

SUMMARY OF NOMINATION INFORMATION IN ONJH FILES

NAME St. James A.M.E. Church
 COUNTY Essex
 MUNICIPALITY Newark

TYPE:
 Individual X
 Historic District
 Multiple Property
 Documentation Form

NOMINATION FORM

ONJH FILES

- Nomination form (If there are continuation sheets, please indicate number) ✓
- First page (#1-6) ✓ CS:
- Description (#7) ✓ CS: 2
- Significance (#8) ✓ CS: 2
- Last page (#9-11) ✓ CS:
- SHPO Signatures
- USGS Map ✓
- Site plan
- Tax map ✓
- Floorplan
- Photo index map
- Other maps
- Photographs (Indicate number) ✓
- Exterior 2 (plus 2 photocopied photos)
- Interior 5
- Streetscapes
- Outbuildings
- Historical
- Negatives ✓
- Contact Sheet

DATE OF LISTING

State Register 3/17/72
 National Register 10/18/72

SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION

N.J.H.S.I. # Draft Nomination
 Newspaper/Magazine Articles ✓ Correspondence
 HABS Contextual Data
 Other (Please specify)

STAFF MEMBER Bernie Gammason DATE 7/1/79
 UPDATES: STAFF DATE
 STAFF DATE

Summary Sheet

NAME St. James A.M.E. Church

MUNICIPALITY Newark COUNTY Essex Co

Nomination Form:

Final Nomination Form Signed _____ Unsigned

U.S.G.S. Map Photocopy

Other Maps Tax Map

Plan(s): Site _____ Floor _____

Photographs:

	<u>Identified</u>	<u>Unidentified</u>	<u>Inadequate Coverage</u>
Exterior	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	_____	_____
Interior	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	_____	_____
Streetscapes	_____	_____	_____
Outbuildings	_____	_____	_____
Historical Drawings >	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	_____	_____

Negatives:

Same as prints _____ Less than prints Additional Negatives _____

Slides: exterior - adequate, interior - inadequate

Boundaries:

No precise boundaries _____ Defined in nomination _____
Defined by map Latitude & longitude
U.T.M.'s _____ Boundary justification _____

National Register notification of listing to SHPO:

Copies of final approved nomination: _____

Other: _____

SHPO Notification Letters:

Intent to nominate _____ National Register _____ State Register _____
Owner list _____

Supplemental Information:

(1850's copies)

N.J.H.S.I. Draft nomination _____
Newspaper/Magazine articles Recent correspondence _____
Local ordinance data _____ Maps _____ HABS _____
Other _____

Materials in Storage:

Public Meeting notification _____ Draft nomination _____
Newspaper articles _____ Correspondence _____
Historical information _____ Other _____

HISTORIC SITES

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

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: New Jersey	
COUNTY: Essex	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

1. NAME

COMMON:
St. James' A.M.E. Church

AND/OR HISTORIC:
Originally High Street Presbyterian Church

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
High Street and Court Street

CITY OR TOWN:
Newark

STATE: New Jersey CODE: 34 COUNTY: Essex CODE: 013

3. CLASSIFICATION

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

Yes: Restricted Unrestricted No

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
St. James' A.M.E. Church

STREET AND NUMBER:
High Street and Court Street

CITY OR TOWN: Newark STATE: New Jersey CODE: 34

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC:
Essex County Hall of Records

STREET AND NUMBER:
High Street

CITY OR TOWN: Newark STATE: New Jersey CODE: 34

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:

DATE OF SURVEY: Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: STATE: HISTORIC SITES CODE:

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: New Jersey
COUNTY: Essex
HISTORIC SITES
FOR NPS USE ONLY
ENTRY NUMBER
DATE

7. Description

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

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Excerpts from Newark Daily Advertiser arts, "It stands in a prominent position commanding a view of the broad expanse of country for many miles in every direction, and the approach to it gives a pleasant effect of solidity and symmetrical proportions. It is a florid Gothic structure in the pointed style of the 14th century, built wholly of stone with a square tower in front 100 feet high, surmounted by pinnacles, consists of a nave and aisles, chancel, tower and south porch. The body of the church is 86 feet long and 86 feet wide: chancel 43 feet by 23: tower 21 feet square, and 100 feet high making a total length of about 150 feet, built of Little Falls stone. The interior presents a spacious and cheerful room, without galleries, relieved of any sepulchral effect by the unobtrusively rich stained glass windows, which temper the atmosphere into a soft mellow tone, without excluding too much light. The pews are invitingly arranged and cushioned with red, the carpets being of the same general tone. The pulpit is of elaborately carved oak, the wood work of the organ loft over the front vestibule and seats being of the same material. In the evening it is lighted with gas from side brackets, and gilt candelabra, with five burners each, rising at convenient intervals between the pews".

