

United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
 Type all entries—complete applicable sections

For HCERS use only

received

date entered

1. Name

historic St. John's A.M.E. Church

and/or common St. John's A.M.E. Church

2. Location

street & number 2402 North 22nd Street _____ not for publication

city, town Omaha _____ vicinity of _____ congressional district Second

state Nebraska code 031 county Douglas code 055

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
____ district	____ public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	____ agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	____ unoccupied	____ commercial
____ structure	____ both	____ work in progress	____ educational
____ site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	____ entertainment
____ object	____ in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	____ government
	____ being considered	____ yes: unrestricted	____ industrial
		____ no	____ military
			____ other:

4. Owner of Property

name St. John's A.M.E. Church

street & number 2402 North 22nd Street

city, town Omaha _____ vicinity of _____ state Nebraska

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Register of Deeds, Omaha/Douglas County Civic Center

street & number 18th and Farnam Streets

city, town Omaha _____ state Nebraska

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Omaha City Planning Department
Historic Structure Survey

has this property been determined eligible? ____ yes ____ no

date 1978 ____ federal ____ state ____ county ☒ local

depository for survey records Omaha/Douglas County Civic Center

city, town Omaha _____ state Nebraska

7. Description

Condition☐ excellent☒ good☐ fair☐ deteriorated☐ ruins☐ unexposed**Check one**☒ unaltered☐ altered**Check one**☒ original site☐ moved

date _____

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

St. John's African Methodist Episcopal Church at 2402 North 22nd Street in Omaha is located in a mixed residential/commercial neighborhood in which community development programs are initiating major redevelopment efforts. In close proximity is the Webster Telephone Exchange (listed in the National Register 12-5-77), now housing the Great Plains Black Museum.

Designed by Omaha architect Frederick S. Stott, this L-shaped, 78' x 114' Prairie School building was constructed between 1921-56. Walls are of brick construction and there is a partial steel frame system: the foundation is granite, and the two levels are articulated by a continuous stone band.

In 1923, completed work included the raised basement with projecting exterior masonry strips and a stairtower at the northeast and southeast corners that provided access to both the basement (where services were conducted for many years) and to the then-anticipated auditorium. Natural light for the basement is provided by sash windows near the ground level. The entrances contain double doors with transoms and are surrounded by frontispieces that are classical, yet in relation with the other stone and concrete elements of the exterior.

The 42' x 112' auditorium, completed in 1947, is a large rectangular space with a lower side extension on the west. Light is admitted through cantilever-shaded clerestory windows which are partially filled with stained glass illustrating biblical scenes. The flat concrete roof sheltering the auditorium is supported by brick-sheathed steel columns -- ornamentation on the exterior of each column being provided by a small field of blue tile with a red square insert and a slender cross of white tile. Five meeting rooms east of the auditorium were completed in 1956.

8. Significance

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

Specific dates 1921, 1947, 1956 **Builder/Architect** Frederick S. Stott

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

St. John's A.M.E. Church is architecturally significant to Nebraska as a fine product of the Prairie School style. Designed by Omaha architect Frederick S. Stott, the structure represents a progressive attitude on the behalf of this black congregation at a time when traditional values in religious architecture remained prevalent.

Antedating Nebraska's statehood by two years, St. John's was organized in 1865 with a membership of five persons. The third and present building to serve the congregation was commenced in 1921 -- worship services being held in the basement for 21 years due to a decision that construction would proceed only as funds allowed. The auditorium was first used in 1947 and auxiliary rooms were finished in 1956.

Frederick Stott, the architect for St. John's, was born in St. Paul, Minnesota, in 1889. He served an apprenticeship in the office of St. Paul architect C. H. Johnson and later worked in Boston, Minneapolis, and with the Construction Division of the U.S. Army in Omaha. From 1919 until the early 1930's, Stott practiced in Omaha alone. Low proportions, emphatic horizontality, and sheltering overhangs are basic design principles of Frank Lloyd Wright that Stott employed in the church building for St. John's. Despite its somewhat lengthy period of construction, all work is as the architect specified: financial limitations prohibited the building campaign from being a one-phased project. Significantly, the congregation agreed to an unadulterated Prairie School building during a period when the Colonial and late Gothic revivals were the norm for ecclesiastical architecture.

9. Major Bibliographical References

See continuation sheet

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property less than one

Quadrangle name Omaha North

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UMT References

A

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2	5	3	3	5	0
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4	5	7	3	9	0	0
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Zone Easting Northing

B

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Zone Easting Northing

C

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Verbal boundary description and justification

Lot 1, east 81 feet of the south half of Lot 2 and the north half of Lot 2, and the east 81 feet of Lot 3, Block 1, Idlewild Addition, City of Omaha.

