Site: M:26/11/11

Christ Episcopal Church

109 South Washington Street

Built: 1884 Additions: 1926, 1958, 1966 Restricted

The congregation of Christ Episcopal replaced their 1822 Church with this Gothic Revival style brick structure in 1884, reflecting the growth of the Rockville area parish from its 18th century beginnings. The original contracts for the 1822 structure and the documentation for most of the 20th century additions to the present Church provide insights into changing tastes in ecclesiastical architecture.

Survey No. M: 26/11/11

Magi No. 1651205608

DOE ___yes ___no

Maryland Historical Trust
State Historic Sites Inventory Form

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic Christ Episcopal Church

and/or common

2. Location

street & number 109 South Washington Street ___ not for publication

city, town Rockville ___ vicinity of congressional district 8

state Maryland county Montgomery

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
___ district	___ public	X occupied	___ agriculture	___ museum
X building(s)	X private	___ unoccupied	___ commercial	___ park
___ structure	___ both	___ work in progress	___ educational	___ private residence
___ site	**Public Acquisition**	**Accessible**	___ entertainment	X religious
___ object	___ in process	X yes: restricted	___ government	___ scientific
	___ being considered	___ yes: unrestricted	___ industrial	___ transportation
	X not applicable	___ no	___ military	___ other:

4. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Vestry of Prince George's Parish

street & number 109 South Washington Street telephone no.: 762-2191

city, town Rockville state and zip code Maryland 20850

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Montgomery Co. Land Records liber 5042

street & number Montgomery Co. Courthouse folio 608

city, town Rockville state Maryland

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title ~~National Register of Historic Places (1985)~~

date ~~City of Rockville Historic District (1974)~~ X federal ___ state ___ county X local

depository for survey records City of Rockville

city, town Rockville, state Maryland

7. Description

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Condition		Check one	Check one
___ excellent	___ deteriorated	___ unaltered	X original site
X good	___ ruins	X altered	___ moved date of move _____
___ fair	___ unexposed		

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

Christ Episcopal Church and day school complex faces east on South Washington Street near the intersection of Vinson and South Washington. The topography at this location drops steeply toward the southwest with the ridgeline continuing under the church and behind the adjacent church property at 107 South Washington Street. The complex stretches from the northeast corner of the site above the slope to the southwest below the ridgeline. The oldest section of the complex, with the projecting tower at its southeast corner, provides a visual anchor to the South Washington streetscape.

The core 2-1/2-story, rectangular structure, set in red brick with English bond, is built on a fieldstone foundation in an ecclesiastical Gothic Revival Style. The remainder of the Church and day school shows the slow accretion of the church's growth and prosperity on this site since 1822. (See Plan, Attachment 7.4) While there is no clear evidence that anything remains of the original 1822 rectangular brick church, it is believed that some of the bricks from this earlier church were used in the erection of the 1884-87 building. A transcription of a contract for the 1822 church is attached. (Attachments 8.2, 8.3, 8.4)

The street or east facade of the core church begins at the South Washington Street lot line. The principal entrance is via a recessed arched entryway containing double, wood-paneled doors with two-light windows in the upper second level of panels. 1-1/2-story brick buttresses flank this entryway. Above the entry is a wooden frame decorated with recessed arches reflecting the Gothic style of the church. This frame supports the one-story equilateral arched stained glass window. The window's base consists of 16-light panels; surmounted by a rosette multi-colored/multi-paned window. This window replaces a similar 1887 window destroyed in the 1896 storm.1/

A steeply pitched gable roof highlights the sanctuary and is covered with a patterned slate roof. Original eyebrow dormer windows on its sloping roof and a collar and collar brow on the east facade were removed during subsequent alterations.

On the southeast corner of the structure is a three-story, three-tiered (stepped) tower with a one-story patterned, slate-roofed steeple that flares down to meet the tower. Each side of the four-sided steeple is highlighted with a centrally located gable dormer enclosed with horizontal louvered siding. A cross is at the top. This steeple replaces a similar one destroyed in the 1896 storm.

