B-3986

North Avenue Methodist Episcopal Church

Architectural Survey File

This is the architectural survey file for this MIHP record. The survey file is organized reverse-chronological (that is, with the latest material on top). It contains all MIHP inventory forms, National Register nomination forms, determinations of eligibility (DOE) forms, and accompanying documentation such as photographs and maps.

Users should be aware that additional undigitized material about this property may be found in on-site architectural reports, copies of HABS/HAER or other documentation, drawings, and the “vertical files” at the MHT Library in Crownsville. The vertical files may include newspaper clippings, field notes, draft versions of forms and architectural reports, photographs, maps, and drawings. Researchers who need a thorough understanding of this property should plan to visit the MHT Library as part of their research project; look at the MHT web site (mht.maryland.gov) for details about how to make an appointment.

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Last Updated: 07-05-2011

BALTIMORE CITY--COMMISSION FOR HISTORICAL AND ARCHITECTURAL PRESERVATION

CDBG SURVEY YEAR: 12
AREA: Oliver

SURVEY NO.: B-3986
MAGI NO.: 0439865608

ADDRESS: 1403-1415 East North Avenue
CURRENT NAME: Eastern United Methodist Church

BLOCK: 1100 LOT: 29/30
HEIGHT:
CONDITION: Good

USE: Religious
DESIGNATION:

LOT SIZE:
MATERIALS: Stone
OWNER: Eastern U.M. Church
ADDRESS: 1401 E. North Avenue
ACCESSIBLE: Yes
LIBER/FOLIO: WA3778-743

HISTORIC NAME: North Avenue Methodist Episcopal Church
DATE: 1895
ARCHITECT/BUILDER: J. E. Laferty/E. M. Noel
STYLE (IF APPROPRIATE): Gothic Revival

DESCRIPTION:

The North Avenue Methodist Episcopal Church is a stone Gothic Revival church building erected in 1895 on the southwest corner of North Avenue and Caroline Street in east Baltimore. The main entrance is in a square bell tower at the northeast corner. The walls are ashlar Falls Road granite with Ellicott City granite trim. The North Avenue elevation is composed of two gable roofed sections of unequal height separated by a conical turret. Each of the sections have Gothic arched, traceried stained glass windows and the turret base has a small door with an arched and traceried transom. The doorways of the main entrance also have traceried transoms. The east elevation has six bays of arched stained glass windows. The west elevation has five bays of windows. The arches, basement belt course, sills, tower buttresses, and battlements are all of granite. Decorative windows in circular, rectangular and trefoil shapes embellish the tower and north elevations; these also are outlined in granite and further emphasized by belt courses. Immediately adjoining the church on the west is the matching stone foundation of a planned addition begun in 1923 which was never completed. The south elevation of the main church is covered with corrugated iron. This was erected in 1895 as a temporary measure to allow for future expansion.

SIGNIFICANCE:

AREA: architecture LEVEL: local

The North Avenue M.E. church is a good example of the Late Gothic Revival style in which many churches were built during the late 19th and early 20th centuries. In addition, the church's location at the intersection of two major streets at the northern edge of the Oliver district helped maintain its membership during the early 20th century as the long-time area residents began moving to the north and northeast to newer suburbs. Eventually, five Methodist churches forced to close by declining memberships united with North Avenue. The church was organized in May 1888 as a mission of Madison Square Centenary M.E. Church, which was absorbed by North Avenue in the early 1930's. A frame chapel on the site of the present building served until 1895 when ground was broken for a larger church, which was dedicated January 6, 1896. The expected expansion to the south, indicated by the corrugated iron covering, was never accomplished, although a new Sunday School building and the basement of a social hall were dedicated in 1923. The social hall was never finished and the foundation wall remains along North and Harford Avenues.

SOURCES: Sun, 6-5-1895; 1-6-1896; 2-26-1923; American Meth. Bicentennial (1966)
SURVEYOR AND DATE: Janet L. Davis, August 1987

during that time $596,575 on itself in current expenses, and giving for others in benevolences $603,993.58 or $7,418.58 more for others than in its own behalf. The measure of a true church is—as much for others as for our[illegible]s. This is the record of Madison Avenue through its whole history and of its own unselfish purpose.

