

**ST. PETERSBURG CITY COUNCIL**

Meeting of November 5, 2009

**TO:** The Honorable Jeff Danner, Chair, and  
Members of City Council

**SUBJECT:** Historic Landmark Designation of St. Peter's Episcopal  
Church, located at 140 4<sup>th</sup> Street North (HPC Case No. 09-  
02)

**RE:** Administration recommends Council conduct first reading  
for the attached Ordinance and set second reading and  
public hearing for December 3, 2009

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**RECOMMENDATION**

On April 17, 2009, the Community Preservation Commission (CPC) conducted a public hearing on HPC Case No. 09-02, an owner-initiated landmark designation request for St. Peter's Episcopal Church, located at 140 4<sup>th</sup> Street North. The CPC recommended APPROVAL of the application to designate the building as a local landmark by a vote of 7 to 0.

**BACKGROUND**

Constructed ca. 1899, St. Peter's Episcopal Church meets four of the nine criteria necessary for designating historic properties as listed in Section 16.30.070.2.5(D) of the City Code:

- (1) Its value is a significant reminder of the cultural or archaeological heritage of the City, state or nation.
- (3) It is identified with a person or persons who significantly contributed to the development of the City, state, or nation.
- (5) Its value as a building is recognized for its quality of architecture, and it retains sufficient elements showing its architectural significance.
- (6) It has distinguishing characteristics of an architectural style valuable for the study of a period, method of construction, or use of indigenous materials.

As one of the oldest churches in St. Petersburg, this property is significant at the local level in the areas of ARCHITECTURE AND SETTLEMENT.

St. Peter's Episcopal Church remains a fine example of Late Gothic Revival style architecture as applied to an ecclesiastical building. Typically larger in scale with substantial building forms constructed of masonry, this style was often utilized for ecclesiastical, educational, and commercial buildings. Many of Florida's Episcopal Churches utilized this style, drawing heavily from the pattern books published in the mid-1800s. The pointed stained glass windows and doors, steeply pitched intersecting gable roof with projecting eaves, vergeboard, towers with crenellated parapets, lancet windows and vents with tracery, buttresses, and interior openwork truss system of St. Peter's are hallmarks of the style. St. Peter's Episcopal Church remains one of the few buildings in St. Petersburg to exhibit the ornamentation and form of classical church architecture.

Built ca. 1899, St. Peter's Episcopal Church was a pioneer in the establishment of religious activities in St. Petersburg. As the denomination's largest local congregation and building, the church has served as one of the foundations of local religious practice since its construction. The church, constructed in the downtown area during the initial settlement of the city, represents the importance of the congregation in the community. Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps indicate the transformation of the area to include more commercial buildings such as apartments, and boarding houses by 1951. In addition, the building's interior design is an excellent example of an Episcopal Church plan from the early twentieth century and serves as a significant reminder of this denomination's heritage within the City.

#### **PROPERTY OWNER CONSENT AND IMPACT OF DESIGNATION**

The owner initiated and consents to the designation of the property.

ORDINANCE NO. \_\_\_\_\_

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF ST. PETERSBURG, FLORIDA, DESIGNATING ST. PETER'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH (LOCATED AT 140 4<sup>TH</sup> STREET NORTH) AS A LOCAL LANDMARK AND ADDING THE PROPERTY TO THE LOCAL REGISTER PURSUANT TO SECTION 16.30.070, CITY CODE; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

THE CITY OF ST. PETERSBURG DOES ORDAIN:

SECTION 1. The City Council finds that St. Peter's Episcopal Church, which was constructed ca. 1899, meets four of the nine criteria listed in Section 16.30.070.2.5.D, City Code, for designating historic properties. More specifically, the property meets the following criteria:

- (1) Its value is a significant reminder of the cultural or archaeological heritage of the City, state or nation.
- (3) It is identified with a person or persons who significantly contributed to the development of the City, state, or nation.
- (5) Its value as a building is recognized for its quality of architecture, and it retains sufficient elements showing its architectural significance.
- (6) It has distinguishing characteristics of an architectural style valuable for the study of a period, method of construction, or use of indigenous materials.

SECTION 2. St. Peter's Episcopal Church, located upon the following described property, is hereby designated as a local landmark and shall be added to the local register listing of designated landmarks, landmark sites, and historic and thematic districts which is maintained in the office of the City Clerk:

Block 20, North 1/2 of lots A, 1, 2 and 3 and North 1/2 of South 1/2 of lots A, 1, 2 and 3, Revised Map of St. Petersburg, according to the plat thereof, as recorded in Plat Book H1, Page 49 of the Public Records of Pinellas County, Florida.

SECTION 3. This ordinance shall become effective immediately upon adoption.

Approved as to Form and Substance:

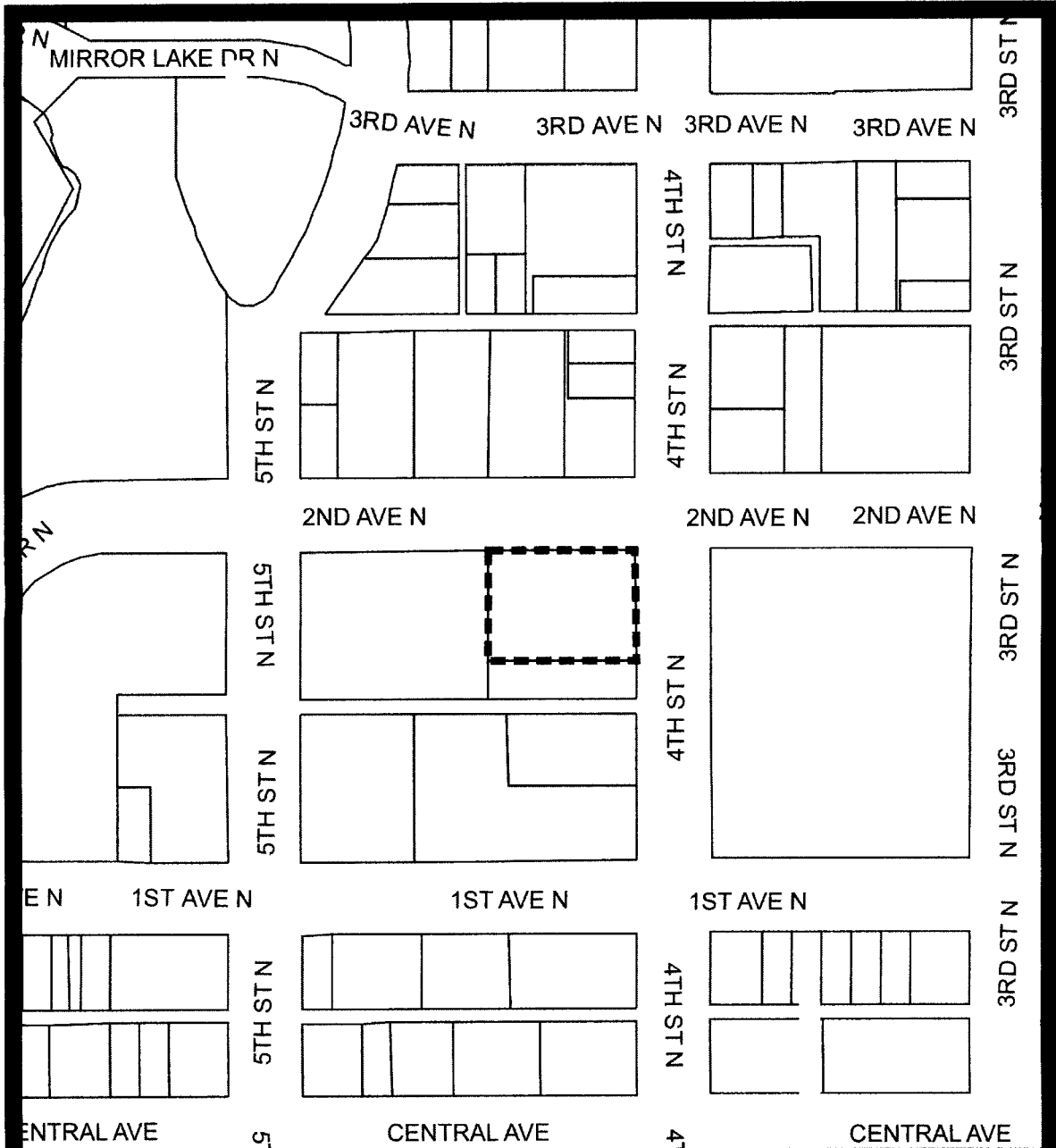
\_\_\_\_\_  
City Attorney (or Designee)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Development Services Department