Continued on Attachment 7.1

The tower of the first tier has a large equilateral arch recessed frame that once served as an exterior doorway; it now contains the church directory. Above the recession is a small, vertical sash, slit-window with a white stone sill. This is repeated on the south wall of the tower, with the lancet sash window in the lower half. A white stone belt course separates the first and second tiers. In the second story is a centrally placed, vertical, slit sash window; the third story is the belfry, now enclosed with meshed screen. The second and third stories have corner stepped brick buttresses, each step capped with white stone, that connects to the steeple with multi-level, horizontal bands of brick corbeling.

The north facade of the core church is five bays wide with a brick buttress separating each bay. Equilateral stained-glass windows with paired lancet sash windows and a circular window at the point of the arch are in each bay. (The window in the first bay is smaller than the others and may not be original.) Brick arches and stone sills surround the windows above the brick water table. Under the eaves of the roof are elaborate brackets.

To the south of the original structure is the two-story parish hall of red brick, set in English bond. The rectangular gable structure was built in 1926, although designed earlier by T.C. Groomes.2/ A brick addition, an expansion of an earlier addition, connects the two structures today. An east facade addition of English-bonded red brick was built in 1958 and creates a secondary street entrance, with its four-center pointed arched entryway containing recessed double wooden doors. Narrow vertical stained glass windows with stone surrounds are on either side of this addition. A narrow louvered window is in the upper facade gable.

The south facade of the parish hall is four bays wide and is highlighted with two double six-over-six windows on the first and second stories in the center bays. In the first bay, first floor, is an exterior door and on the second story a smaller six-over-six window. The fourth bay has a six-over-six windows on both floors. All of the second-story windows have a false arched frame. Two-story brick buttresses separate each bay. Two dormers with sliding windows project from the center of the roof.

The west and southwest additions were designed in 1958 by Johannes & Murray Architects.3/ This is an unadorned facade with two-over-two windows evenly spaced on the second story. The west facade consists of 3 sets of four two-over-two windows on the first and second stories. A rear 1-story portico with open arched entryways provides an entrance to the rear addition now used for a day school.

The 1966 additions and alterations were designed by noted restoration architect, Walter G. Peters, Jr.4/ These included adding a baptistry, slate roof, vestibule and ushers' room, and balcony, installing a new entrance, and removing the last original south facade window.

This work also included a red brick addition over cement foundation to the north facade, providing a third entryway.5/ This extension to the nave was completed in 1970. The entryway is marked by an arch, double wooden doors, and a gable roof. It connects to the rear choir room and day school.

INTERIOR

The interior of the church has undergone a number of alterations, little remaining of the original church except for the four large wooden trusses in the nave. In 1932 the rector, Arthur B. Rudd, personally modernized the interior. Most of his work was removed in subsequent alterations. The interior is sympathetic to the original structure, but has been updated significantly with new floors and woodwork.

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Christ Episcopal Church
Attachment 7.3

CHRONOLOGY OF ADDITIONS AND ALTERATIONS:

1739	Chapel-of-ease at present-day Rockville Cemetery. Clapboard and log construction.
1808	First brick church at above location.
1821-22	Nathaniel Magruder contracted to build.
1845	Strenghtened west wall; renovated and embellished the interior; added Gothic screens.
1884-87	Present structure built.
1896	T.C. Groomes did repair work after storm damage.1/
1905	Plans drawn for extension to chancel by Hill and Kendall, Architects, Washington, D.C.2/
1919	Parish Hall and Vestry Room plans drawn by T.C.Groomes.3/
1919	Pipe organ, choir room, and classroom added.
1920	All lighting rewired by Mr. Percy Wood of Rockville.
1926	Parish Hall constructed (Cornerstone laid Oct. 26, 1927)
1932	Rev. Arthur B. Rudd personally beautifies and improves interior; chancel enlarged; new floor laid; gallery at rear removed, choir stalls placed; new lights installed new pulpit built.
pre 1940	Furniture in the sanctuary given by St. John's of Washington; altar originally in St. Stevens Church of Washington, D.C.
1946	Furnace added to parish hall; erected furnace room and above room.
1956	Building fund for school, front addition to parish hall designed by Johannes & Murray Architects, Silver Spring, Md.4/
1958	Contracted to J.D.McAlister (Cornerstone laid 1958).
1965	Conferred with two architectural firms and selected Macomber & Peter for enlargement of nave,"restoration" and improvement of existing building.5/
1966	Recent additions and alterations completed.
1981	HDC approved addition to south facade, art room.