The following is a description by Kenneth B. Schnall, in his 1965 Thesis, "19th Century Churches of Newark". "The church is designed as a rectangular shape with the placement of the tower, piers and chancel in a style similar to the English fourteenth century decorative period. The building is constructed entirely of a hand-cut stone in an approximate facsimile of a Flemish bond. A centrally located tower on the facade is Norman in style with some early English elements. The building is on an east-west axis and has its front doors on a level with the sidewalk. The nave and rear addition reach back and down the steep hill so that the building appears to be quite large. The interior of the church is not very large". The noted John Welch's fine original squared "east end" was eliminated, unfortunately, by the also noted Carrere and Hastings. "The rear lecture hall built in 1890, begins at the end of the side walls. Even though the rear building appears to be a large transept, it is in fact a separate building. The original part of the building extends from the front tower to the rear wall of the nave which serves as a central pulpit area. The entire rear of the building is in effect a separate building and contains rooms used for offices with a large lecture room in the upper stories that run at a high angle to the church nave. This building is constructed of brick and is faced with a brownstone similar to those found in the facade. Entrance to the building is provided from the nave and through separate outside doors. A cornerstone on the southeast corner bears the date 1890. A real attempt was made to use a facing stone like that found in the facade so that no real contrast exists. The center tower fully dominates the entire facade. It is large in relation to the width of the church but some compensation is made for this through the use of various architectural elements. The addition has an enormous rose window with thick stone tracery that adds distinction to the long exposed side of the church which fully covers its corner lot. The set-offs on the long buttresses at each corner have sharp weather plates. These buttresses taper at the ends and continue on up to pinnacles which end in crocketed finials. The flat areas of the tower walls are broken on all sides in the belfry by a deep-set window with a steep sill. The windows have heavy mullions, hood moldings, and are lined with crockets. An open (Con't.)

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

8. Significance

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

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

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) Dedicated 5/18/1852; Parish House added 1890

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

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

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The chief significance, among many factors, is architectural as an extraordinarily artistic work of two nationally known architects; John Welch of Newark, 1850-52 and addition of 1890 by Carrere & Hastings. In addition, the church has served a valuable religious and other varied outreach role for different congregations. The original High Street Presbyterian Church which reportedly ceased in 1926, another congregation, believed to be German Lutheran, according to a clergyman, and since sometime after World War II has been the St. James' A.M.E. Church. The latter, a black congregation essentially, is an influential church in the city and a key church within its denomination. Important denominational conferences have been held in the church on various occasions. St. James' community outreach includes active counselling, diversified music, a credit union and housing sponsorship.

The church is strategically situated on a hill overlooking downtown Newark, diagonally opposite another great landmark, the turreted Krueger-Scott Mansion.

The Newark Daily Advertiser, May 19, 1852, regarding the previous day's dedication, commented, excerpts, "an important monument of architectural skill. Its distinguishing merit is perhaps the completeness of the minute details, a merit seldom if ever fully carried out in specimens of the more elaborate styles adopted in this country, where these necessary little adjuncts to a harmonious whole, are often sacrificed to economy. It is on the whole, the most complete specimen of its style we have seen in the state. The architect is Mr. John Welch of this city, who has certainly done himself great credit." Many works by Upjohn, Mills, Lafever, etc., had been completed very nearby within the preceding five years. It cost \$40,300., all costs, including land. The church is probably the first (U.S.) work and a masterpiece of one of America's foremost architects, John Welch 1824-1894, skilled and imaginative in masterpieces of many styles, whose national reputation is now being revived. Welch came to Newark from Scotland in 1850 and began the High Street Church in that year. Within several years, he had completed 4-5 other exceptionally notable Newark works before achieving additional nationwide fame elsewhere. Ordinarily working separately, he, nonetheless was related to Richard Upjohn on 2 Newark subjects in the 1850's, as told in the biography of Richard Upjohn by Everard Upjohn, a source also of the fact that Welch was 1 of the 13 charter A.I.A. Members at the Institute's founding meeting in Upjohn's office. Carrere and Hastings, N.Y.C., who designed the 1890 addition also did the noted New York Public Library, the U.S. Senate and House Office Buildings, The National Amphitheater of Arlington Memorial Cemetery, (Continued)