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 Robert Peters, Planner

organization City of Omaha Planning Department date April, 1980

street & number 18th and Farnam telephone 402/471-3270

city or town Omaha state Nebraska

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

☐ national ☒ state ☐ local

As the designated State Historic Preservation 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 Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

Marvin O. Kivett

title Director, Nebraska State Historical Society

date

For HCRS use only

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

date

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

CONTINUATION SHEET Bibliography ITEM NUMBER 9 PAGE 2

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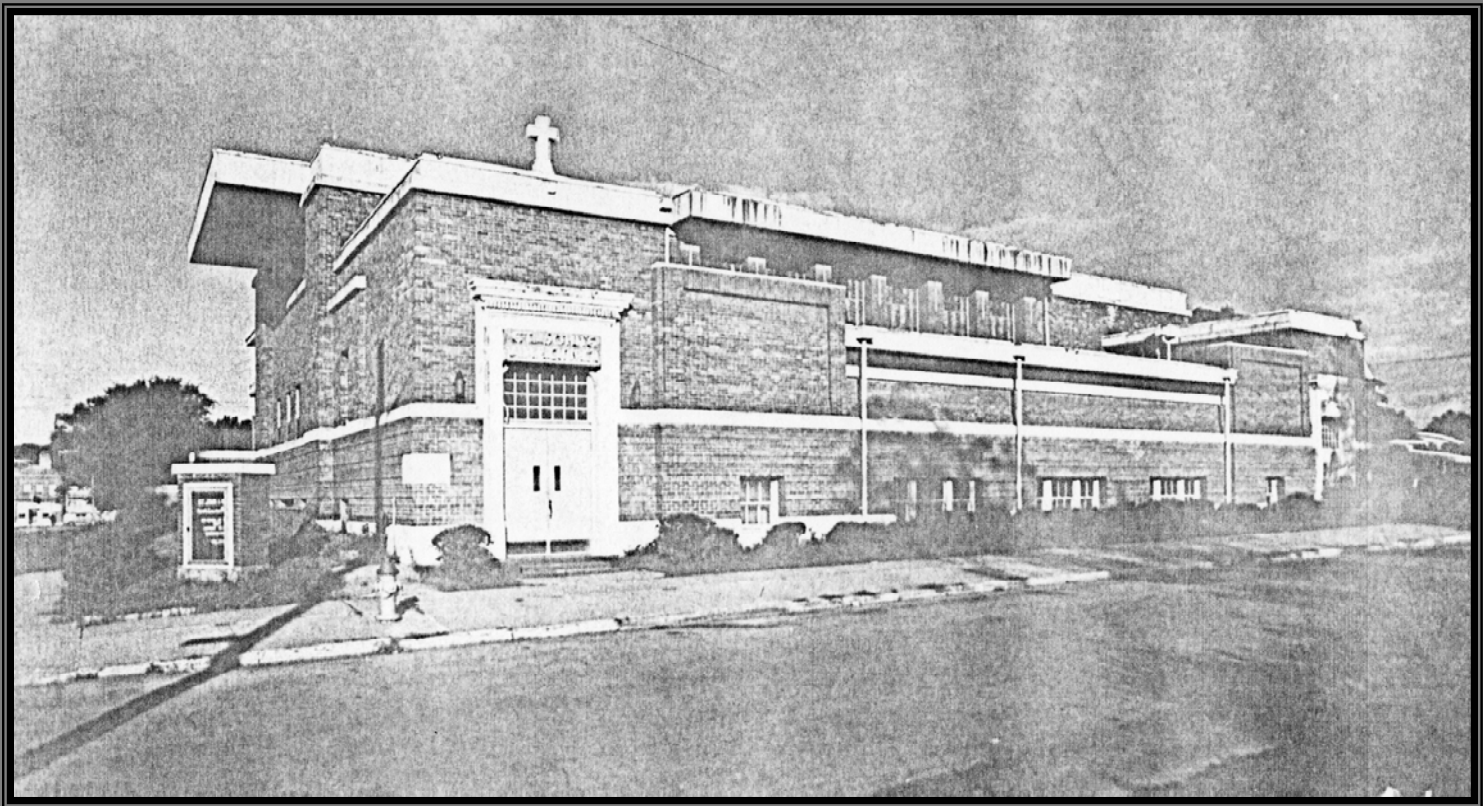
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East façade looking northwest



South façade looking north