\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

20/14/09



**Community Preservation Commission**

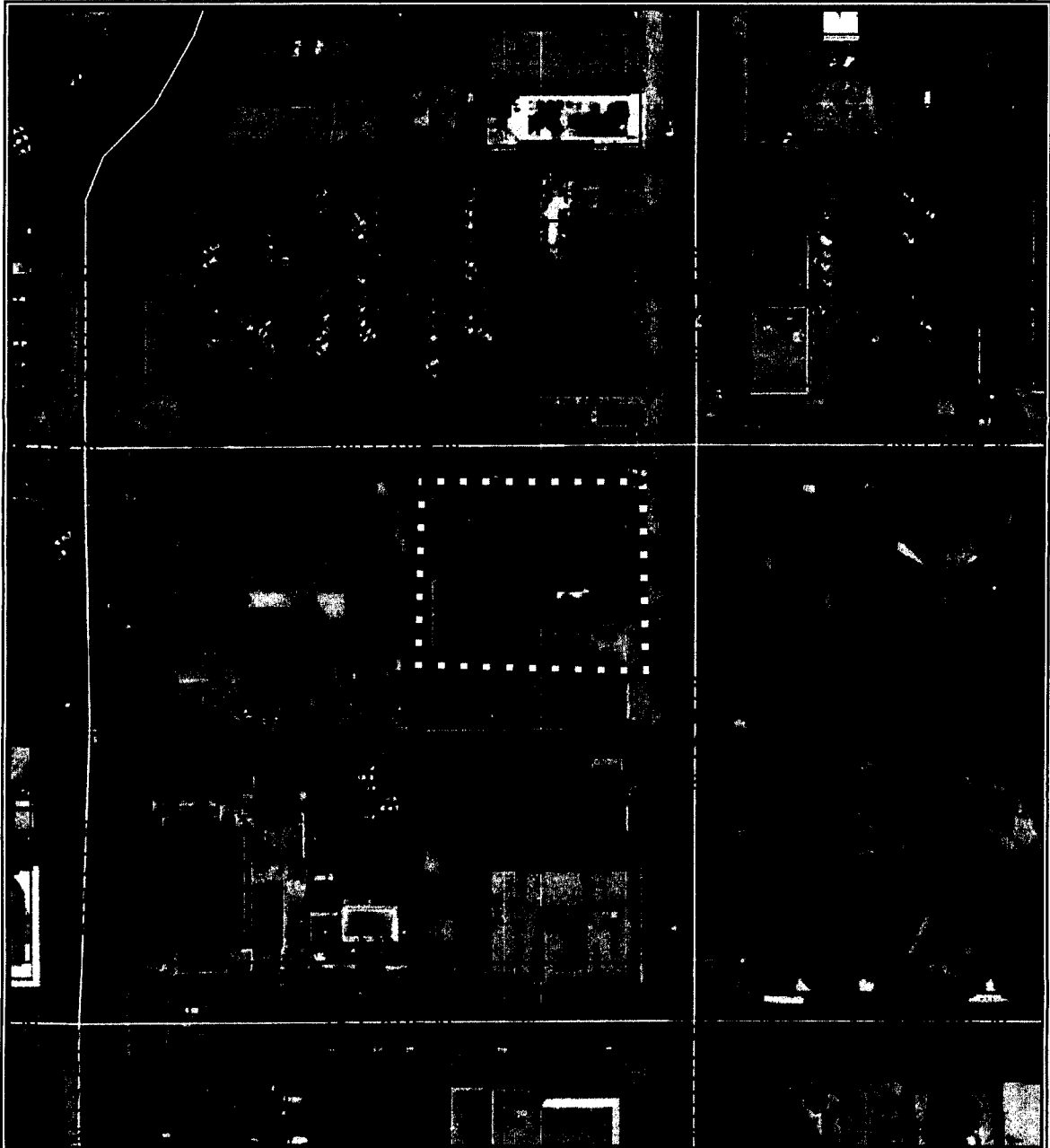
**140 4th Street North**

AREA TO BE APPROVED,  
SHOWN IN 

CASE NUMBER  
**HPC 09-02**




SCALE:  
Not to Scale



**Community Preservation Commission**

**140 4th Street North**

AREA TO BE APPROVED,  
SHOWN IN 

CASE NUMBER  
**HPC 09-02**



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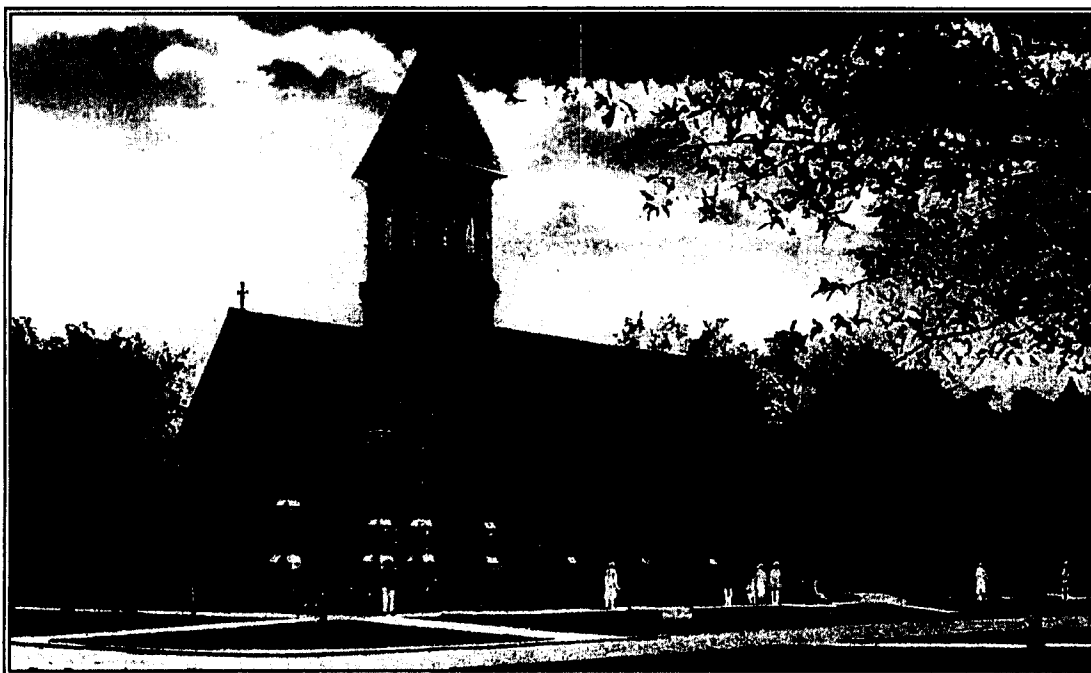
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ST. PETER'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH  
140 4<sup>TH</sup> STREET NORTH

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DESIGNATION REPORT



ST. PETERSBURG COMMUNITY PRESERVATION COMMISSION

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**CITY OF ST. PETERSBURG, FLORIDA**  
**DEVELOPMENT SERVICES DEPARTMENT**  
**URBAN PLANNING, DESIGN, AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION**

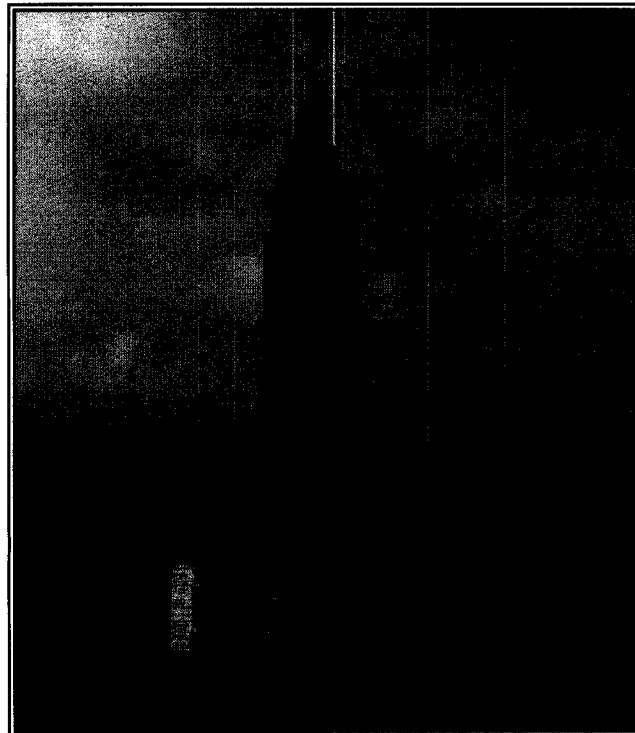
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**STAFF REPORT**  
**COMMUNITY PRESERVATION COMMISSION**  
**LOCAL DESIGNATION REQUEST**

For **Public Hearing and Recommendation to City Council** on **April 17, 2009** beginning at 1:00 P.M., Council Chambers, City Hall, 175 Fifth Street North, St. Petersburg, Florida

According to Development Services Department records, Bob Carter, resides or has a place of business within 2,000 feet of the subject property. All other possible conflicts should be declared upon the announcement of the item.

<b>CASE NO.:</b>	<b>HPC 09-02</b>
<b>STREET ADDRESS:</b>	140 4 <sup>th</sup> Street North
<b>LANDMARK:</b>	St. Peter's Episcopal Church
<b>OWNER:</b>	Cathedral Church of St. Peter
<b>APPLICANT:</b>	Will Michaels, Ph.D. on behalf of Cathedral Church of St. Peter
<b>REQUEST:</b>	Local Designation of St. Peter's Episcopal Church



**140 4<sup>th</sup> Street North**

## **BACKGROUND**

In February 2009, St. Petersburg Preservation Inc. submitted a local designation application for St. Peter's Episcopal Church located at 140 4<sup>th</sup> Street North. Prepared by Dr. William Michaels at the request of the Cathedral Church of St. Peter, Inc., the application provided extensive information concerning the development of the congregation and the role it played in the growth of the community. Staff prepared the following architectural description, evaluation of significance, and boundary description to identify significant features as a supplement to the application.

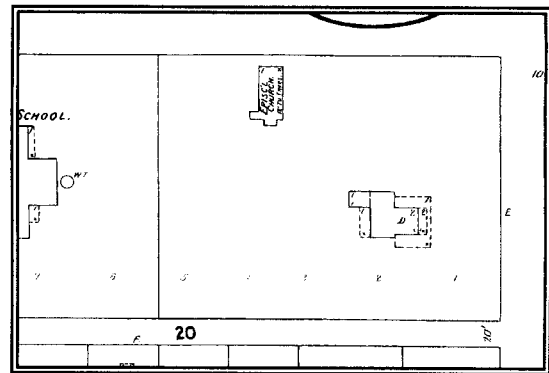
### **Architectural Description**

St. Peter's Episcopal Church is located at 140 4<sup>th</sup> Street North on the southwest corner of 4<sup>th</sup> Street and 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue. The congregation, organized in 1889, built their first wood frame building at 11<sup>th</sup> Street and Baum Avenue. In 1896, Peter Tomlinson donated land at the corner of present-day 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue North and 4<sup>th</sup> Street North to the Episcopal Church. The congregation moved their wood frame building to the newly acquired land and built a Rectory on the parcel. A 1966 article credits Archdeacon Waddell and contractor David Ferdon with the design and construction of a white frame building, which may have been the original church building or the Rectory. The congregation maintained the original wood frame building as a chapel until ca. 1905 when it was moved or demolished. Around 1910, the congregation built a Parish House on the site of the former wood frame chapel.<sup>1</sup>

In 1899, Edwin H. Tomlinson donated the adjoining parcel to the congregation and provided \$5,000 to erect a new brick church building. The September 1899 edition of the *St. Petersburg Times* provided insight into the development of the parcel. According to the illustrated edition,

The first church established was the Episcopal, located between Ninth and Tenth Streets. It has since been moved [to present-day 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue North between 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> Streets]. This society has recently completed a commodious parsonage, and will soon erect a new brick church to cost \$5,000.<sup>2</sup>

A July 1901 article in the *St. Petersburg Times* recorded the wealth of construction undertaken in the community between July 1, 1900 and July 1, 1901. The article provided a list of projects that each builder in the town had completed or had under construction. Contractor Charles F. May completed a number of significant buildings in town, including the Huntington Hotel and a brick commercial building for F.A. Wood. He also completed all of the works commissioned by Edwin Tomlinson on the list. These included the Industrial



Sanborn Fire Insurance Map, June 1899.