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Brooklyn Eagle. Obituary of John Welch, 11/22/1894
Newark Daily Advertiser. Article on cornerstone of church, 9/3/1850,
 article on church dedication, 5/19/1852
New York Times. Obituary of John Welch, 11/22/1894
 Schnall, Kenneth B. A 1965 Thesis, "19th Century Churches of Newark",
 on file in Newark Public Library, Newark, New Jersey.
 Stanton, P.B. The Gothic Revival and American Church Architecture, page
 297.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	0 ' ' "	0 ' ' "		10 0 13 ' 57 "	74 0 10 ' 52 "	
NE	0 ' ' "	0 ' ' "				
SE	0 ' ' "	0 ' ' "				
SW	0 ' ' "	0 ' ' "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 1 acre

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
 Donald W. Geyer, Licensed professional planner & architectural historian

ORGANIZATION: _____ DATE: 9/71

STREET AND NUMBER:
 351 Broad Street

CITY OR TOWN: Newark STATE: New Jersey CODE: 31

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

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

National State Local

Name: Richard J. Sullivan

Title: Commissioner, Department of Environmental Protection

Date: _____

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

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

 Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date: _____

ATTEST:

 Keeper of The National Register

Date: _____

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet) (1)

STATE New Jersey	
COUNTY Essex	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

(Number all entries)

St. James' A.M.E. Church
New Jersey Code: 34
Essex Co. Code: 013

Section 7: Continued

lattice of reticulated tracery fills the louvered window which indicates the bell chamber. Above a stringcourse of stone which separates the upper section of the tower about where the organ is located is a small square dripstone capped window. The church tower is Norman in style but has some late English characteristics. A large window with a thick dripstone and sill opens the lower front wall of the tower from about the point of the gable to a short distance above the central door. Both windows and door fill the distance between the corner buttressing. The central window is a horizontal shape which is broken by a reticulated tracery at the point of the window and has a plate tracery between the mullions. A lower central door is made of wood and is banded with metal. It is set very deep within a recessed round molding. The thickness of the wall at the base of the tower is clearly indicated while a clear distinction is made between the stone walls and the stone of the arched doorway. Smaller windows similar in style to the central windows are set at the front walls of the side aisles and fill the wall area between the tower and the building's corner buttressing. The fenestration of the windows in the wall above the nave is set in an even row. The windows are set shallow in the wall and are close to a carved parapet wall which runs along the eaves. This wall, which breaks the line of the long roof, is repeated on the lower side aisle roof and, in fact, continues round to the rear lecture hall. A porched side entrance at the west end of the south aisle wall is made of stone and has small front buttressing. It has a deep door and a wide stone cornice. The buttresses in the side walls are off-set with long weather-plates. They extend almost the full length of the wall. Windows in the lower wall are wide and have dripstone coverings. They are set on a long stringcourse and are set between the side wall buttressings. The long stringcourse indicates the level of the church's lower wall against the sloping ground level. A side stair turret is located on the northwest corner of the tower and runs from the ground to the bell chamber. The turret provides entrance to the organ loft. A carved parapet wall of trefoil shape breaks the line of the cornice at the side aisle roof between the side of the building and the corner buttressing. A similar parapet with a low battlement opens the space at the top of the tower between the corner pinnacles. The nave is short and has a central aisle. Side aisles are located under the lower side aisle roofs. The ceiling is wood with a low span in the form of a depressed arch and is built over a set of seven small arched braces. This wooden ceiling is located under the cockloft which has a much steeper pitch. The aisle roofs have small ceiling braces that rest on the side walls. Main beams and principal rafters are separated by green painted panels against the lighter buff color of the ceiling board. Windows in the upper nave walls are set deep in the wall so that they suggest the wall depth. These windows provide a soft light against the low arched span of the ceiling. The windows in the walls of the side aisles are set within those areas defined by the places in which the ceiling braces grip the walls. These large arched windows extend down to (Cont.)