The steps taken to close up our services here were as follows: The Official Board authorized the call for a Male Members Meeting to consider the sale of the property. On Wednesday October 13th, 1926, the Male Members Meeting authorized the Trustees to sell the building. Friday October 15th, 1926, the Trustees, meeting at 703 American Building agreed to accept the offer of Mr. Robert J. Young—of $58,000 cash.

On March 4th, 1927, a congregational meeting directed the grant to the Asbury Foundation, for use in promoting Methodism, amounting to $55,000, $5000 to be known as the Summerfield Baldwin Memorial Fund, and $50,000 as the Madison Avenue Memorial Fund, to be kept intact, the interest only to be used. It was also required that the Asbury Foundation shall annually report to the Baltimore Annual Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church the use made of these funds. Members are to signify their church preferences—and the rest and residue are to be given into the care of the Mt. Vernon Place Church or the District Superintendent till designation is made.

The last things are now upon us. The Last Communion was held March 6th, the last Quarterly Conference, March 11th, the last Prayer Meeting March 23rd, which was led by Dr. Charles W. Baldwin whose 87th birthday fell on that day. Sunday April 3rd was our last services—with sermons by Bishops Wm. F. McDowell and Francis J. McConnell.

Thus closes the story which so bravely began on July 1st, 1857, when Bishop Beverly Waugh laid the cornerstone.

The work of God will continue and the Cosmopolitan African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church will be the successor of the Madison Avenue Methodist Episcopal Church. Far better so than to be given over to business.

So ends the story of seventy years—but can it ever end, when beyond the seas, in many lands, schools, churches and missionaries greet another Madison Avenue? The Crook Legacy and missionary funds are today actively at work in China, India, the Philippines, South America—in eleven different nations.

There are ministers sent forth whose labors will not fail, among them Wm. D. Morgan, Rogers Israel, Robt. W. H. Weech, Robert Ziegler, Milton Wagner (Y. M. C. A. worker in China), Walter Sutton, Baptist Missionary in Burma.

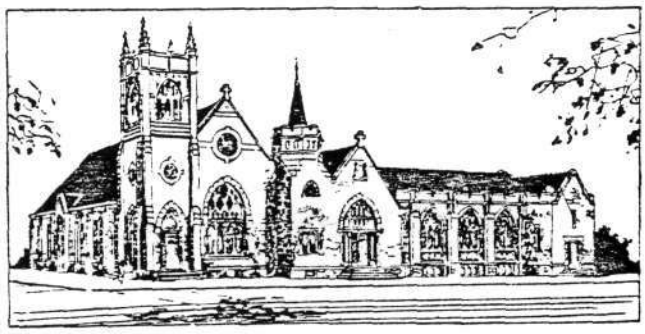
Better than all, thousands of lives praise God for the spiritual aspirations given here. Heaven itself is peopled with many who worshipped in this temple.

"Rise up O Men of God
Have done with lesser things,
Give heart and soul and mind and strength
To serve the King of Kings!"

EDW. L. WATSON.

McPHERSON'S
HABERDASHERS AND SHIRT MAKERS
SINCE 1862
ELEVEN EAST BALTIMORE STREET
SEND CONGRATULATIONS
TO THE
METHODIST SESQUI-CENTENNIAL

NORTH AVENUE
METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH
S. W. Corner of North Avenue and Caroline Street
Baltimore