Footnotes:
1. Based on 1896 photographs.
2. Plans available at the Church
3. Ibid.
4. Ibid
5. Ibid

8. Significance

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Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
___ prehistoric	___ archeology-prehistoric	___ community planning	___ landscape architecture	X religion
___ 1400–1499	___ archeology-historic	___ conservation	___ law	___ science
___ 1500–1599	___ agriculture	___ economics	___ literature	___ sculpture
___ 1600–1699	___ architecture	___ education	___ military	___ social/ humanitarian
___ 1700–1799	___ art	___ engineering	___ music	___ theater
X 1800–1899	___ commerce	___ exploration/settlement	___ philosophy	___ transportation
___ 1900–	___ communications	___ industry	___ politics/government	___ other (specify)
		___ invention		

additions 1926, 1958,

Specific dates 1884, addition 1966 **Builder/Architect** 1884 John Edmondson/ F.A. Davis

check: Applicable Criteria: __A __B __C __D
and/or
Applicable Exception: __A __B __C __D __E __F __G

Level of Significance: __national __state X local

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

Christ Episcopal Church symbolizes the growth and tradition of a Rockville Church over a period of nearly 250 years. The present Gothic style building constructed 1884-1887 incorporates within its walls not only materials from its 1822 predecessor on this site, but also the heritage of generations of families who trace their membership from Rockville's first Chapel established in 1738.

History & Support

The Rockville congregation of Prince George's Parish found itself in dire straits as it entered the second decade of the 19th century. Its house of worship, Rock Creek Chapel, had been built and rebuilt since Thomas P. Williams first donated two acres northwest of town to the Vestry in 1738. The newest ediface of brick had been consecrated by Bishop Thomas Clagett in 1808, but was already in such disrepair that it was deemed "unfit for public worship."1/ In addition the parish had been without a Rector for nearly four years prior to 1820. A committee had been appointed in 1815 to take subscriptions for the purpose of building a new church within the boundaries of Rockville, but the $2,000 needed to begin construction had not been raised.2/

In 1821, Solomon Holland, Esq. County Register of Wills, deeded the Vestry 5,640 square feet south of his own house on Washington Street.3/ Ledgers of the Church from this period show the gradual accumulation of funds "For the Construction of a New Church Building". The majority of the funds came from subscriptions of $5.00 to $50.00, but some funds were donated by other churches within the Parish. Several of the members of St. John's Church in Georgetown gave money, including Francis Scott Key and Augustus Taney.4/ The contract for $1,935 (exclusive of interior plastering and painting) was awarded to Nathaniel E. Magruder, and the Church was received by the Vestry as completed in July, 1822. Among the congregation were many of the families whose descendants would continue to serve the Church as Vestrymen, Wardens, and Committeemen and whose contributions would make the 1884 building and its 20th century enlargements possible.

Continued on Attachment 8.1

A considerable amount of the brick and other material from the 1808 chapel was used to construct the new church in 1822, and was in turn used in the present structure. Also continued was the use of communion plate, vestments and prayer book, all of which are today treasured reminders of the Church's history.5/

During the years 1822-1880 the Church records and histories recount the building of two parsonages, the ups and downs of membership (reduced to 39 in 1861) and the financial status of the Church. But by 1880 Rockville's population growth resulting from the City's desirability as a residential suburb of Washington and its increased urbanity was reflected in Church members' plans for a larger, more modern building.

The 1884 Montgomery County Sentinel printed several articles concerning the razing of the old building and the construction of the new Gothic style building. It was completed in 1887, but in 1896 a severe wind storm damaged the steeple and east facade (See photograph.)6/

The years since 1900 have marked continued growth of the congregation; the need for additional facilities was met by the erection of a Parish Hall (1926), The Episcopal Day School (1946) and purchase of the Rectory adjoining the Church at 107 S. Washington (see Site M:26/11/7), and the Educational Building (1958).7/ In 1966 the Church was enlarged to increase seating from 196 to 400. In all these efforts the loyal members have supported their Church, their donations, gifts, memorials and services continuing the nearly 250-year tradition of the Episcopal Church in Rockville.