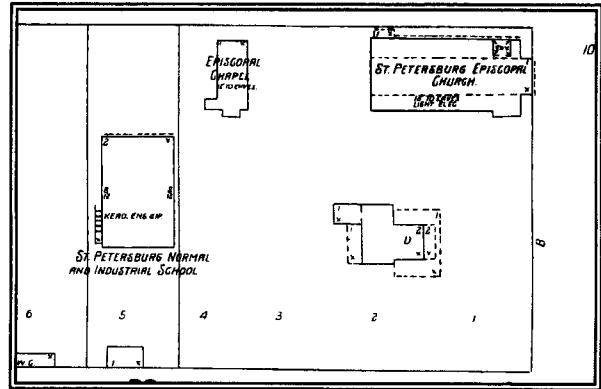
<sup>1</sup> Mary Evertz, "St. Peter's of St. Petersburg," *St. Petersburg Times*, 21 August 1966, 5; Sanborn Map Company, Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps. 1899, 1904, 1908, 1913; Elizabeth Whitney, "First Episcopal Church Museum in Florida Opens at St. Peters," *St. Petersburg Times*, 8 June 1963, D6-7.

<sup>2</sup> J. Ira Gore & Son, ed., *Illustrated Edition of St. Petersburg Times*. September 1899. St. Petersburg Museum of History, *St. Petersburg Times* file.

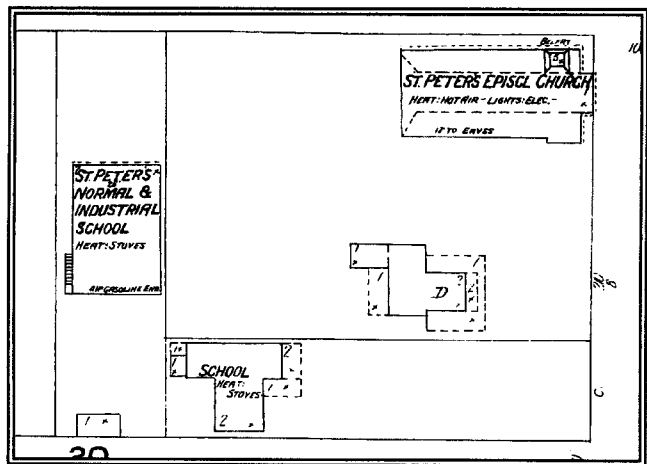
School, the Tomlinson residence, a cottage for Tomlinson at Pass-a-Grille, a building on his pier which became the "Fountain of Youth," and a brick building constructed for Tomlinson for \$5,000, which may have been St. Peter's.<sup>3</sup> Although the identity of the builder for St. Peter's remains indefinite, it seems likely that Charles F. May was the contractor for the project.

The original portion of the brick sanctuary was rectangular in form situated on an east-west axis seven bays long and three bays wide. Through the years, church leaders built additions and made alterations to accommodate the needs of the growing congregation. The installation of a new organ in 1915 required the addition of a small, semi-circular, one-story room on the south elevation. Around the same time, crenellated parapets were added to the east elevation of the side aisles which had previously had shed roofs. The steeple was raised from three to four stories with an additional lantern level ca. 1920. An addition projected to cost \$100,000 in 1925 doubled the size of the sanctuary with an extension to the west and introduced an intersecting double-width partial transept extending south. The actual cost of the addition, which was designed by Rev. W.W. Williams, was approximately \$66,000. The Sacristy was enlarged with an addition in 1951 and the south transept was designated St. Mary's Chapel in 1952.<sup>4</sup>

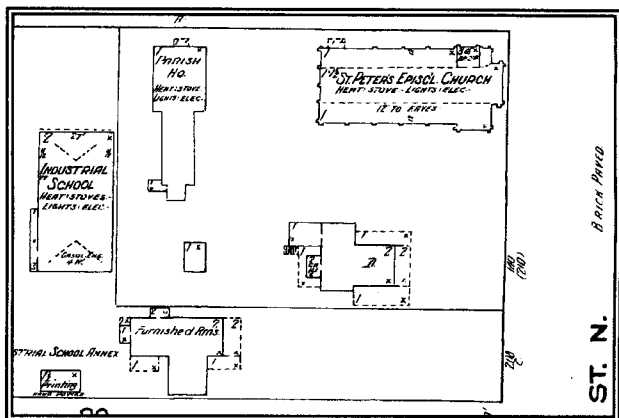
In 1940, the wood frame Parish House and Rectory were demolished for the construction of a new Parish House addition to the church. The \$53,000 addition, designed by William Harvard, was constructed south of the main sanctuary and was attached to the sanctuary by sidewalks and a covered roof area, creating a small covered garden. This new, two-story addition incorporated 29 rooms, four



Sanborn Fire Insurance Map, 1904.



Sanborn Fire Insurance Map, 1908.

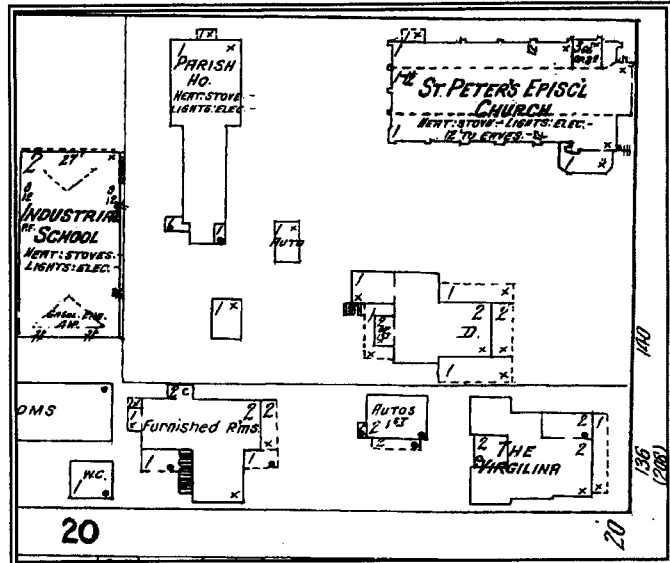


Sanborn Fire Insurance Map, 1913.

<sup>3</sup> "A Phenomenal Record: Over One Hundred and Thirty Thousand Dollars in Buildings in St. Petersburg During the Past Year," *St. Petersburg Times*, 6 July 1901.

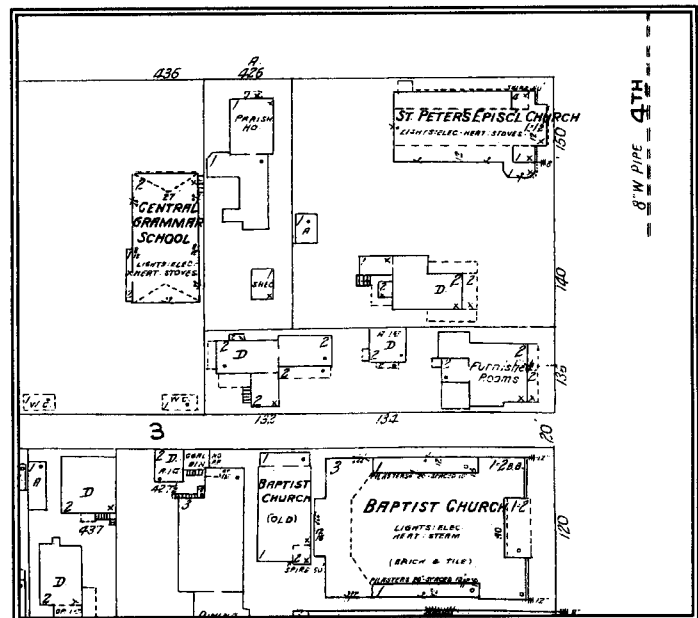
<sup>4</sup> "Episcopal Church Constructs Addition to Church, Necessary to Installing New Organ," *St. Petersburg Times*, 12 August 1915, 1; City of St. Petersburg, Property Card: 140 4<sup>th</sup> Street North; Photographs, subject file, St. Petersburg Museum of History; Sanborn Map Company, Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps, 1913, 1918, 1923, 1951, 1952; Evertz, 5.

bathrooms, and an auditorium. In 1958-59, William Harvard designed an addition to the Parish House, which was referred to as the Sunday School Building by that time. St. Peter's Episcopal Church acquired the former 1924 First Baptist Church and 1952 Education Building in 1990. The 1952 First Baptist Church Educational Building as well as St. Peter's 1940 and 1958-59 construction of the Parish House/Sunday School Building were demolished in 2008 for a new multi-purpose building which is projected to be completed late in 2009. Alterations to the original brick Episcopal sanctuary include the enclosure of the small open entry stoop on the south elevation with new steps to form a vestibule area ca. 1969 and the replacement of asbestos shingles with copper panels on the steeple in 1972.<sup>5</sup>



Sanborn Fire Insurance Map, 1918.