REV. C. HOWARD LAMBDIN, *Minister*

A Growing Church in a Strategic Location
Membership, 1202

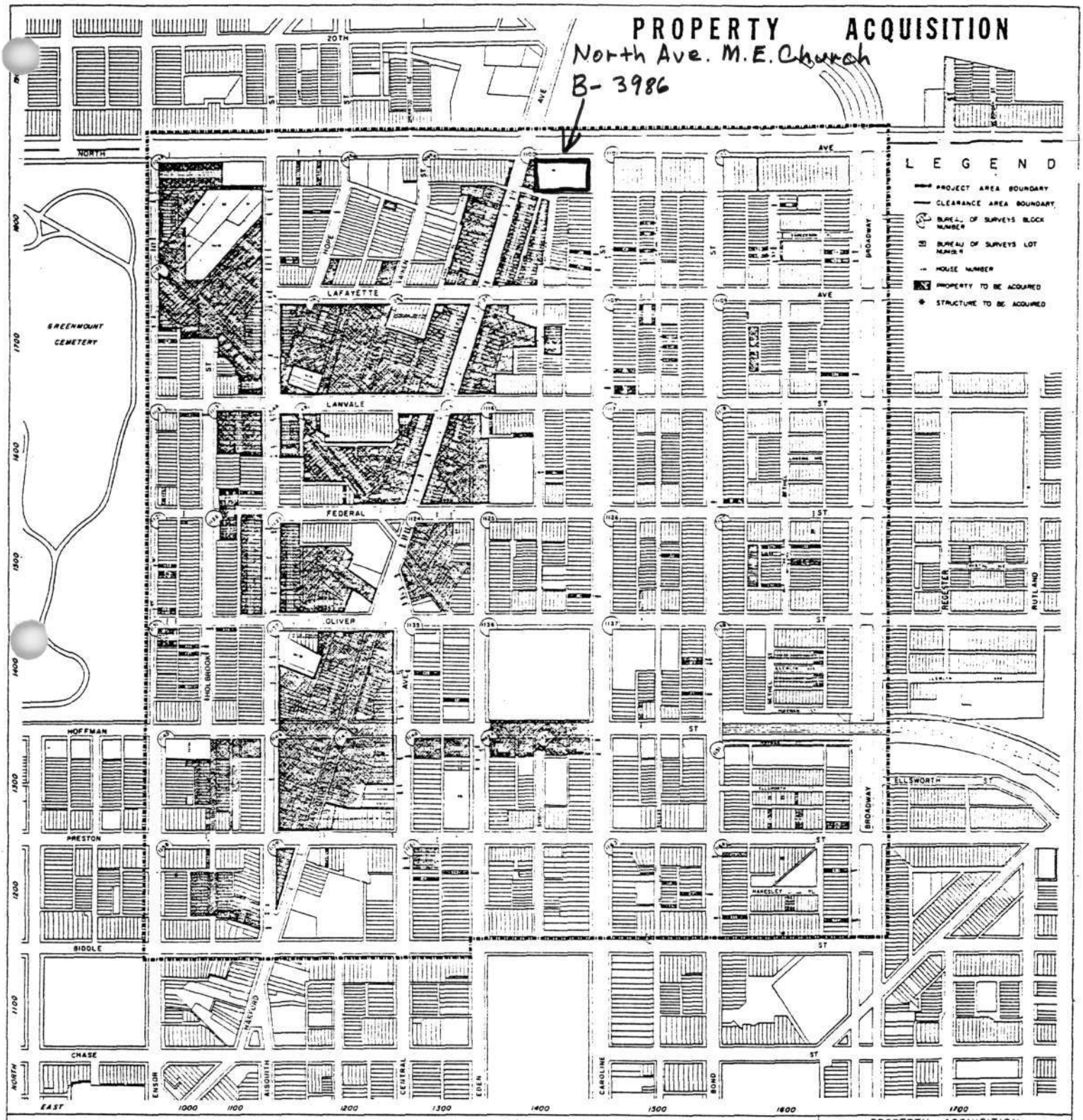
If you are not Affiliated, make This Your Church

Drawing showing proposed social hall

(foundation only was completed)