Footnotes:

1. "Request for Consecration adopted by the Vestry 17 Sept. 1822" quoted in Rev. Edward Waylen, 1845 pamphlet History of Prince George's Parish, pp. 13,14 and Report of Church Committee, April 1819.
2. "Notes on Prince George's Parish, Montgomery County", Writings of Ethan Allen, Maryland Historical Society Manuscript Collection MS 376/(786)-(1861) p.30.
3. Montgomery County Land Records, V/414 (1821)
4. Francis Scott Key had at one time considered entering the clergy. He was a Delegate to the Episcopal Conventions annually between 1814-1826. (Dictionary of American Biography) Vol. V., p. 363.
5. The Church owns a Bible printed in London in 1727 and used at Rock Creek Chapel. It was rebound in 1822 by J.A. Bingham, publisher of the Rockville True American newspaper.
6. T.C. Groomes was the successful bidder for the repair work at a cost of $1,171 (Minutes of the Vestry, Oct. 15, 1896.)
7. Maude Wilson Betts Piscataway to Prince George's Parish, A privately published Church history (1975) p. 18 et.seq.

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Attachment 8.2

CHRIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH, ROCKVILLE
TRANSCRIPTION OF ORIGINAL CHURCH DOCUMENT
1821 CONTRACT TO BUILD CHRIST CHURCH

This agreement made and entered into this nineth day of March in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and twenty one, between Nathaniel E. Magruder and the Vestry of Prince George Parish of Montgomery County, State of Maryland. Witnesseth, that the said Magruder hath agreed to erect and furnish a Church in Rockville of the following dimensions and after the following manner the said Magruder having the privilege of using such of the materials of an old Church now in the possession of the said Vestry as shall be hereinafter specified - to wit: A Church 36 feet by 50 - the foundations to be of stone to average two feet above ground - also to be six inches wider than the main walls and faced on each side - the walls 18 feet in height, i.e. above the foundation - the main .....(line obliterated.).....
such of the bricks of the old Church as will answer may be put in any part of the walls, except the front, which must be new however, if the said Magruder finds it necessary to use more new brick than will be sufficient for the outside of the front wall he is to put those new brick on the outside of the other walls as far as they will go.-

two side Galleries and one at the (end?)- the said Magruder to put up merely the skeletons of the said Galleries - to wit: the girders-columns-four joist in each to bind to the wall and prepare plans for the balance of the joint- but the end Gallery he is to finish complete- the old pews may be used in the Gallery - the seats rising one above an other- the Galleries supported by 3 columns eight feet long on each side and one at the end which are to be turned/trimmed? --the same number of columns extending from the Galleries to the Roof which nay not be turned/trimmed unless he pleases- the Roof to be entirely new.

Four windows on a side- one each side the pulpit- one at the entrance and two common side windows in each gable end fcr the benefit of the Galleries-the windows of the old Church may be used - window shutters for each window especially below- the old shutters may be used- the old windows which are used if deficient in glass to be made whole.

the width of the pews below to be two feet nine inches- two main isles five (and a half[stricken]) feet wide, the end isle about three and a half wide-- three pews abreast the 24 next the wall to be seven feet deep, those in the center (ten[stricken]) nine feet and the eight to the right and left of the pulpit seven feet deep.....(line obliterated).....
in the form of a semicircle of 8 by 7 feet and not more than five feet elevation with a railing around, about two or three feet high and a desk at the front - one or two pair of stairs with hand railings as may be thought most proper- if any alteration should be thought necessary as to the formation of the pulpit it will not be more expensive than above plan - two pair of stairs leading to the Gallery with hand railings to run up immediately at the entrance - two large doors in the front with proper lockings, these doors are to be panel, which is the only new panel work about the house - a circular window over each door - the old ones may be used if they will answer- the window shutters to have iron fastenings to the sills inside and to the wall outside - the bricks to be penciled

