NPS Form 10-900
(Rev. 8-86)

OMB No. 1024-0018

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms* (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

historic name MADISON AVENUE METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

other names/site number Douglas Memorial Community Church B-4432

2. Location

street & number 1327 Madison Avenue N/A ☐ not for publication

city, town Baltimore N/A ☐ vicinity

state Maryland code MD county Baltimore City code 510 zip code 21217

3. Classification

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	Number of Resources within Property		
		Contributing	Noncontributing	
[X] private	[X] building(s)	1	0	buildings
[ ] public-local	[ ] district			sites
[ ] public-State	[ ] site			structures
[ ] public-Federal	[ ] structure			objects
	[ ] object	1	0	Total

Name of related multiple property listing: N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this [X] nomination [ ] request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property [X] meets [ ] does not meet the National Register criteria. [ ] See continuation sheet.

Signature of certifying official STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER Date 7/31/92

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property [ ] meets [ ] does not meet the National Register criteria. [ ] See continuation sheet.

Signature of commenting or other official Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

[ ] entered in the National Register.
[ ] See continuation sheet.

[ ] determined eligible for the National Register. [ ] See continuation sheet.

[ ] determined not eligible for the National Register.

[ ] removed from the National Register.

[ ] other, (explain:)

Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

6. Function or Use

B-4432

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)	Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)
RELIGION/religious facility	RELIGION/religious facility

7. Description

Architectural Classification (enter categories from instructions)	Materials (enter categories from instructions)	
GREEK REVIVAL	foundation	STONE
	walls	BRICK
		STONE
	roof	METAL
	other	WOOD
		METAL

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

DESCRIPTION SUMMARY:

The Madison Avenue Methodist Episcopal Church is an 1857-1858 brick, Greek Revival, temple-fronted structure with four fluted Corinthian columns below a dentiled gable. The side exterior walls are divided into six bays with Doric pilasters. The interior has Greek Revival and Victorian decorative elements. Projecting from the rear is a lower two story Colonial Revival decorated wing which appears to date from about 1900 though the basic structure may have been erected in the preceding decades. A low two story wing of recent date projects from the south. A mid-nineteenth century iron railing decorates the entrance.

[X] See continuation sheet
For GENERAL DESCRIPTION
See Continuation Sheet No. 1

8. Statement of Significance

B-4432

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

☐ nationally ☐ statewide ☒ locally

Applicable National Register Criteria ☐ A ☐ B ☒ C ☐ D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) ☒ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)	Period of Significance	Significant Dates
ARCHITECTURE	1857-1900	1857-1900

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Significant Person

N/A

Architect/Builder

Architect-Thomas Balbirnie

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

SIGNIFICANCE SUMMARY:

The Madison Avenue Methodist Episcopal Church is important for its architectural character. Built in 1857-1858, the church is one of a small number of Greek Revival temple-front public buildings standing in Baltimore. This group includes the Lloyd Street Synagogue and Mc Kim Free School (both of which are listed in the National Register). A number of small churches of this temple type were built in Maryland, some of masonry and some of wood construction. They were constructed generally around the Baltimore area. Stone Chapel in Baltimore County is a good example. These all date from about the same period as Madison Avenue Methodist Episcopal Church. Enhancing the architectural significance is the Colonial Revival interior of the back wing added about 1900. It is an elaborate public space which remains intact. Few public spaces of this sort in Baltimore have remained unaltered.

☒ See continuation sheet No. 3

For HISTORIC CONTEXT and MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN data.

9. Major Bibliographical References

B-4432

Historical Review - Madison Avenue Methodist Episcopal Church - 1884--D.H. Carroll Publisher, Baltimore, 1884.

Afro-American - Newspaper - various dates

Baltimore News Post - Newspaper - various dates

Baltimore American - Pictorial Review - May 12, 1956

Baltimore Sun - Newspaper - various dates

Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties. Maryland Historical Trust, Crownsville, MD.

☐ See continuation sheet

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- ☐ preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- ☐ previously listed in the National Register
- ☐ previously determined eligible by the National Register
- ☐ designated a National Historic Landmark
- ☐ recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
- ☐ recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

Primary location of additional data:

- ☐ State historic preservation office
- ☐ Other State agency
- ☐ Federal agency
- ☐ Local government
- ☐ University
- ☐ Other

Specify repository: _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of property: Less than 1 acre

USGS Quad: Baltimore ~~East~~ West

UTM References

	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
A	18	859660	4351550	B			
C				D			

☐ See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

The property is rectangular in shape and measures 130' along Lafayette Avenue and 103'6" along Madison Avenue.

☐ See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

Nominated property consists only of the city lot upon which the church stands.

