gable-roofed brick structure, survives as the rear section of the current church building.

With the residential development and population growth in the area, Kimmel Hall and the church became more a community gathering place than ever. And, when the city renamed Whitney Avenue Park Road around 1905 and the community became known as Park View, the congregation changed the name of its church to the Park View Christian Church. The church was closely identified with every phase of the life of the community. In early 1908, residents and property owners met there to form a citizens' association to lobby the District Commissioners for neighborhood improvements. The inaugural meeting was chaired by church's pastor, Rev. Walter H. Smith, and 31 residents joined and elected a five-member board. The Park View Citizens' Association's boundaries were Georgia Avenue, Rock Creek Church Road, Harvard Street and the Soldiers' Home. The association continued to meet in the church for eight years, over that time securing for that section extensive road and sidewalk paving, police call boxes, the undergrounding of telephone lines, better refuse and streetcar services, and ultimately, its own elementary school. With the construction of Park View School in 1916, the Citizens' Association moved its meetings there.

In 1920, the church expanded, demolishing the 1877 chapel and adding to the front of the 1905 Kimmel Hall. The spaces were united by the complete renovation of the interior and the merging of the exterior side walls and the construction of a front elevation serving as a screen to the older building behind it. This façade has a variegated beige-colored brick with a short, crenelated bell tower and stepped gable, quoins, and round-arched openings. Because this 1920

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front addition was designed to be less deep than the pre-existing 1877 chapel on the site, the building is deeply recessed from the lot line, while the 1877 chapel fronted the lot line.

The Park View Christian Church continued to serve the areas spiritual needs until March 18, 1945. In 1944, the church sold the property to the Baltimore A.M.E. Zion Church, later known as Trinity A.M.E. Zion Church, and made plans for a new building on Eastern Avenue in Shepherd Park. The congregation celebrated its ground breaking on Eastern Avenue on September 16, 1945, and excavation work began on November 8, 1946. The basement of the new building was dedicated on September 14, 1947. The church officially changed its name from the Park View Christian Church to the Shepherd Park Christian Church on August 29, 1948.

The Park View Citizens' Association

The Christian Church on Park Road was instrumental in the organizing of the Park View neighborhood. On March 6, 1908, residents and property owners of the community gathered in the Kimmel Memorial Hall of the Whitney Avenue Christian Church for the purpose of forming a citizens' association. The meeting was called to order by the Rev. Walter H. Smith, as chairman pro tempore, and Mr. Sidney H. Cooper as secretary.

At the meeting, an association was formed and thirty-one members enrolled. The assembly adopted a constitution and code of by-laws. The first officers elected were Edward C. Finney, President; John G. McGrath, first vice president; Dr. A.B. Crane, second vice president; Sidney H. Cooper, secretary; and William Schultz, treasurer.

The name selected for the civic group was "The Park View Citizens' Association," and the groups stated their object as being the fostering and advancement of all public interests in the District of Columbia, especially in the section of the city bounded by Georgia Avenue on the west, the Soldiers' Home on the east, Rock Creek Church Road on the north, and Harvard Street on the South.

While still a young organization, it was recognized as having done much for the residents who lived adjacent to the Soldiers' Home. In September 1910, it was noted that the neighborhood, through the activities of the citizens' association, had procured 3,600 feet of macadamized street, 7,200 feet of curbing, street lights, fire alarm and police call boxes, the extension of the fire limits, better ash and garbage service, and the purchase of 60,000 square feet of ground for a school site. It also stopped the erection of telephone poles, thus requiring the company to install underground service. The Park View Citizens' Association was also active in working with other associations to obtain better streetcar service on the Brightwood Avenue (Georgia Avenue) line.

The citizens' association was strongly interested in education and the provision of adequate public schools. In addition to successfully advocating to the construction of the Park View School (1916), the association worked closely with other District citizens' associations to secure public schools in other neighborhoods.

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The Park View Citizens' Association's regular meetings were held at the Whitney Avenue Christian Church from the time of the association's creation until the meetings were moved to the newly constructed Park View School in 1916.