Methodist Sesqui-Centennial Oct. 10-14, 1934

B-3986



OLIVER

PLANNING DIVISION

DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

BALTIMORE MARYLAND

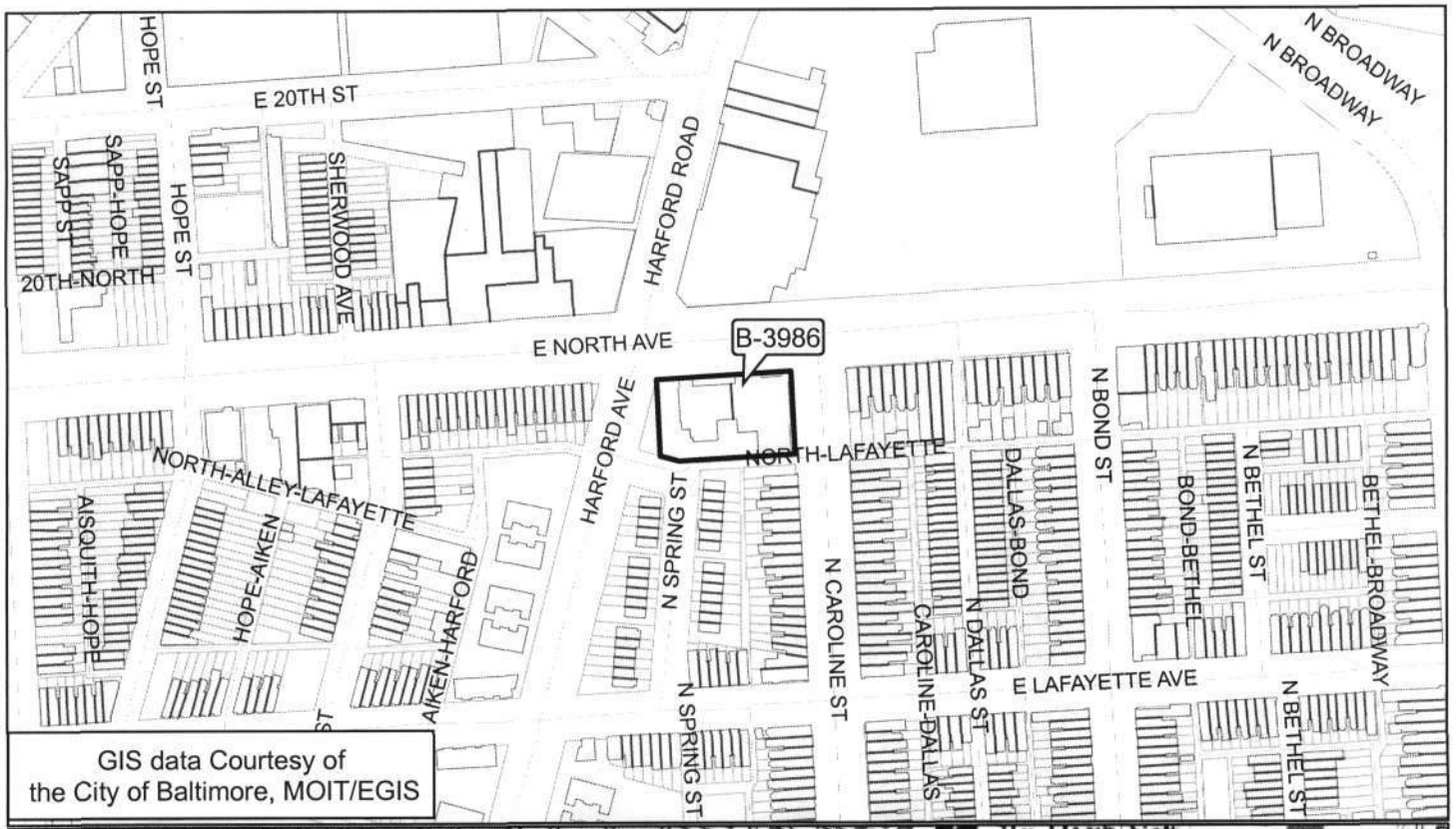