The one-and-one-half-story brick Episcopal sanctuary is now thirteen bays long and four bays wide with an irregularly-shaped footprint set on a continuous brick foundation. The builder utilized a side steeple form for church construction. The lack of ability to expand to the north on the site prompted the construction of the double-width transept to the south, which, combined with the other small additions to the south, created an irregular footprint. The masonry building is constructed of blonde-colored brick with pink mortar joints set in a Common bond pattern with every sixth course of Flemish headers. The central entrance on the south elevation, which was the primary entrance when the building was constructed, was originally an open entrance stoop with a gable roof. The area was enclosed with wood, stained glass windows, and paired wood doors, and the steps replaced with masonry clad with tile ca. 1969. The western entrance on the south elevation is set in a tower which was constructed ca. 1925. It features paired doors set under a stained glass window in a Gothic arch. A temporary wood handicapped accessible entrance ramp provides access to these doors. Entrances on the south elevation feature two sets of paired modern doors enclosing a formerly open vestibule area accessed by a small flat-roofed porch.<sup>6</sup>



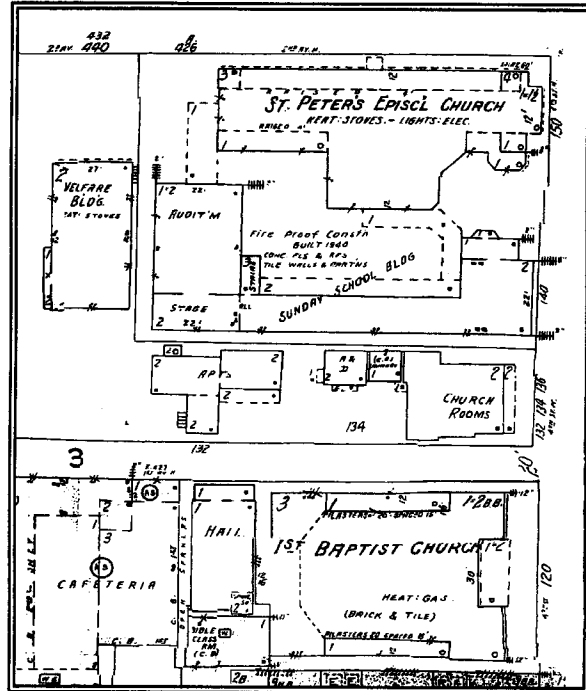
Sanborn Fire Insurance Map, 1923.

<sup>5</sup> City of St. Petersburg, Property Card: 140 4<sup>th</sup> Street North; Sanborn Map Company, Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps, 1913, 1918, 1923, 1951, 1952; "Steeple Capping Continues," *St. Petersburg Times*, 23 October 1972.

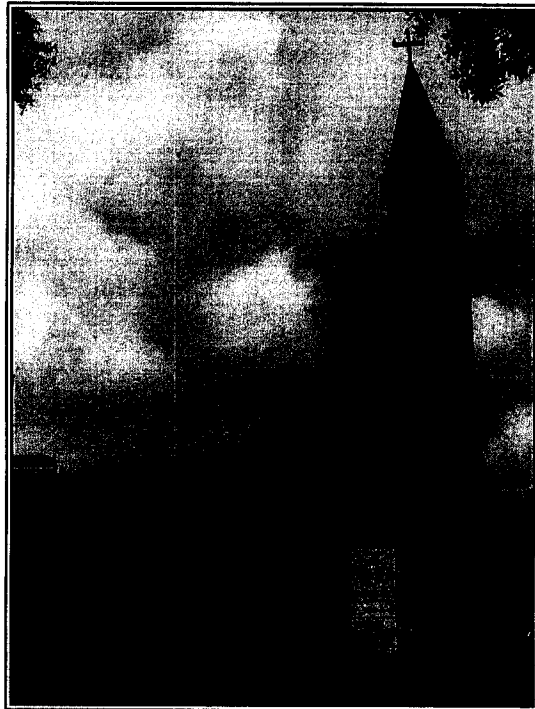
<sup>6</sup> City of St. Petersburg, Property Card: 140 4<sup>th</sup> Street North.

Installed during the historic period, the windows in the Cathedral feature unique, stained-glass designs. The designs commemorate the life of Christ including his miracles and teachings, the Stations of the Cross, the seven sacraments, and the lives of the Saints.<sup>7</sup> Most of the Cathedral windows feature stained glass designs in a pointed Gothic arch form which originally functioned as casement or pivot windows. Other significant windows include a rose window located in the west end of the nave and the Chancel window with a Gothic arch, tracery, and stained glass featuring Jesus and St. Peter walking on the water in the east end of the nave. The clerestory windows alternate between a semi-circular arch and a set of three pointed Gothic arched stained glass windows set in a rectangular wood frame which operated as a casement. Windows on the secondary additions on the south elevation are rectangular stained glass which operated as casements. The main sanctuary windows are now covered by an exterior plexiglass panel to protect the glass from breakage and water damage.

The main roof over the sanctuary is a steeply pitched, front-facing gable clad in composition shingle. A vergeboard with cross bracing emphasizes the central gable on the front (east) façade. Shed roofs extend from the center nave over the sanctuary aisles. An entrance vestibule centrally located on the south elevation has a gable roof with evidence of an enclosed vergeboard with cross bracing. On the south elevation, the transept has two paired gables which intersect with the main sanctuary roof, while other, smaller additions on the south feature shed, gable, and tent roofs. The towers on the southeast and northwest corners have a flat roof with crenellated parapets. The steeple, situated on the northeast corner, features a tent roof clad with copper panels. Other decorative features include brick lintels and sills, brick buttresses with stone caps, wood circular and lantern vents in the steeple and gable ends, square towers with crenellated parapets, lancet windows and vents,



Sanborn Fire Insurance Map, 1951.



St. Peter's Episcopal Church, East Elevation, 2009.

<sup>7</sup> Mary S. Dobarganes, "The Stained Glass Windows of the Cathedral Church of St. Peter," Pinch Penny Press [1989].

false shaping in clerestory windows, vent and window tracery, and decorative blind triangular arches and crosses.

On the interior, the plan originally focused on a center aisle with a strong east-west axis. The high altar was situated at the east end of the sanctuary concealed by a roodscreen. The extension of the building to the west and the construction of a double-wide transept created an irregular form. Other alterations include the introduction of air conditioning in 1960 and the addition of sheetrock over the original novelty board ceiling to improve acoustics in 1962. Metal tie rods were added throughout the sanctuary at the same time to support the additional weight of the ceiling. In order to accommodate a larger organ installed between 1966 and 1969, the high altar was removed from the east end, and a new altar was built slightly west of the original high altar area. The original rood screen was moved to the west end of the nave to create a narthex, and new pews and flooring were installed.<sup>8</sup> One of the most notable interior features is the visible interior scissor truss system with a horizontal tie beam, hammer-beam brace, and clerestory. Other significant interior elements include the Gothic arch and rectangular wood doors, the interior plan, the roodscreen, and the interior wood trim.

### Integrity

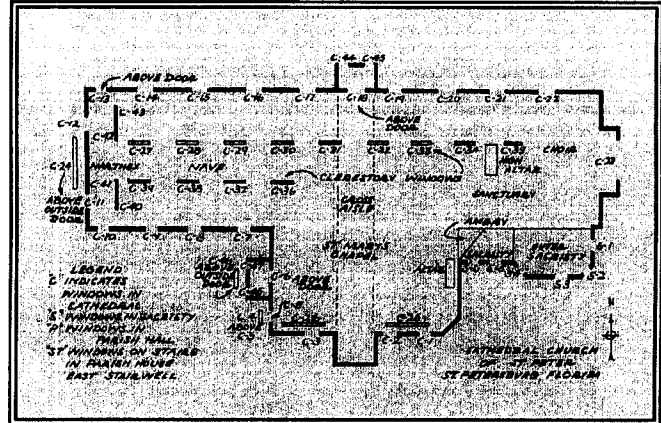
Although the evolution of the building resulted in some interior changes, the building retains integrity of location, design, setting, feeling, materials, workmanship, and association.

### Boundary

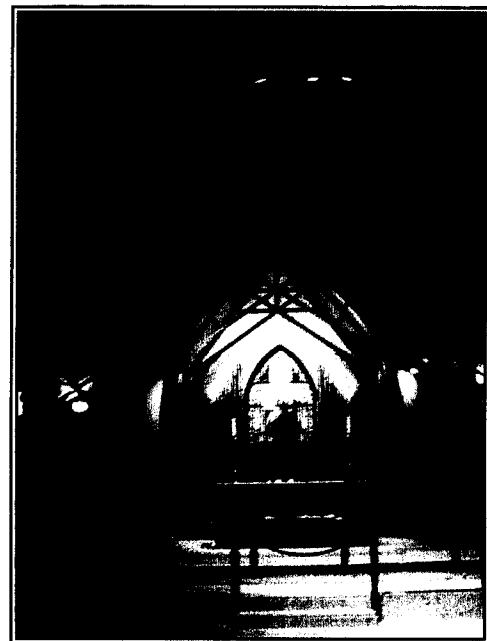
Block 20, North 1/2 of lots A, 1,2, AND 3 & North 1/2 of South 1/2 of Lots A, 1,2 and 3, Revised Map of St. Petersburg as recorded in Plat Book H1, Page 49

### Boundary Justification

The boundary incorporates all property historically associated with St. Peter's Episcopal Church.



St. Peter's Episcopal Church, Interior Plan. From "The Stained Glass Windows of the Cathedral Church of St. Peter" provided by the Cathedral Church of St. Peter.



St. Peter's Episcopal Church, Interior Sanctuary, 2009.

<sup>8</sup> City of St. Petersburg, Property Card: 140 4<sup>th</sup> Street North; "Renovation Restores, Renews," St. Petersburg Times, 4 October 1969, Magazine 6; Evertz 5.

