

SAINT ANDREW'S PARISH  
EPISCOPAL CHURCH  
317 Florida Avenue  
(southeast corner Florida  
& Duvall Streets)  
Jacksonville  
Duval County  
Florida

HABS NO. FL-352

HABS  
FLA,  
16-JACK,  
13-

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey  
National Park Service  
Department of the Interior  
Washington, D.C. 20013-7127

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

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SAINT ANDREW'S PARISH EPISCOPAL CHURCH

HABS No. FL-352

Location: 317 Florida Avenue; southeast corner of Florida and Duval Streets,  
Jacksonville, Duval County, Florida

UTM: 17.438120.3354860  
Quad: Jacksonville Quadrangle

Present Owner: Diocese of Florida (Episcopal)

Present Occupant: Sanctuary

Significance: The only major house of worship predating the 1901 fire, St. Andrew's, as an example of the Ruskinian Gothic Revival style, is unique in Jacksonville and was considered by churchmen to be of regional architectural significance at the time of its construction in 1887.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History:

1. Date of erection: A history of the church reveals that, "plans were perfected, contracts were let, and the erection of the church which was to be a memorial to the late Bishop John Freeman Young, began in 1887 with the laying of the foundation. The first delivery of brick to be used in the building was June 13, 1887. The cornerstone was laid...on August 11, 1887" (Parsons). The first service was held on Easter, April 1, 1888 (Ibid).
2. Architect: The vestry minutes note that, "the committee of the New Church was authorized to negotiate with Mr. R. S. Schuyler of Fernandina" (Pennington, p. 35). Robert S. Schuyler had recently completed the St. Peter's Parish Episcopal Church (1881-1884) in nearby Fernandina Beach (see HABS No. FL-281, prepared by Phil Werndli, 8/74) Born in 1830 in New York City, where he also received his architectural training, Schuyler spent time in Troy, New York, and Waldo, Florida, before settling in Fernandina in 1881. By that time, he had the design of three carpenter Gothic chapels in Waldo, Fairbanks, and Lake Santa Fe, Florida, to his credit (Werndli). He served as a St. Peter's vestryman several times (Werndli) after accepting the St. Andrew's commission (Shinn, pp. 221-222). He also served as county judge and Fernandina City clerk before dying of Bright's disease on July 24, 1895 (Werndli).

3. Original and subsequent owners: The property on which the building is situated reputedly was the gift (unrecorded in Deed Books of J.N.C. Stockton, Pennington, p. 62). Title to the parcel is still held by the Episcopal Diocese, the building being leased to the congregation currently occupying it; the parcel being known as lots two and three of Block fifty-five, as recorded in the East Jacksonville Deed Books at Title and Trust of Florida in Jacksonville, plat panel #401, section 18, 45.
4. Original plans, construction, etc.: No plans have been found. There were apparently extensive building records kept in the vestry's "Minute Book, A", excerpts of which are reproduced in Pennington's history of the church, written in 1926. A search for "Minute Book, A" was being conducted by the Historiographer of the Diocese at the time of the completion of this report; it had apparently been lost for years.

After meeting in private homes and stores and then in a "modest wooden chapel," the congregation began to consider erecting a substantial edifice after the parish became independent in 1886. In June of 1887, after architect Schuyler had been contacted, "the building committee abandoned the wish to build in stone because of the cost and contracted with Mr. T. N. Anderson for the brick" (Pennington, p. 36). The red brick was set in black mortar; the floor was tiled, and the basement outfitted with steam heating (Florida Times-Union, "The New St. Andrew's"); newspapers reported that the building exclusive of the property would be, in 1887, completed at a cost of about \$14,000 to the congregation (Ibid); this proved not to be the case. According to the vestry minutes, the following letter was sent to the American Church Building Fund Commission:

We found when our building was complete that our architect had so far underestimated the cost that we had a floating debt of \$6,500 in addition to what was due you...Our people were then comparatively prosperous, and we had hoped soon to pay it all; but the disastrous epidemic of yellow fever came immediately after the completion of the building. (Pennington, p. 71).