Trinity A.M.E. Zion Church

Trinity A.M.E. Zion Church moved to the former Park View Christian Church in 1945 and continued to provide worship services there until 1983. The African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church, or *AME Zion Church*, is a historically African American Christian denomination. It was officially formed in 1821 in New York City, but operated for a number of years before then. The church can be traced back to the John Street Methodist Church of New York City. Following acts of overt discrimination (such as black parishioners being forced to leave worship), many black Christians left to form their own churches. The first church founded by the AME Zion Church was built in 1800 and was named *Zion*. These early black churches were still part of the Methodist Episcopal Church denomination, although the congregations were independent.

The fledgling church grew and soon multiple churches developed from the original congregation. These churches were attended by black congregants, but ministered to by white ordained Methodist ministers. In 1820, six of the churches met to ordain James Varick as an elder, and in 1821 he was made the first General Superintendent of the AME Zion Church. A debate raged in the white-dominated Methodist church over the possibility of black ministers. This debate concluded on July 30, 1822 when James Varick was ordained the first bishop of the AME Zion church.

Washington's A.M.E. Zion congregation dates to the 1880s. In 1884, Polk's *Washington City Directory* published a list of churches of the Methodist Episcopal denomination that included Trinity Church. This document indicated that the church, organized in 1883, was located at the corner of 10th and V Streets N.W. under Rev. John W. Valentine. In 1890, Rev. Peter C. Louis presented Trinity Church for admission into the African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church Connection. Reverend Logan Johnson secured Trinity's Connectional Membership in the Philadelphia-Baltimore Annual Conference in 1905 as the fifth A.M.E. Zion Church in Washington, D.C.

In 1897 Rev. Logan Johnson succeeded Rev. A.C. Washington as pastor of Trinity Mission, in Mount Pleasant. Rev. Johnson graduated from Howard University in 1881 with a degree of bachelor of divinity, and at once entered the ministry. He is credited with building the following churches and missions: Church at Burville, D.C.; Johnson's Chapel, at Bowie, Md.; Seabrook Mission, in Prince George's County, Md.; Oak Grove and Union Wesley churches, in Montgomery County, Md.; and Clinton's Chapel, at Rockville, Md. (which was destroyed by fire ca. 1904). Upon becoming pastor of Trinity mission, Rev. Johnson found the congregation renting a place of worship. He purchased a site (Square 2894, Lot 805) – today located at 777 Morton Street – and planned for the erection of a permanent church building. The cornerstone was laid on December 10, 1905, and upon completion of the new brick church, the congregation held a week-long dedication ceremony beginning on May 27, 1906.

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The Articles of Incorporation seem to suggest that on September 7, 1909 a merger took place between Trinity and the North Washington Church of Mount Pleasant. In both the 1908 and 1910 editions of Boyd's Directory for Washington, the Pastor is recorded as Rev. H. W. Smith who resided at 748 Morton Street, NW.

In 1945, when Park View Christian Church moved out of its Park Road church edifice, the Trinity congregation moved in, and there they remained until 1983 when Trinity church moved to 3505 16th Street, NW.

Trinity A.M.E. Zion Church's Participation in United Planning Organization and Head Start Pilot Project

Head Start began as part of President Lyndon Johnson's Great Society campaign. Its justification came from the President's Council of Economic Advisors, whose staff advanced the concept of investment in education during the Kennedy and Johnson administrations. The Office of Economic Opportunity's Community Action Program launched Project Head Start as an eight-week summer program in 1965. The program was led by Dr. Robert Cooke, a pediatrician at Johns Hopkins University, and Dr. Edward Zigler, a professor of psychology and director of the Child Study Center at Yale University. Together, they created a comprehensive child development program to help communities meet the needs of disadvantaged preschool children. The following year it was authorized by Congress as a year-round program. In 1968, Head Start began funding a program that would eventually be called Sesame Street, operated by the Carnegie Corporation Preschool Television project.

Preceding the National launch of Head Start, the United Planning Organization (UPO) participated in a pilot project that began in November 1964. UPO was the designated community action agency for Washington, D.C. established on December 10, 1962 to plan, coordinate, and implement human services programs for low-income residents in the Nation's Capital and, as such, played a significant role in the development of the Head Start Program. In September 1964, District School Superintendent Carl F. Hansen announced his support of UPO's "completely experimental" model school system for the Cardozo area." The first year of the model system focused primarily on program development along with a few programs, such as preschool centers for 3 and 4-year-olds. By January 1965, UPO gave \$565,178 to the District public schools to operate five preschool centers. The Cardozo High School area was chosen because it had the widest possible cross-section of poverty problems in the District of Columbia at that time.