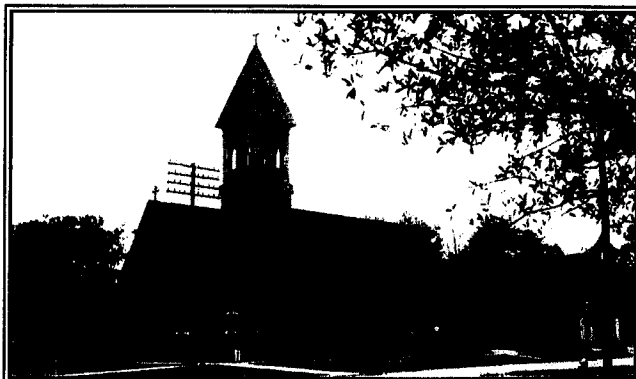
## Architectural Significance

St. Peter's Episcopal Church is an excellent example of Late Gothic Revival architecture. Late Gothic Revival derived from the earlier Gothic Revival style which was popular from the 1830s through the 1880s. Generally applied to individual residences, architect Alexander Jackson Davis introduced the style in the 1830s and landscape designer Andrew Jackson Downing heavily promoted it in his pattern books published in the 1840s and 1850s. On residences, the style featured a steeply pitched cross-gable roof with projecting eaves, pointed arched windows and doors, lancet windows, vergeboards, towers with crenellated parapets, recessed entrances, buttresses, tracery, openwork truss systems, and stained glass. Although the residential designs fell out of fashion by the late 1800s, the style regained popularity as Late Gothic Revival for ecclesiastical, educational, and commercial buildings from 1900 through 1930.

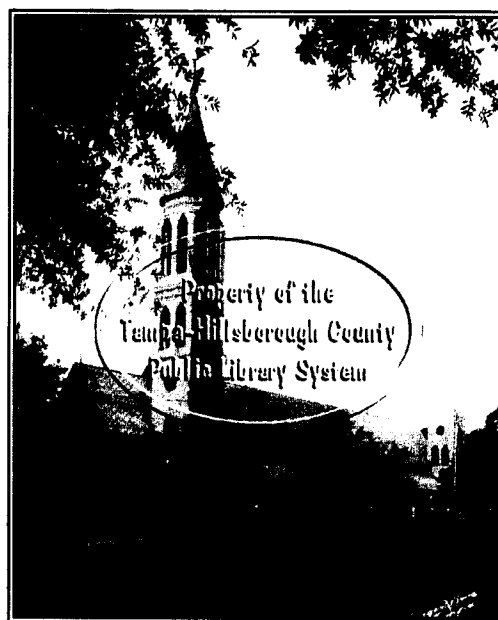
The Late Gothic Revival style is typically larger in scale with substantial building forms constructed of masonry. The early twentieth century designs rejected the excess of Victorian design and returned to simple, more historically correct English and French Gothic designs. Decoration typically included the same type of elements as the earlier Gothic Revival, but on a larger scale with large lancet windows with tracery, smooth brick or limestone walls with terra cotta and stone trim, buttresses, pointed stained glass windows, towers with crenellated parapets, and steeply pitched gable roofs. Many of Florida's Episcopal Churches utilized this style, drawing heavily from the pattern books of architect Richard Upjohn published in the mid-1800s. St. Peter's Episcopal Church remains a fine example of this style with its pointed stained glass windows and doors, steeply pitched intersecting gable roof with projecting eaves, vergeboard, towers with crenellated parapets, lancet windows and vents with tracery, buttresses, and interior openwork truss system.



St. Peter's Episcopal Church, ca. 1908. St. Petersburg Museum of History, Photo 8037.



St. Peter's Episcopal Church, ca. 1919. St. Petersburg Museum of History, Photo 1619.



St. Peter's Episcopal Church, ca. 1926. Burgert Brothers Photographic Collection, Hillsborough County Public Library Cooperative.

## **RECOMMENDATION**

Staff recommends **APPROVAL** of the request to designate St. Peter's Episcopal Church, located at 140 4<sup>th</sup> Street North, as a local historic landmark, thereby referring the application to City Council for first and second reading and public hearing.

Constructed ca. 1899, St. Peter's Episcopal Church meets four of the nine criteria necessary for designating historic properties as listed in Section 16.30.070.2.5(D) of the City Code:

- (1) Its value is a significant reminder of the cultural or archaeological heritage of the City, state or nation.
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Built ca. 1899, St. Peter's Episcopal Church was a pioneer in the establishment of religious activities in St. Petersburg. As the denomination's largest local congregation and building, the church has served as one of the foundations of local religious practice since its construction. The church, constructed in the downtown area during the initial settlement of the city, represents the importance of the congregation in the community. Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps indicate the transformation of the area to include more commercial buildings such as apartments, and boarding houses by 1951.<sup>9</sup> In addition, the building's interior design is an excellent example of an Episcopal Church plan from the early twentieth century and serves as a significant reminder of this denomination's heritage within the City.

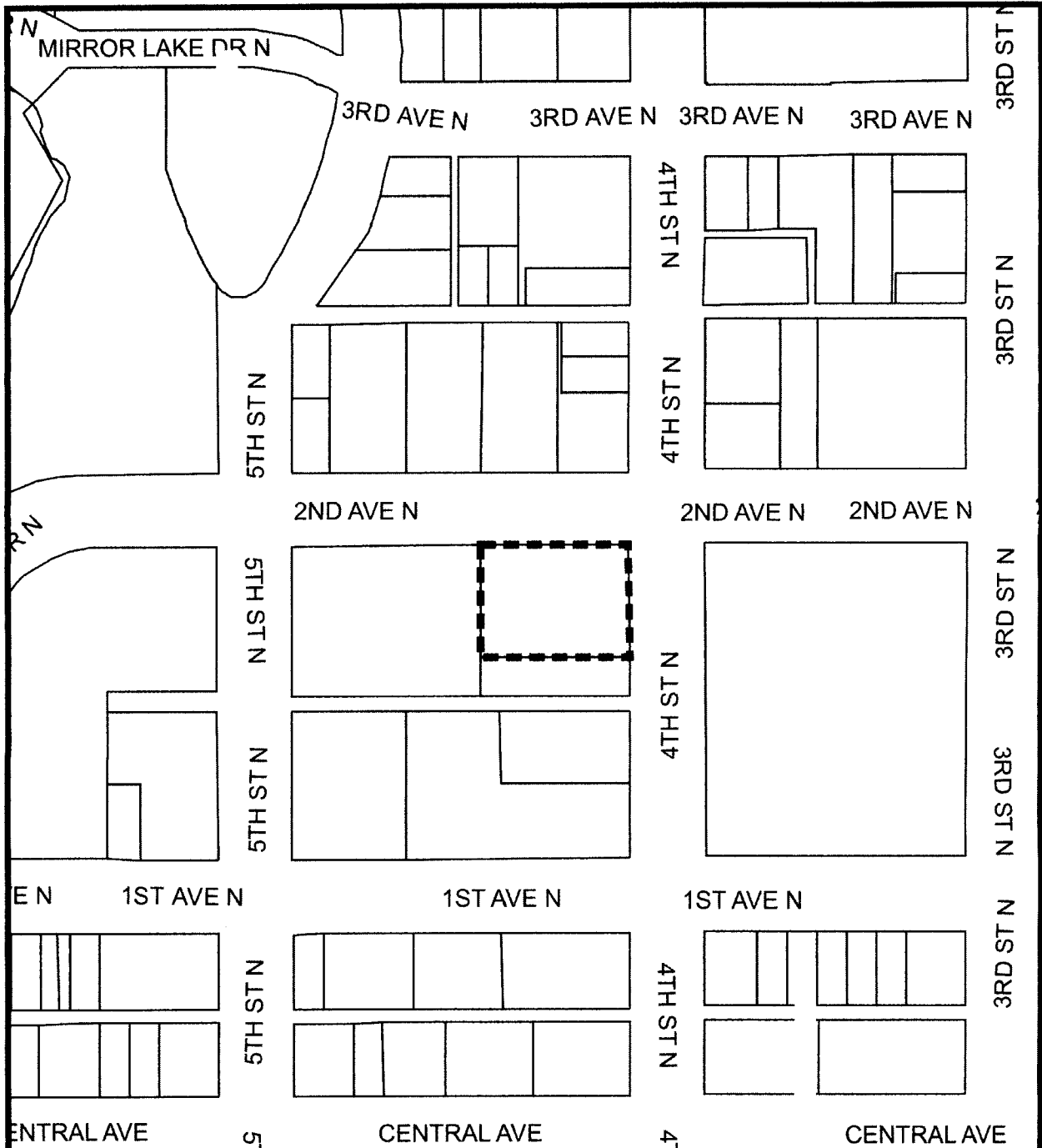
## **PROPERTY OWNER CONSENT AND IMPACT OF DESIGNATION**



The owner initiated and consents to the designation of the property.