The interior of the church does not appear to have been completed at the time of the writing of the letter in the spring of 1891, because in the following November, W. H. Ray made an offer to "decorate the interior walls of the church...to furnish and put up the pilasters and capitals now wanting on the interior walls..." (Pennington, p. 72).

An organ had been purchased in 1887 for \$400 from a First Presbyterian Church in Springfield, Ohio (Pennington, p.36). According to the minute book:

The large hand-carved solid mahogany doors which are at the west front were made from a log brought from a shipwreck off Cuba. They were given by George A. DeCottes, one of the vestrymen. The bell was given by the little girls who banded together to form St. Andrew's Guild. The choir stalls are of curly pine, a wood very difficult to obtain; they were the gift of the Rector, Mr. Knight, who declared years later in a sermon preached at St. Andrew's that he gave them in gratitude for emerging safely through the yellow fever epidemic. The pulpit and the lectern and the altar are of curly pine, handsomely carved; so is the minister's prayer stall. The church was consecrated on May 21, 1893, when the building was free of debt (Pennington, p. 76).

Further inventory of the interior was given in the "In Memoriam: St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, April 17, 1938" paper by Mrs. Ida Aird, included in this report.

5. Alterations and additions: Interior inaccessible at the time of the completion of this report.

In the meantime, St. Andrew's had been vandalized and was being used as a "flophouse" by neighborhood derelicts (Jacksonville Journal, 1/18/1959, p. 15).

In 1975, the church was leased to the Reverend Hubert Reid of the Emmanuel Penacostal Church of God in Christ. The church is again being used as a sanctuary for a congregation.

C. Sources of Information:

1. Manuscripts, etc.:

Aird, Mrs. Ida, "In Memoriam: St. Andrew's Church," unpublished paper, April 17, 1938; in Episcopal Files, Strozier Library sub-basement, Florida State University, Tallahassee, Florida, (~~Xerox included~~).

Diocese of Florida, publisher; "St. Andrew's Church: A Memorial to its Past; A Bright New Future!," September 15, 1960 (St. Andrew's Relocation Fund-soliciting Pamphlet).

Parsons, John Z., "A History of St. Andrew's Parish, Jacksonville, Florida, 1872-1938," unpublished paper, 1938; in Episcopal Files, Strozier Library sub-basement, Florida State University, Tallahassee, Florida, (Xerox included).

Pennington, Edgar L., "The First Years of St. Andrew's Church, Jacksonville, Florida," unpublished manuscript, 1926; in Floridian Collection, Haydon Burns Library, Jacksonville, Florida.

2. Newspapers:

"Consecration Services Held," Florida Times-Union, Jacksonville, May 22, 1893, p. 5.

"The New St. Andrew's," Florida Times-Union, Jacksonville, August 12, 1887, p. 8.

"Saint Andrew's Vandalized," Jacksonville Journal, Jacksonville, January 18, 1959, p. 15.

3. Interviews:

Phil Werndli, Office of State Department of Archives, History and Records and Management, Tallahassee, Florida, 6/28/75, concerning his H.A.B.S. report on St. Peter's in Fernandina Beach and personal research and manuscripts prepared on Robert S. Schuyler.

4. Secondary Sources:

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Brown, S. Paul. The Book of Jacksonville.  
Poughkeepsie, N.Y.: A. V. Haight, 1895.

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Cushman, Joseph D. A Goodly Heritage: The Episcopal Church in Florida, 1821-1892.  
Gainesville, Florida: University of Florida Press, 1965.

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Cuttler, Harry Gardner. History of Florida, Past and Present, Vol. III. New York: Lewis Publishing Co., 1923.

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Davis, T. Frederick. History of Jacksonville, Florida, and Vicinity: 1513 to 1924. St. Augustine: The Record Co. and The Florida Historical Society, 1925.

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- \_\_\_\_ Gold, Pleasant Daniel. History of Duval County. St. Augustine: The Record Co., 1929.
- \_\_\_\_ Martin, Richard A. The City Makers. Jacksonville: Convention Press, 1972.
- \_\_\_\_ Shinn, Rev. George Wolfe. King's Handbook of Notable Episcopal Churches in the United States. Boston: Moses King Corp., 1889.