PROPERTY ACQUISITION

MD A-1

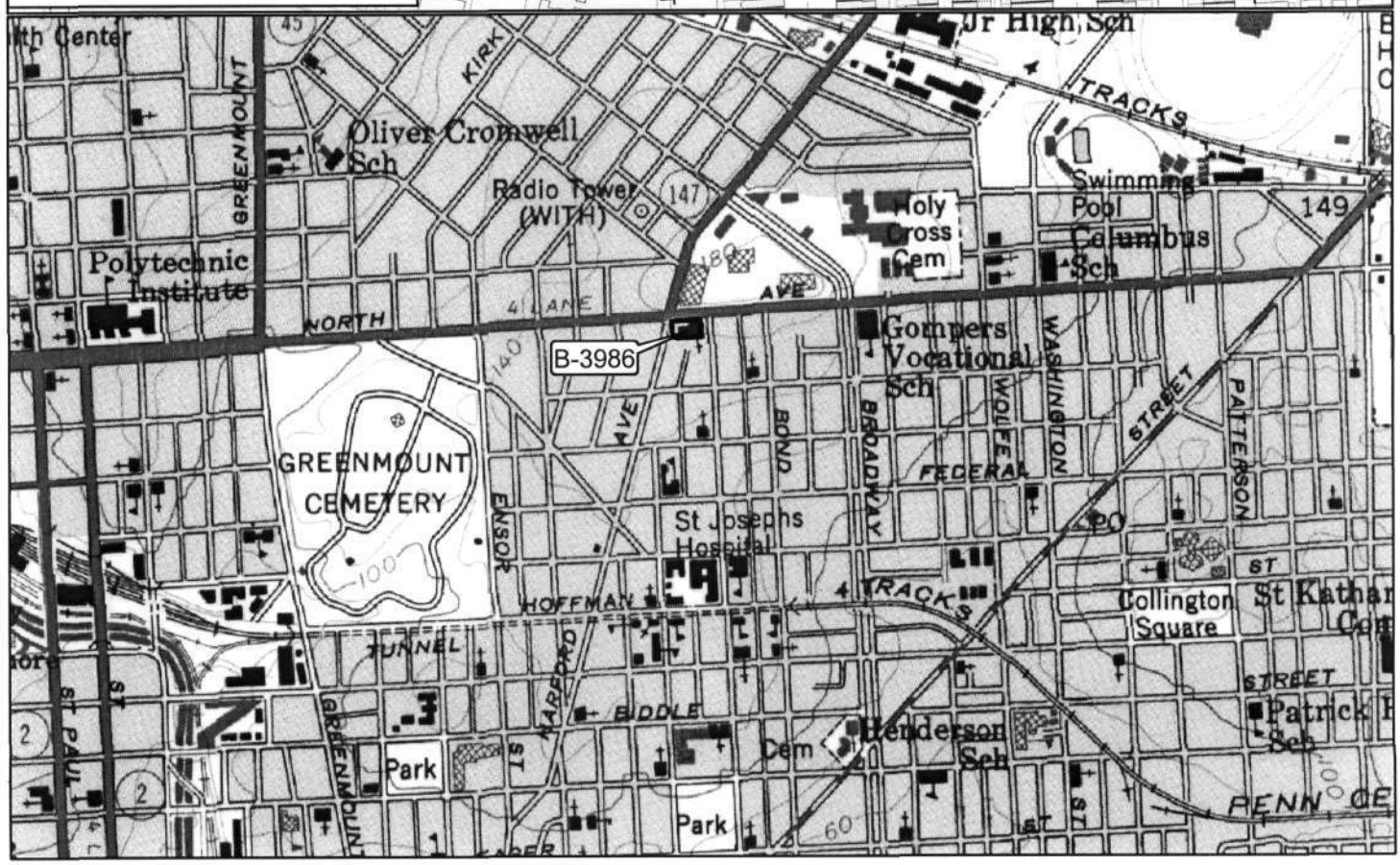
2

EXHIBIT

B-3986
North Avenue Methodist Episcopal Church
1403-1415 E. North Avenue
Block 1100 Lot 029
Baltimore City
Baltimore East Quad.