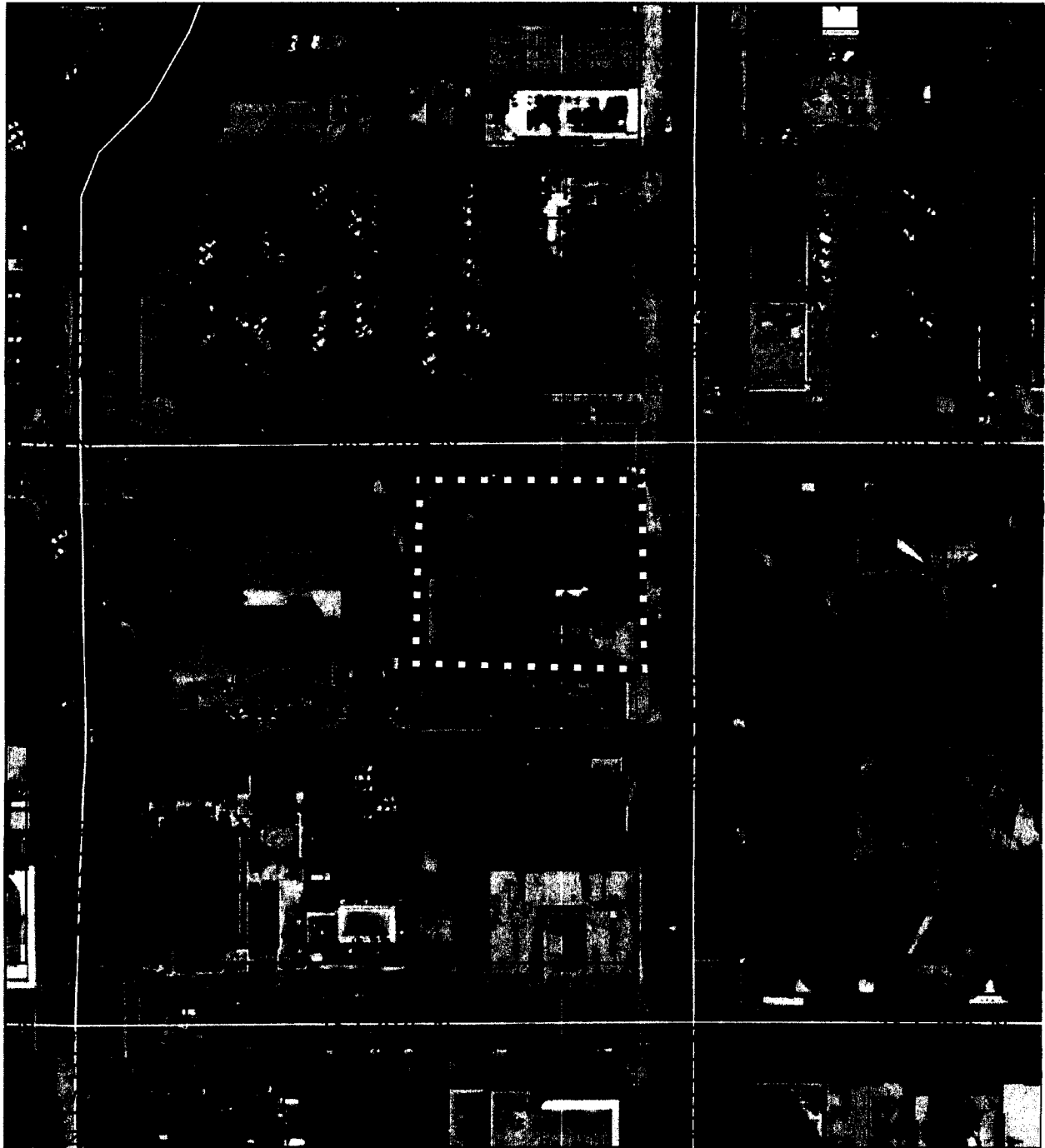
**ATTACHMENTS:     ADDITIONAL PHOTOGRAPHS  
                          DESIGNATION APPLICATION**

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<sup>9</sup> Sanborn Map Company 1899, 1904, 1908, 1913, 1918, 1923, 1951.



<b>Community Preservation Commission</b>		 SCALE: Not to Scale
<b>140 4th Street North</b>		
AREA TO BE APPROVED, SHOWN IN 	CASE NUMBER <b>HPC 09-02</b>	



**Community Preservation Commission**

**140 4th Street North**

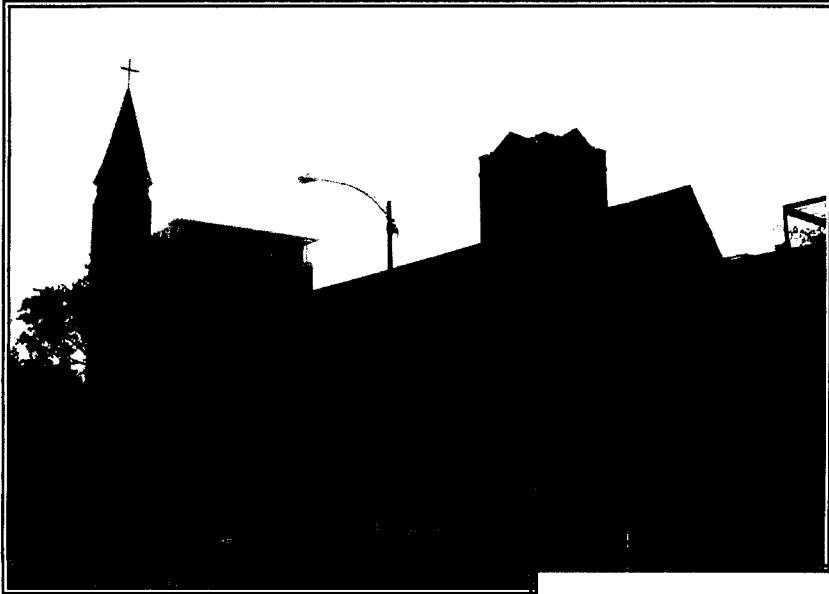
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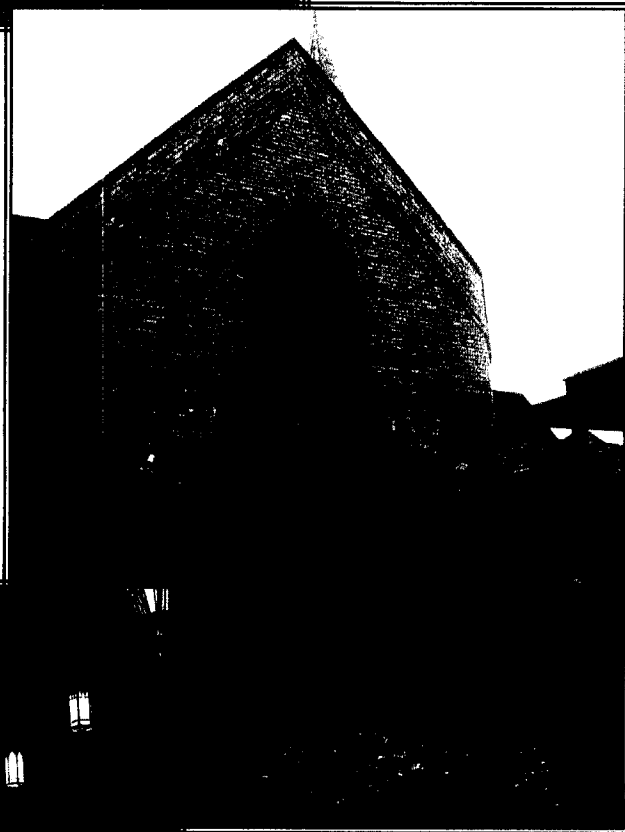
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## ADDITIONAL PHOTOGRAPHS

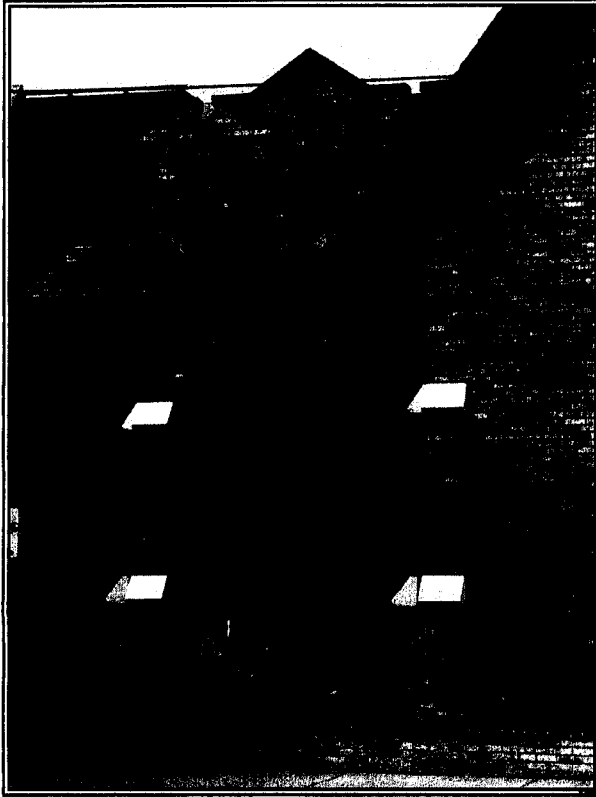


North and west elevations,  
2009.

South elevation, 2009.

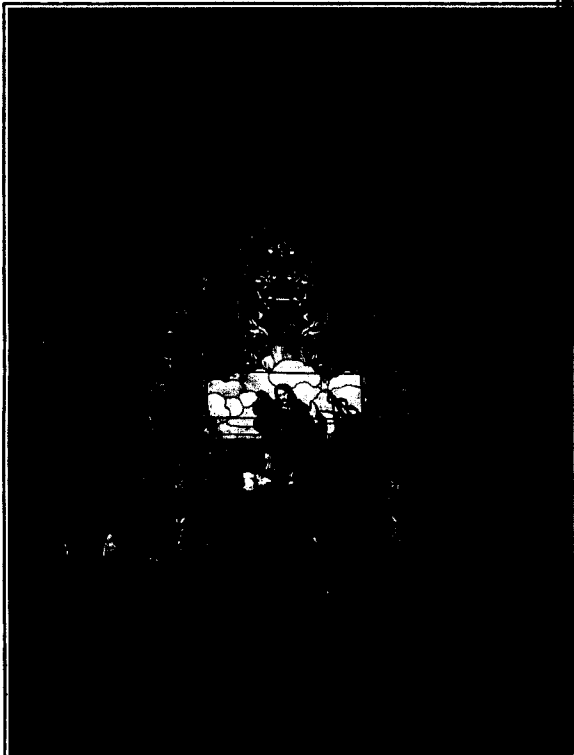


South transept, Interior 2009.