Prepared by: Carolyn J. Hamm  
Field Historian  
Historic American Buildings  
Survey  
Jacksonville, Florida  
July 1975

## II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

### A. General Statement:

1. Architectural character: The only major house of worship predating the 1901 fire, St. Andrew's (designed by Robert S. Schuyler, architect of numerous churches in northeast Florida) is an example of the Ruskinian Gothic Revival style dominated by an asymmetrically massed bell tower, heavily encrusted sandstone trim, and polychrome slate roofing; notable structural features include tabby foundations and exposed hammer beam trusses.
2. Condition of fabric: Poor, structurally unsound (termite damage), windows and interiors removed.

### B. Description of Exterior:

1. Overall dimensions: 91' x 67'
2. Foundations: Brick set on tabby
3. Walls: Brick, running bond, red with dark mortar
4. Structural system, framing: Brick bearing walls, angle buttresses, hammer beam trusses
5. Porches, stoops, balconies, bulkheads: Entrance through belltower

6. Chimneys: None

7. Openings:

- a. Doorways and doors: Gabled narthex entry with pinnacles; double door and equilateral tympanum of mahogany (carved trefoil and quatrefoil in panels). Sandstone surround and engaged columns. East side of narthex: belltower vestibule with entry to narthex; arched openings north and east sides of tower, lancet window opening south side.
- b. Windows and shutters: Lancet windows, polyfoil rose window above narthex window. Sandstone surrounds.

8. Roof:

- a. Shape, covering: Gable roof with intermediate celestory. Slate with polychrome slate connecting lozenges.
- b. Cornice, eaves: Sandstone gable typanum with trefoil, sandstone fascia at eaves.
- c. Dormers, cupolas, towers: Belltower of dominating proportion and irregular massing; asymmetrical openings, angle buttresses with sandstone weatherings, abutting octagonal bay; quatrefoil in lozenge and triangular openings in steeple; gabled cornice with lancet niches below slate roof, and celtic cross at peak.

C. Description of Interior:

1. Floor plans: One story; rectangular with parallel pews (seating 150), center aisle. Vestry and sacristy to rear of chancel.
2. Stairways: Stair in area to right (south) of chancel; apparently former access to organ. Any stair in bell tower no longer exists.
3. Flooring: Ceramic and terra cotta tiles in tower vestibule. Wood interior.
4. Wall and ceiling finish: Wood paneled wainscoting below windows; otherwise plaster. Ceiling plaster with exposed dark wood hammer beam trusses.

5. Openings:
  - a. Doorways and doors: Narthex doors exhibit similar inside trim as that of exterior (quatrefoil and trefoil) carved mahogany.
6. Decorative features and trim: Interior removed. Exposed wooden hammer beam trusses and wainscot. (See "In Memoriam, St. Andrews Episcopal Church," April 17, 1938, by Mrs. Ida Aird.)
7. Hardware: None
8. Mechanical equipment: Luminous globe lamps (c. 1930?) suspended from hammer beams.

D. Site:

1. General setting and orientation: Deteriorating multi-family and commercial area near Gator Bowl. Corner of Florida and Duval, oriented west 285 degrees.
2. Historical landscape design: None. Site encompasses yard with grass and trees.
3. Outbuildings: None.

Prepared by: Susan Tate  
Project Supervisor  
HABS-Florida Project  
August 1975

PART III. PROJECT INFORMATION

This project was undertaken by the Historic American Buildings Survey, in cooperation with the Florida Bicentennial Commission and the Jacksonville Historical and Cultural Conservation Commission, under the direction of John Poppeliers, Chief of HABS, at the HABS Field Office, Riverside, Jacksonville, Florida, by Susan Tate (University of Florida), project supervisor; Frederick Wiedenmann (University of Florida), architect; Carolyn Hamm (Cornell University), project historian; and student assistant architects Robert Moje (University of Virginia), Ruthie Wiley (Mississippi State University), and Robert Wiltse (Louisiana State University).

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PHOTOGRAPHS

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1849 C Street NW  
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