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The doors windows and outside work to be primed - an altar around the pulpit, the railing about three feet high, the floor from six to 12 inches higher than the main floor- the pews to be about 3 feet high with moulding on the top- the foundation to be laid for the circular ceiling. All the above work to be done in a workmanlike manner and all the new materials that the said Magruder puts in the said Church which has not been specified if they are sound and will answer, at the pleasure of the Vestry--

and if the Vestry shall find anything necessary to be done and about the said Church in order to complete the (word obliterated)-ding to the proposed plan (plastering and painting inside work excepted) the said Magruder is thus to render it complete. And for and in consideration of said Magruders work in and about said Church and furnishing necessary materials, the said Vestry do obligate themselves and their successors in office to pay to the said Magruder nineteen hundred and fifty dollars in the following ____ to wit: $500 before said Church is commenced - when the walls are up to the square $500 more - when the house is finished and delivered up to said Vestry $600 - and the remaining $350 one year after said Magruder shall have completed said work and delivered up the house and the said Vestry also agrees to relinquish to the said Magruder all rights and title to the materials of the old Church which may remain after the new Church is completed. And it is further agreed on the part of the said Nathaniael E. Magruder(hath[stricken]) on his part and Thomas G. Allen, Charles Kilgour, Richard Anderson, Arnold T. Winsor, Richard K. Watts, Jr., Anthony Ricketts & Benj. S. Forrest members of the Vestry of Prince George Parish on the part of said parish have....(line obliterated)...

the (sixth[stricken]) day_____above written signed sealed and delivered in presence of
(s) Gassaway Perry

(Signed)
Nathaniel E. Magruder
Thomas G. Allen
Richard Anderson
Anthony Ricketts
Richard Watts, Jr.
Arnold T. Winsor
Charles J. Kilgour
Gen. S. Forrest

Transcribed from oiginal handwritten four page document
Anne W. Cissel
March 1985
Historic Research Associates

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Christ Episcopal Church
Attachment 8.4

An Agreement entered into this 30th day of July between Nathaniel Magruder on his own part and Richard Anderson and Benj. S. Forrest on the part of the Vestry of Prince Georges Parish Witnesseth that (in consideration of [struck out])..(Obliterated).....Magruder agrees to add to the Church which he has contracted to build in Rockville on the West end thereof & in the centre of that a wall a recess the brick wall of which are to be (ten[stricken]) of sufficient height and at the (end[stricken]) height of five feet in front build a neat railing in the centre of which shall project a small pulpit or desk & at the said five feet the floor to be laid, on which the minister shall stand when he performs divine service and a room to be formed below about seven feet high - the dimensions of which recess shall be nine feet in front or width and six feet in the clear in depth - and there shall be two windows (in each wall of the said recess except that below where the outside door shall be [stricken]) above the floor of the pulpit and one below. There shall be a door in the inside of the Church leading into the _____ under the said recess and the stair case shall go up to the said recess from the said room below it - and an outside door shall lead into the room under said recess -- the whole to be finished in a plain but neat manner and in price not the exceed the sum of forty dollars in consideration whereof the said Richard Anderson and Benj. S. Forrest (agree to [stricken]) on the part of said Vestry agree to absolve the said Nathaniel Magruder from that part of his original contract which binds him to build a pulpit in the body of said Church-- as witness our hands and seals the day____above written

Witness
Gy Perry
(Gassaway Perry)

(signed): Nathaniel Magruder
Rich. Anderson
Ben. S. Forrest

transcribed from the original by Anne W. Cissel, March, 1985

9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. M: 26/11/11

Montgomery County Land Records
Original Christ Episcopal Church Records
Christ Episcopal Church Histories: 1845, 1861, 1920, 1975
Montgomery County Sentinel

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 23,323 square feet

Quadrangle name _____ **Quadrangle scale** _____

UTM **References** do NOT complete UTM references

	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
A				B			
C				D			
E				F			
G				H			

Verbal boundary description and justification

Parts of original lots 6 and 7 Town of Rockville, bordering the west side of South Washington Street.