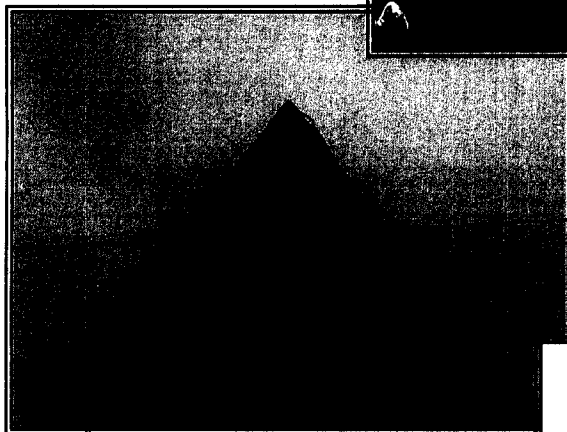
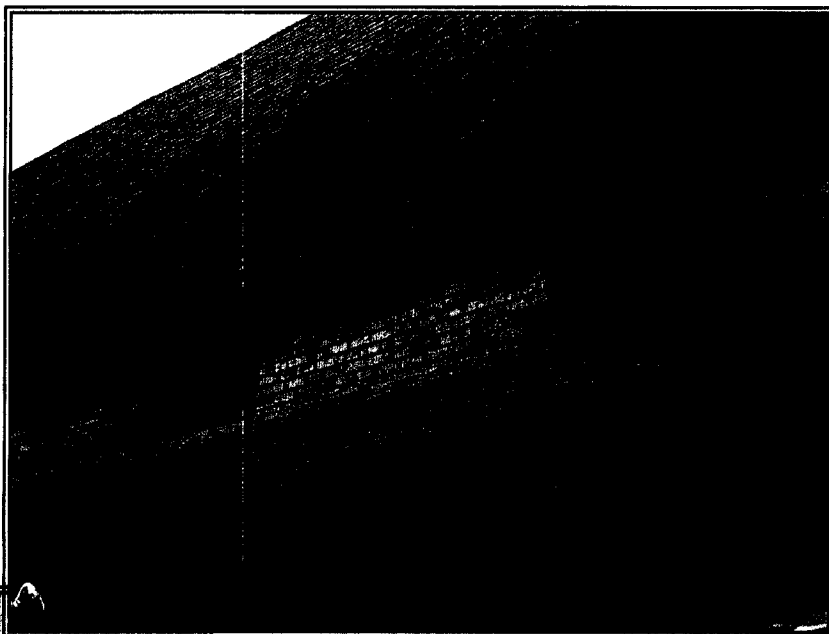
Tower with castellated parapet, buttresses, lancet window with tracery, and blind pointed Gothic arches. East elevation, 2009.

Chancel window with Gothic arch. East elevation, 2009.



Chancel window with Gothic arch. Interior, 2009.

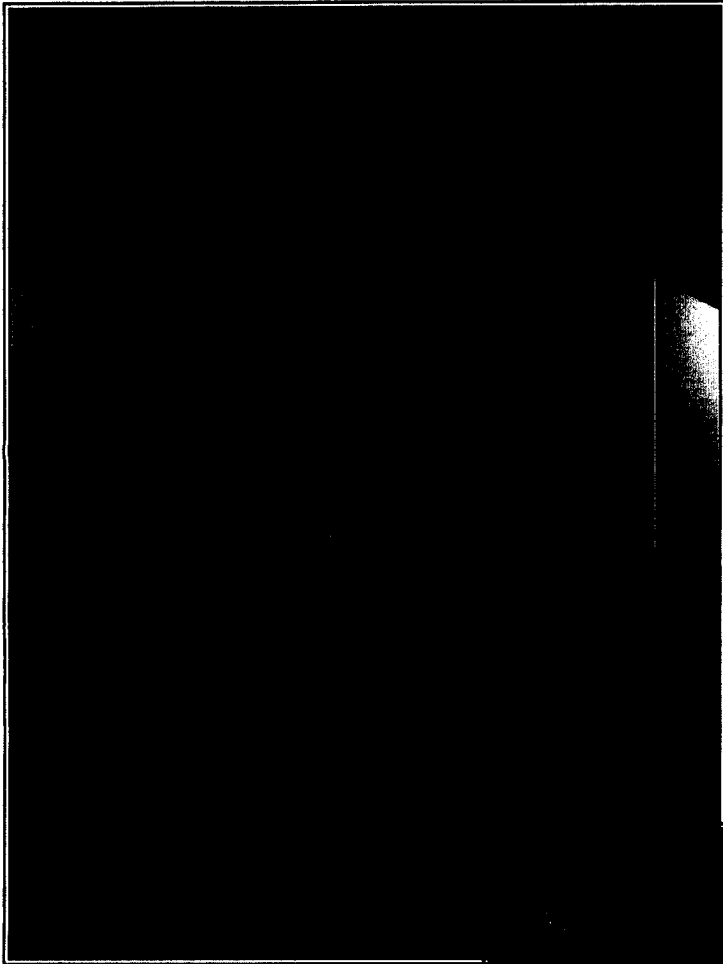
Clerestory windows. North elevation, 2009.



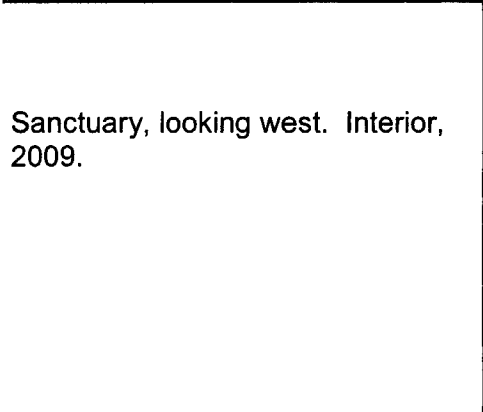
Vergeboard with crossbracing in gable end. East elevation, 2009.

Centrally located north entrance. North elevation, 2009.

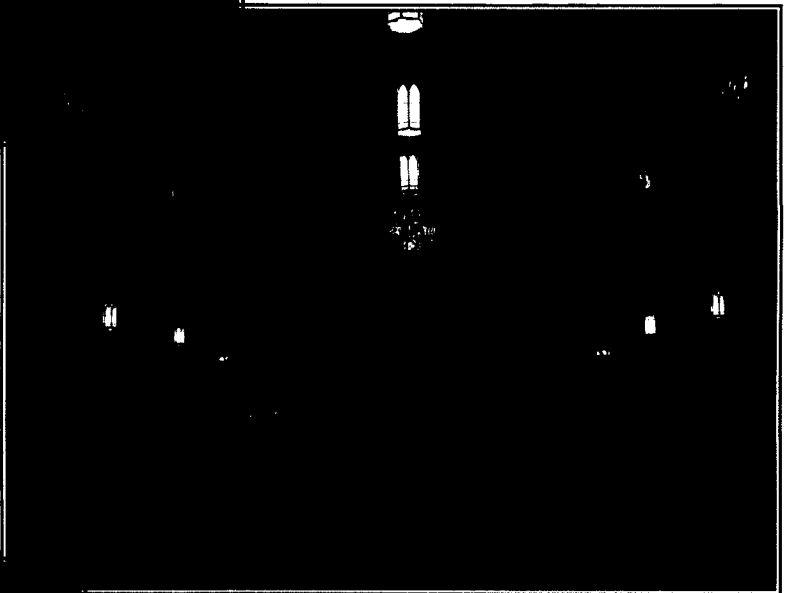




Visible interior scissor truss system with a horizontal tie beam. Interior, 2009.

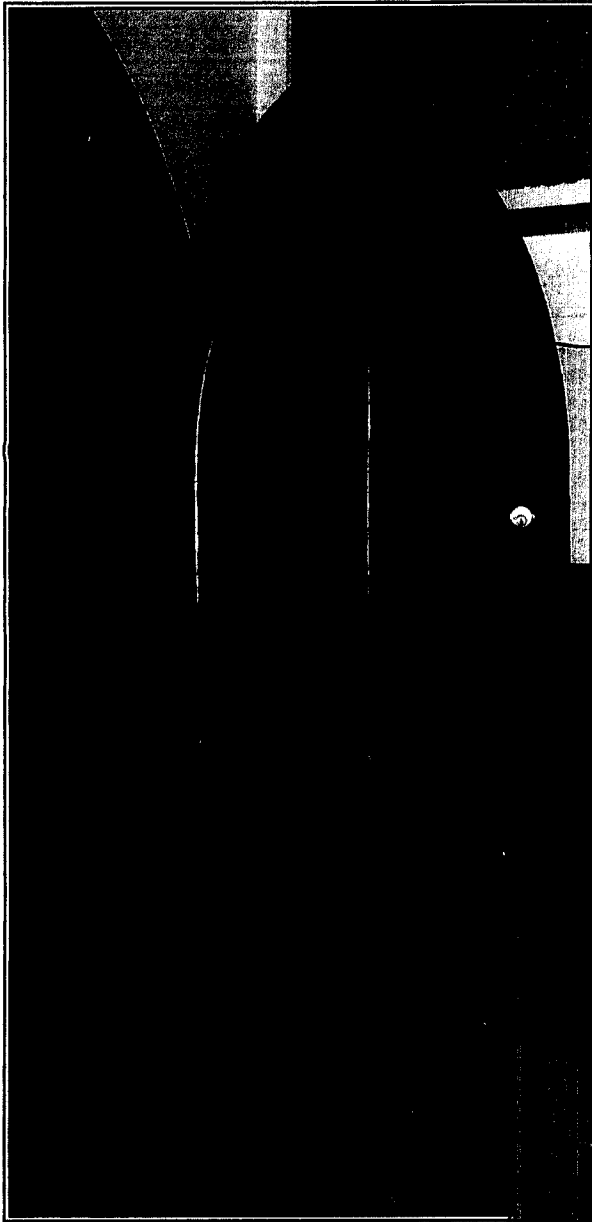


Sanctuary, looking west. Interior, 2009.