In addition to schools in the Cardozo area remaining open until 5 p.m., pre-schools were set up at Augustana Lutheran Church (2100 New Hampshire Ave., NW), Florida Avenue Baptist Church (623 Florida Ave., NW), Galbraith Zion A.M.E. Church (1114 6th Street NW), St. Stephen's Episcopal Church (1525 Newton Street, NW), and Trinity A.M.E. Zion Church (then located at 625 Park Road, NW). While all five church buildings survive today, Trinity's location directly across the street from the relatively new Park Morton public housing project made it particularly noteworthy.

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The pilot pre-school at Trinity A.M.E. Zion began in November 1964 with forty-five children and was considered the pilot organization of all the Head Start centers in the District and neighboring suburbs. Trinity's pilot pre-school included a nursery school open from 9 a.m. until noon, and a child care center where parents could leave their children from 7:30 a.m. until 6 p.m. The children enrolled in the Trinity pilot program had had four teachers and four teachers' aides. Each child in the program received a medical examination and the school provided one hot meal a day. In addition to programs in the church, pre-schoolers were introduced to their broader community through visits to local businesses, such as the local firehouse, drug store, and post office.

From the beginning, Mrs. Lyndon B. Johnson took an active interest in the Head Start program with the hope that it would be an important breakthrough in education. To better assess what more than 600,000 children from all over the country would experience in Head Start Child Development Centers in the summer of 1965, she visited the pilot program operated at Trinity A.M.E. Zion on May 5th of that year to see first-hand the results of the pilot.

During her visit at Trinity, Mrs. Johnson walked through the school stopping from time to time to talk to the children, watched them make bread, paint pictures, and show off the bean plants they were raising. Mrs. Johnson was reportedly impressed with the results of the pilot program.

Greater Mt. Calvary Holy Church & New Commandment Baptist Church

Following Trinity A.M.E. Zion's move to 16th Street in 1983, the church building served the congregation of Greater Mt. Calvary Holy Church (now located at 610 Rhode Island Ave. in the old Evangel Cathedral). In 1995 Mt. Calvary sold the building to the New Commandment Baptist Church. New Commandment sold the building in 2013, and the building ceased functioning as a house of worship.

Park View Christian Church
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9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography (Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form.)

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Shelton, Elizabeth. “Dance Vocabulary Helps Teach Words to Head Start Children.” *The Washington Post*; Jan. 30, 1966: pg. F11.

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Websites

Shepherd Park Christian Church Web site, Viewed June 17, 2009.

Trinity A.M.E. Zion Church Web site, available at: <http://www.trinityamez.org/main.asp?pid=2>
Viewed February 7, 2014.

United Planning Organization Web site, available at: <http://www.upo.org/> Viewed December 31, 2012.

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Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____
- recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # _____

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
 - Other State agency
 - Federal agency
 - Local government
 - University
 - Other
- Name of repository: _____

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property Less than 1 acre (7,500 square feet)

Use either the UTM system or latitude/longitude coordinates

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates

Datum if other than WGS84: _____

(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

- | | |
|------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. Latitude: 38.933170 | Longitude: -77.022842 |
| 2. Latitude: | Longitude: |
| 3. Latitude: | Longitude: |
| 4. Latitude: | Longitude: |

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Or

UTM References

Datum (indicated on USGS map):

NAD 1927 or NAD 1983

- | | | |
|----------|-----------|-----------|
| 1. Zone: | Easting: | Northing: |
| 2. Zone: | Easting: | Northing: |
| 3. Zone: | Easting: | Northing: |
| 4. Zone: | Easting : | Northing: |

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

The Park View Christian Church at 625 Park Road, NW occupies historic lot 806 on Square 3038 in the District of Columbia. This historic lot is part of a larger lot now designated as Lot 97 on Square 3038. The National Register boundaries correspond with the historic lot boundaries as shown on the boundary map.

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The boundary includes the lot upon which the church building was erected in 1905 and 1920.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title: Kent Boese
organization: Historic Washington Architecture
street & number: 608 Rock Creek Church Road, NW
city or town: Washington, D.C. state: _____ zip code: 20010
e-mail kcboese@hotmail.com
telephone: 202 904-8111
date: 2/18/2014

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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 this map.
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO, TPO, or FPO for any additional items.)