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
state	code	county	code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title	Anne W. Cissel / Dwayne Jones, architectural description		
organization	Peerless Rockville	date	January 1985
street & number	P.O. Box 4262	telephone	762-0096
city or town	Rockville	state	Maryland 20850

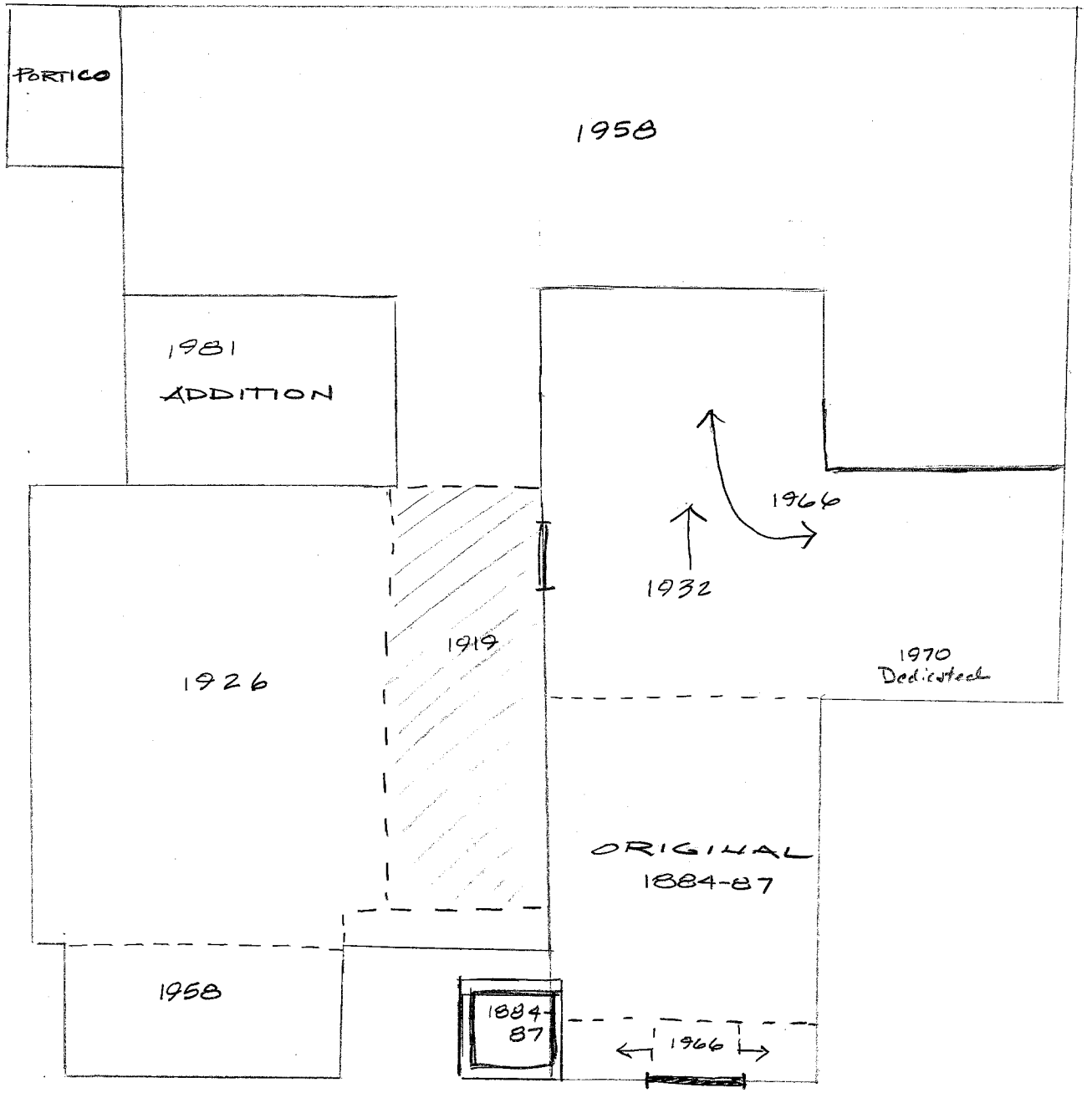
The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust
Shaw House
21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 269-2438