Bracing. Interior, 2009.





Gothic arch interior door. Interior, 2009.



West entrance on north elevation.  
Interior, 2009.



# Local Landmark Designation Application

Type of property nominated (for staff use only)

- building    structure    site    object  
 historic district    multiple resource

## 1. NAME AND LOCATION OF PROPERTY

historic name Church of St. Peter  
other names/site number Church of the Holy Spirit; St. Peter's; Cathedral Church of St. Peter  
address 140 Fourth Street North, St. Petersburg, Florida, 33701  
historic address 150 4<sup>th</sup> Street N.

## 2. PROPERTY OWNER(S) NAME AND ADDRESS

name Cathedral Church of St. Peter  
street and number 140 Fourth Street North,  
city or town St. Petersburg state Florida zip code 33701  
phone number (h) \_\_\_\_\_ (w) -8224173 e-mail shereegraves@asgraves.net

## 3. NOMINATION PREPARED BY

name/title Will Michaels, Ph. D.  
organization on behalf of Cathedral Church of St. Peter  
street and number 140 Fourth Street North  
city or town St. Petersburg state Florida zip code 33701  
phone number (h) -8677249 (w) -4209195 e-mail wmichaels2@tampabay.rr.com  
date prepared 2/11/2009 signature Will Michaels

## 4. BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION AND JUSTIFICATION

Describe boundary line encompassing all man-made and natural resources to be included in designation (general legal description or survey). Attach map delimiting proposed boundary. (Use continuation sheet if necessary)

0.34 ACRES AT THE SOUTHWEST CORNER OF 2<sup>ND</sup> AVE. & 4<sup>TH</sup> ST. N., ST. PETERSBURG. REVISED MAP OF ST. PETERSBURG BLK 20, N 1/2 OF LOTS A, 1,2 AND 3 & N 1/2 OF S 1/2 OF LOTS A, 1,2 AND 3. SEE ATTACHED SURVEY. PARCEL NO. 19/31/17/74466/020/0010; APPRAISAL AREA 54,50.

## 5. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

acreage of property 0.34 acre

property identification number 130460

Cathedral Church of St. Peter  
Name of Property

**6. FUNCTION OR USE**

<u>Historic Functions</u>	<u>Current Functions</u>
Mission	Cathedral
Church	Columbarium
Cathedral	

**7. DESCRIPTION**

<u>Architectural Classification</u> (See Appendix A for list)	<u>Materials</u>
Gothic Revival (Florida Gothic)	Yellow Brick
	Heart of Pine
	Stained Glass

**Narrative Description**

On one or more continuation sheets describe the historic and existing condition of the property use conveying the following information: original location and setting; natural features; pre-historic man-made features; subdivision design; description of surrounding buildings; major alterations and present appearance; interior appearance;

**8. NUMBER OF RESOURCES WITHIN PROPERTY**

<u>Contributing</u>	<u>Noncontributing</u>	<u>Resource Type</u>	<u>Contributing resources previously listed on the National Register or Local Register</u>
1		Buildings	St. Peter's Cathedral (PI00275) was included
1		Sites	in Downtown St. Petersburg Historic
		Structures	District
		Objects	Number of multiple property listings
		Total	N/A

Cathedral Church of St. Peters

Name of Property

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## 9. STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

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### Criteria for Significance

(mark one or more boxes for the appropriate criteria)

- Its value is a significant reminder of the cultural or archaeological heritage of the City, state, or nation.
- Its location is the site of a significant local, state, or national event.
- It is identified with a person or persons who significantly contributed to the development of the City, state, or nation.
- It is identified as the work of a master builder, designer, or architect whose work has influenced the development of the City, state, or nation.
- Its value as a building is recognized for the quality of its architecture, and it retains sufficient elements showing its architectural significance.
- It has distinguishing characteristics of an architectural style valuable for the study of a period, method of construction, or use of indigenous materials.
- Its character is a geographically definable area possessing a significant concentration, or continuity or sites, buildings, objects or structures united in past events or aesthetically by plan or physical development.
- Its character is an established and geographically definable neighborhood, united in culture, architectural style or physical plan and development.
- It has contributed, or is likely to contribute, information important to the prehistory or history of the City, state, or nation.

### Areas of Significance

(see Attachment B for detailed list of categories)

Religion.

Settlement

Social History

Period of Significance

1889-2009

Significant Dates (date constructed & altered)

1899; 1925; 1940s

Significant Person(s)

Rev. E. E. Madeira; Chaplain Evan Alexander

Rt. Rev. James L. Duncan

Cultural Affiliation/Historic Period

Earliest settlement of the city.

Builder

Edwin H. Tomlinson (donated the land)

Architect

Rev. W. W. Williams (1926 addition)

### Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property as it relates to the above criteria and information on one or more continuation sheets. Include biographical data on significant person(s), builder and architect, if known. Please use parenthetical notations, footnotes or endnotes for citations of work used.)

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## 10. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

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Please list bibliographical references.

## **NARRATIVE STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE**

### **St. Peters Cathedral**

#### **Spiritual, Cultural, and Social Significance**

St. Peter's Cathedral is the city's second Episcopal Church. The cathedral dates from 1889 when it was first organized as "The Mission of the Holy Spirit." The current Gothic Revival style church building dates from 1899. The church has served the city as an important spiritual and social center continuously almost from the founding of the city in 1888. During World War II it served as a support center for military personnel who were housed in the downtown area. St. Peter's eventually served as an important catalyst in the implementation of eight other Episcopal Churches and a retirement community in the St. Petersburg area. The Cathedral, in cooperation with many other denominations and faiths, has played an important role in meeting the spiritual needs of residents and visitors throughout the city, and in contributing to St. Petersburg's reputation as a "City of Churches."

St. Peter's was built with funds donated by Edwin H. Tomlinson in honor of his father, Peter Tomlinson. He also provided the church with funds for a pipe organ. Edwin's son, Edward, donated to add an auxiliary building to the church in honor of his mother in 1899 (Fuller, p. 385). Edwin Tomlinson, a retired mining and oil entrepreneur, was benefactor for a number of buildings in St. Petersburg including Florida's First Manual Training School, the Manual Training Annex—with a 2,500-seat gymnasium/auditorium, and the city's first open air post office. He also created the famed Fountain of Youth. The Boy's Junior High School at Mirror Lake was later named after Tomlinson. (Hartzell 45-50).

St. Peter's is an important component of downtown 4<sup>th</sup> Street North, one of the most historic corridors in the city. Included on this corridor, almost consecutively, are the Pennsylvania Hotel (1926), First Congregational Church (1912), Coburn Apartments (1913), Orange Blossom Cafeteria (1925), Randolph Hotel (1901;1939); St. Peter's Cathedral (1899), First Baptist Church (1922), Princess Martha Hotel (1924), Open Air Post Office (1916), Snell Arcade (1928), Central National Bank (1912)/Phiel Hotel (1916-24), and the Tramor Cafeteria (1929). It is noted that St. Peter's is the oldest in this line of historic buildings. St. Peter's also faces and predates the establishment of Williams Park (1894). Therefore St. Peter's is central to one of the greatest concentration of significant historic resources in the city.

Many pioneer families contributing to the growth and development of the city called St. Peters their home. Early pioneer clergy associated with St. Peter's include the Rev. Gilbert H. White, Rev. G. W. Southwell, the Rev. Charles McIlvaine Gray, Rev. E. E. Madeira, the Rev. W. W. Williams, Chaplain Evan Alexander Edwards, and the Rev. James L. Duncan. In addition to Edwin H. Tomlinson family, others early families associated with the church include the Abraham C. Pheil family (city mayor), Harold William Gilbert family, the Morgan Wallace Savage family, the Baya Harrison family,

the Richard D. Tourtelot family, the Bill Mills family (contractor), the William Harvard family (architect).

In 1968, Bishop William Hargrave, first Bishop of Southwest Florida, chose the St. Peter's parish as his official seat of authority in the diocese, thus enabling the church to be titled a cathedral. Each bishop succeeding Bishop Hargrave has continued to designate St. Peter's as their seat of authority, and thus St. Peter's has remained a cathedral since 1968 continuously through to the present date.

See attached Centennial History for full detail.

### **Architectural Significance and Data**

The St. Peter's building derives its uniqueness from the use of yellow bricks with pink mortar joints in conjunction with gothic revival styling. Also, the structure is supported by distinctive interior tie rods rather than the traditional external buttresses. In addition to its distinctive Gothic Revival architecture, St. Peter's contains some 55 stained glass windows. Some of these windows were executed by WPA era artist George Snow Hill. Hill's celebrated mural of the World's First airline is displayed at Tampa International Airport.

The parcel acreage is 0.34 acres. The cathedral building encompasses 9,067 sq. ft. and the memorial garden encompasses 3,986 sq. ft.

### **City Recognition**

St. Peter's was first identified by the City of St. Petersburg as having both historical and architectural significance in its 1981 survey of architectural and historic resources (Community Development Department, *St. Petersburg's Architectural and Historic Resources*). Of the approximately 600 properties identified as having significance in this survey, less than one percent were Gothic Revival in their architectural style. Also, the survey prioritized properties in terms of their significance on a scale of one to four, with one being most significant. St. Peter's was classified as being in Category I.

### **Downtown National Historic District**

Additionally, St. Peter's is currently an important contributing structure to the Downtown National Historic District established in 2004 through the efforts of Saint Petersburg Preservation. Consequently, the property is on the inventory of contributing resources filed with the U. S. Department of the Interior National Register of Historic Places (Florida Master Site File #s PI00275).

### **Mayor's Historic Preservation Summit**

In 2006 St. Peters was again identified as an important community historic resource and projected for future landmarking at the Mayor's Historic Preservation

Summit. It was described as “an excellent example of Gothic Revival ecclesiastical architecture,” and noted in particular as a religious center for early British settler immigrants, many of whom relocated from Disston City (now Gulfport) after that city’s failure.



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