Photographs

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels (minimum), 3000x2000 preferred, at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map. Each photograph must be numbered and that number must correspond to the photograph number on the photo log. For simplicity, the name of the photographer, photo date, etc. may be listed once on the photograph log and doesn't need to be labeled on every photograph.

Photo Log

Name of Property: Park View Christian Church

City or Vicinity: Washington

County: N/A

State: DC

Photographer: Lauri Hafvenstein

Date Photographed: February 12, 2014

Description of Photograph(s) and number:

- 1) General view of propety looking northeast from Park Road
1 of 11
- 2) General view of property looking north from Park Road
2 of 11
- 3) General view of propety looking east from Georgia Avenue
3 of 11

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- 4) General view of property looking west from alley
4 of 11
- 5) General view of north end elevation looking southwest from alley
5 of 11
- 6) General view of east elevation looking southwest from alley
6 of 11
- 7) View of interior looking north from entry narthex to chancel
7 of 11
- 8) View of interior looking south from chancel to entry narthex
8 of 11
- 9) View of interior from balcony level looking southwest
9 of 11
- 10) View of interior of entry narthex looking west at west side stair leading to balcony
10 of 11
- 11) Detail of typical stained glass window in sanctuary
11 of 11

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.

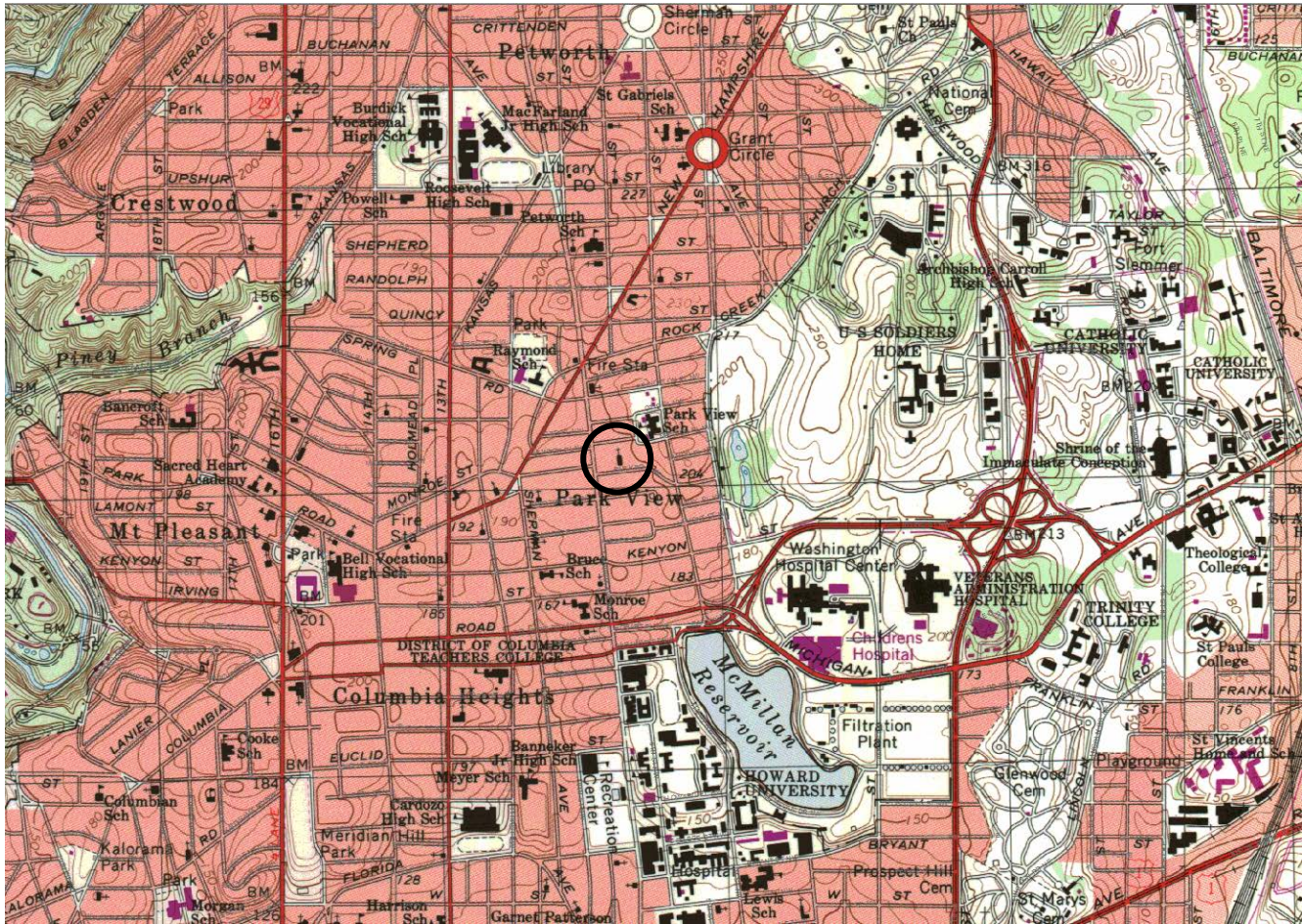
United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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USGS Map Washington West showing Park View Christian Church