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet) (2)

STATE New Jersey	
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St. James' A.M.E. Church
New Jersey Code: 34
Essex Co. Code: 013

Section 7: Continued

the wooden wainscoting. The piers in the nave open the bays into wide sharp pointed spans. Each arch in the nave arcades are heavily set with ball and flower moldings which is in sharp contrast to the flat side walls. A sense of width is provided in the short narrow nave by the wide bay openings. Walls in the nave are plastered and have been painted to look like an even cut stone in a plumb bond. The focal point of the nave is the front chancel wall. A large recessed arch rests within a large low arch which is the shape of the wall. A heavily carved reredos covers a good portion of the recess and rests on a massive pulpit stage with a central lectern. The pulpit stage covers most of the space in the chancel area but allows some room for flanking amen pews. A bench-like seat follows around the inside walls of the side aisles and provides more seating room in the nave. A side door located in the southwest wall opens into a small stone porch. The arched double wooden doors are set within an arched molding carved in a floral pattern. The front vestibule is within the square tower and provides entrance to the main aisle in the nave. This small room has a stone floor and ceiling that is the floor of the organ loft. A low doorway in the vestibule provides entrance to the stair turret. The heavy choir loft with a carved front overhangs the front entrance door and rests on two carved pillars that flank the center aisle."

The architectural interest of the church is heightened by the oddities and ironies such as the fact, discovered upon closer re-examination, that Carrere & Hastings' great but false transept of 1890 replaced John Welch's great but false "east end" of 1850-52; that is, the "east end" of Welch which appears from the exterior as a superb Anglican chancel, was actually (as the congregation was Presbyterian and not Episcopal) used: "In the extension of the building, behind the pulpit, are the lecture and Sabbath School rooms conveniently arranged." This quote was in the Newark Daily Advertiser, 5/19/1852. The same reference, in addition to various above quotations, also states: "The entrances are through vestibules paved with figured encaustic tiles, a material recently introduced here." Perhaps by Frank Willa, arrived in N.Y.C. in 1848, from Fredericton, N.B., who completed two Newark churches in 1849-50 (Christ, & House of Prayer) who used tiles in his noted St. Anne's Chapel and Christ Church Cathedral, both Fredericton, (the latter with Am. Butterfield, noted Briton who proceeded much farther eventually into polychromy). See The Gothic Revival and American Church Architecture, pages 134-140 & 152 by Stanton.

Section 8: Continued

The McKinley Monument in Buffalo, the Flagler buildings of St. Augustine, Florida, Richmond (Staten Island) Boro Hall, the City Halls of Patterson and Portland, Maine, and the Ballantine Gates of Newark's Branch Brock Park, (Lake Street).

Welch did another masterpiece of some definite comparability to (Continued)

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet) (3)

STATE New Jersey	
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(Number all entries)

St. James' A.M.E. Church
New Jersey Code: 34
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Section 8: Continued

High Street Presbyterian Church, Newark, the great St. John's Episcopal Church on Broad Street in the heart of downtown Elizabeth, completed in 1860, reflecting further progression from his "encaustic tiles" of the floor of the Newark church to other use of color variation or alternation (polychromy) to become more Victorian in a gradual manner paralleling the gradual transition of the great British architect, William Butterfield. Among Welch's other known works of great distinction are as follows: Halsey Street Methodist Episcopal Church 1851-52, Greek Revival, demolished, Newark, New Jersey. South Park Presbyterian Church 1853-55, Greek Revival, Newark, New Jersey. Old St. Paul's Broad Street Methodist Episcopal Church 1854-56, Gothic, after King's College Chapel, Cambridge, England, (consulted R. Upjohn, demolished). Newark Orphan Asylum, now Eberhardt Hall, Newark Coll. of England 1857, Tudor-Elizabethan-Flemish. Newark National Banking Co. 1856-57, in association with R. Upjohn, demolished. Brooklyn Tabernacle, Dr. Talmage's Tabernacle, 1872, famous Romanesque destroyed by fire in 1894, Brooklyn, New York. First Baptist, Williamsburg, Lee Ave. now Congregational, 1874 (?), Victorian Gothic, Brooklyn, New York. St. Luke's Episcopal Church, circa 1880's, Romanesque and Gothic, Brooklyn, New York. All Saints' Episcopal Church 7th Avenue, Brooklyn, New York, 1889-92, Byzantine. Welch worked in many other cities on churches, reportedly, is claimed as the early originator of the amphitheater auditoriums for Protestant Churches, specifically after Verona, Italy's famed Roman Amphitheater and presumably as one of the earliest Akron plan architects. He died in 1894. The New York Times and Brooklyn Eagle carried notable obituaries, both dated 11/22/1894: "once a noted architect" and "dies in Myrtle Avenue Restaurant."

Congressional Representation

Peter W. Rodino, Congressman (10th District)
Clifford F. Case, U.S. Senator
Harrison A. Williams, U.S. Senator