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

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  

city, town  Omaha  

state  Nebraska  

3. Classification  

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Ownership</th>
<th>Status</th>
<th>Present Use</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>district</td>
<td>public</td>
<td>occupied</td>
<td>museum</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>X building(s)</td>
<td>private</td>
<td>unoccupied</td>
<td>park</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>structure</td>
<td>both</td>
<td>work in progress</td>
<td>educational</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>site</td>
<td>Public Acquisition in process</td>
<td>entertainment</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>object</td>
<td>being considered</td>
<td>government</td>
<td>transportation</td>
</tr>
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</table>

4. Owner of Property  

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

street & number  2402 North 22nd Street  

city, town  Omaha  

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  

depository for survey records  Omaha/Douglas County Civic Center  

city, town  Omaha  

state  Nebraska
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.
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

<table>
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<th>Easting</th>
<th>Northing</th>
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<tbody>
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<td>G</td>
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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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>state</th>
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</thead>
</table>

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 89–655), 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: [Signature]

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: [Signature]

date

Chief of Registration