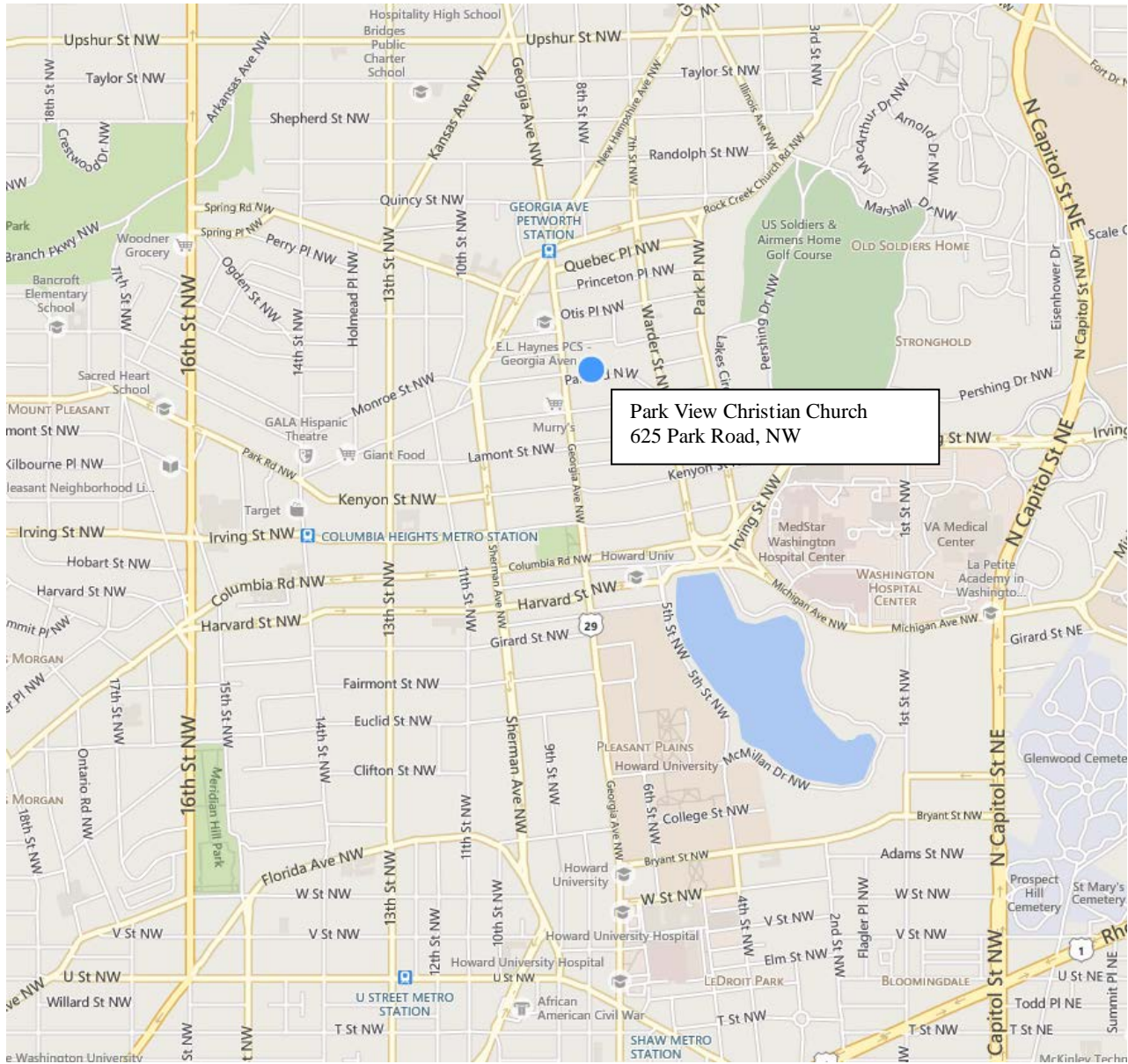
United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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Context map showing Park View Christian Church