PS-2746

M: 26/11/11
Christ Episcopal Church
Attachment 7.4



* APPROXIMATE MEASUREMENTS

Dwayne Jones
March, 1985

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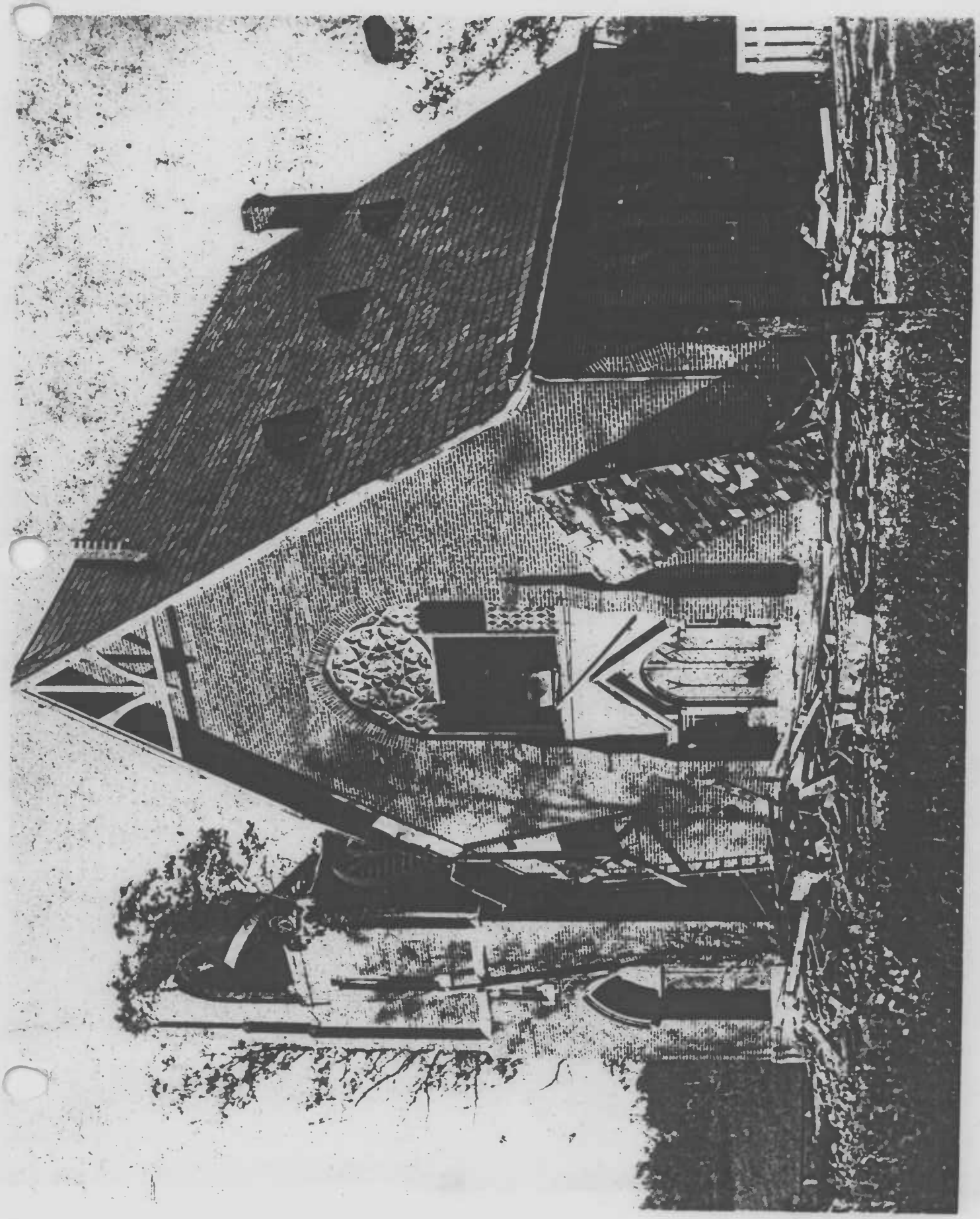
Attachment 8.5
Tornado in Rockville, 1896
Photo courtesy of Montgomery County Historical Society



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Christ Episcopal Church
M: 26-11/11
109 S. Wash. St.
NE facade
Richard Andrews
2/85

0285-006-2