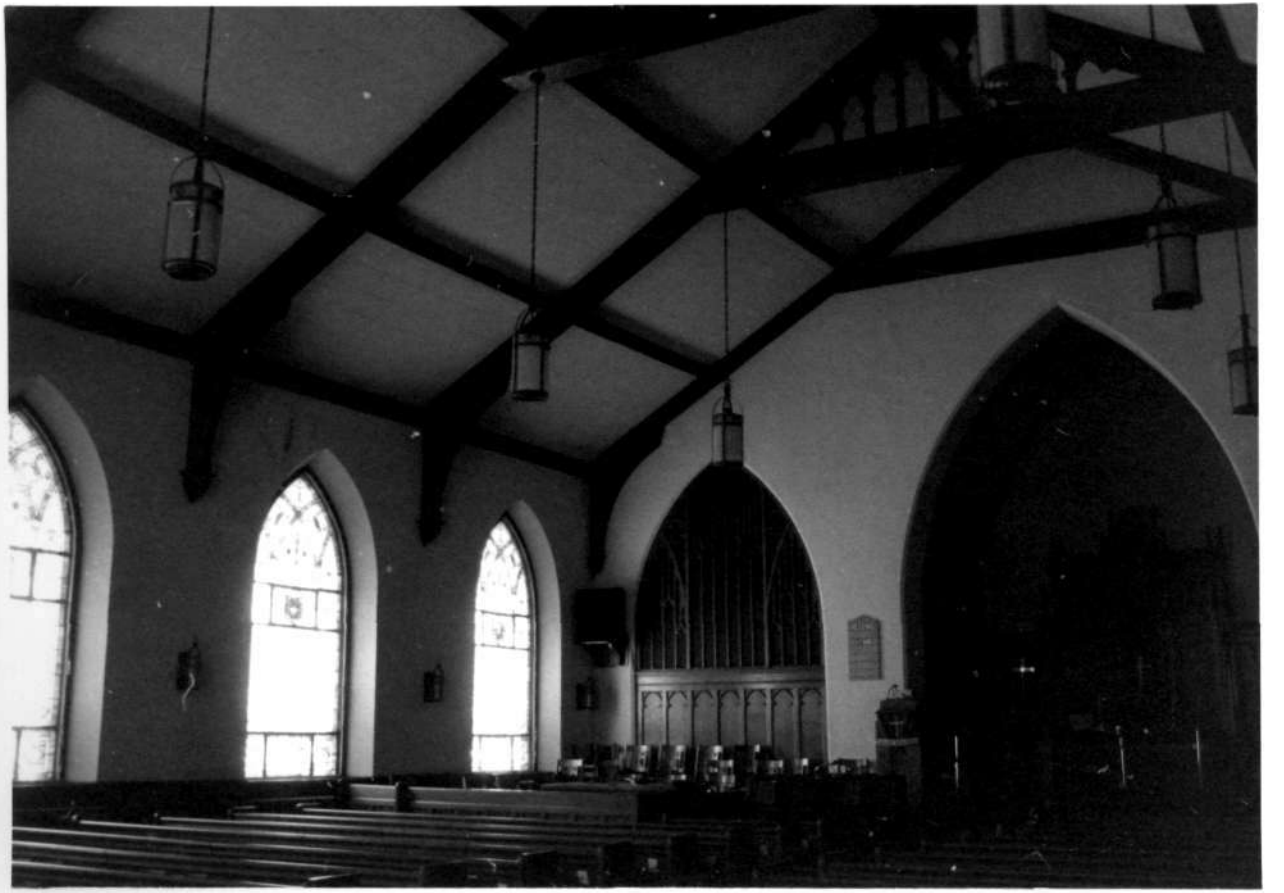
GIS data Courtesy of
the City of Baltimore, MOIT/EGIS



North Avenue M.E. Church
B-3986
1403-1415 East North Avenue
Baltimore, Maryland
Photographer: Janet Davis
July 1987
Neg. loc.: Md. SHPO
Northeast corner view
1/3

NO
LEFT TURN
HARFORD RD.

North Avenue M.E. Church
B-3986
1403-1415 East North Avenue
Baltimore, Maryland
Photographer: Janet Davis
July 1987
Neg. loc.: Md. SHPO
View from northeast
2/3



North Avenue M.E Church
B-3986
1403-1415 East North Avenue
Baltimore, Maryland
Photographer: Janet Davis
July 1987
Neg. loc.: Md. SHPO
Interior, partial view
3/3