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Site Plan of Park View Christian Church
625 Park Road
(From ArcGIS, 2014)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

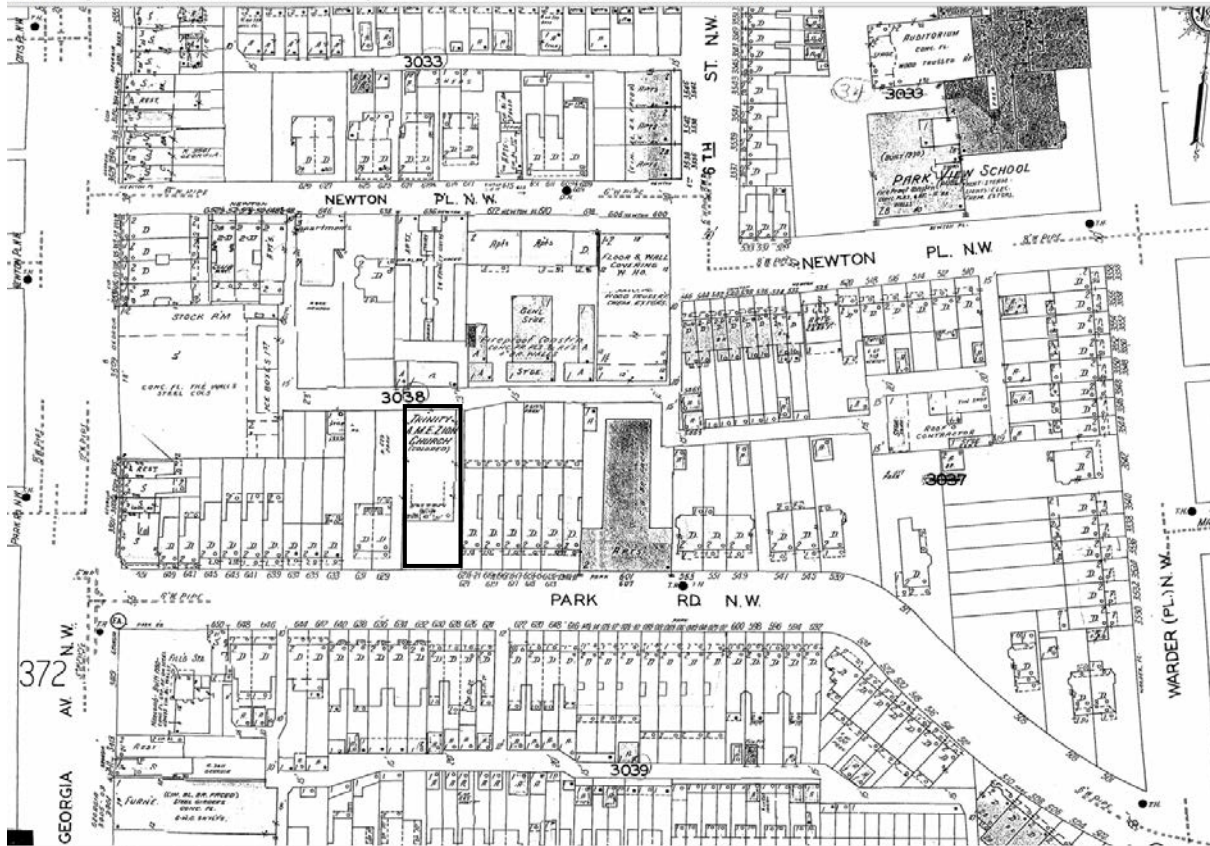
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Site plan of Park View Christian Church showing National Register boundaries
(From Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps, Plate 373, 1998)

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National Park Service

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Park View Christian Church, ca. 1920

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On May 5, 1965, Lady Bird Johnson visited the Trinity A.M.E. Zion Church to observe a poverty program preschool. The Trinity school was one of five pilot projects established by United Planning Organization (UPO) in October, 1964. (Photo from, DC Public Library, Washingtoniana Star Collection)