☐ See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

name/title: William Meyers II, President

organization: Meyers & Affiliates, Inc. date: September 12, 1991

street & number: 100 West Road, Suite 300 telephone: (410) 832-7003

city or town: Baltimore state: Maryland zip code: 21204

★U.S.GPO:1988-0-223-918

GENERAL DESCRIPTION:

This example of Greek Revival architecture is reportedly the oldest public building in the Bolton Hill area. It's cornerstone was laid on July 1, 1857, by the Reverend Bishop Waugh. Two stories high and typical of many Methodist Churches, the upper level is characterized by easily identified Greek Revival elements. A typical portico with four corinthian columns at the entrance supports a heavy, unadorned, pedimented gable. The columns, which are in deplorable condition, sit on cast iron bases and are composed of brick each with a failing fluted cement Stucco finish from the base to their corinthian sandstone capitals. These in turn support a painted unadorned wood frieze except for a "dog tooth" wood dentil molding. Brick pilasters frame the entrances and the perimeter walls and window openings. Sandstone sills and bracketed cornices trim the doorways and window openings on both levels as well as a slightly lower dependency at the rear which serves as a church Social Hall and reception area. The exterior was painted in 1877 though the paint was reported as removed by sandblasting in 1944. There is also some evidence that there were windows other than the present painted glazing though the existing windows have a most interesting and unusual opalescent character.

Similar corinthian columns and Greek Revival style is repeated on the interior of the chancel under upper level side and rear balconies and at the altar. There is a polychrome ceiling with expressed beams which run both transversely and longitudinally, also highly decorated. From the intervening panels are suspended multi-armed brass lighting fixtures. There are several gas fixtures still existing which were typical of that era in Baltimore when illuminating gas was utilized, though the present sanctuary lights appear to be early electric fixtures.

In the gallery is an organ reportedly built and installed by E&G Hook in 1866 at a cost of $4,400. Many of the original pipes are still intact. The pews are replacements of the originals and have a Georgian character with painted ends. The floor of the narthex is surfaced with multi-colored tiles in a geometric pattern. Sanctuary doors are massive in size with rails, styles and panels all with faux graining. Most are in need of substantial repair as are the painted tin roof, the metal gutters and downspouts, much of the wood entablature trim and cornices and many of the sandstone trim elements.

See Continuation Sheet No. 2

The undercroft, originally called the lecture room, is primarily used for Sunday School and other community outreach programs. Church offices and meeting rooms are also on this level. It was designed to accommodate 600 persons on this first floor and one thousand in the lecture room.

An addition at the rear of the main structure was built possibly as early as the 1870's, although interior stylistic features are circa 1900. The exterior sides have leaded glass windows, projecting bays, ceramic tile facing on an Empire Style mantle and over mantle, crystal chandeliers and ornate bracketed ceiling beams. It is thought that virtually all these elements are original, though recently painted with non-traditional colors. The plaster walls, ceilings, and some moldings have been damaged as a result of roof and wall leaks and need repair as quickly as possible to avoid further substantial deterioration.

Essentially, the structure fills the site. At the Madison Street facade there exists brick walls and iron railings surrounding granite stairs which lead to the upper level entrance. Ornamental iron light fixtures flank the columned portico. The masonry walls are 1954 replacements of walls which were in the same location and unfortunately, are not of similar brick in color or texture. Openings in those walls have infills of concrete block screen material in the manner of Edward Durrell Stone and detract from the original character. In addition, wire screening has been used to attempt to keep birds from roosting on the corinthian column capitals which have become black. Further, the stucco fluting used over the brick portico columns is broken from it's bond with the brick, and is literally falling off. The present pastor, Reverend Bascom explained that a "wash" was placed over the existing fluting "a number of years ago." It appears to be of portland cement and possibly created a chemical reaction with what probably was an original stucco finish. It also appears, from the samples taken, that the finish was once possibly painted to resemble red sandstone. Additional analysis is warranted prior to badly needed stabilization and repair. Roof repairs are required at the earliest possible date.

HISTORIC CONTEXT:

MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN DATA

Geographic Organization: Piedmont

Chronological/Developmental Period(s):

Agricultural/Industrial Transition A.D. 1815-1870
Industrial/Urban Dominance A.D. 1870-1930

Prehistoric/Historic Period Theme(s):

Architecture/Landscape Architecture/Community Planning
Religion

Resource Type:

Category: Building

Historic Environment: Urban

Historic Function(s) or Use(s):

RELIGION/religious facility

Known Design Source: Architect-Thomas Balbirnie

See Continuation Sheet No. 4

HISTORIC CONTEXT:

The Madison Avenue Methodist Episcopal Church is reported to be the oldest public building in the Bolton Hill area. That area is now an Historic District, though this church is immediately outside the boundary of that district. It is almost a duplicate of one of the early significant Methodist churches in this country and in Baltimore, where in 1770 Methodism in the U.S. had it's roots. That church was the Charles Street Methodist Church built in 1843, at the northeast corner of Charles and Fayette streets. That resource was demolished in 1891 when Fayette Street was widened.

The land for the Madison Avenue Methodist Episcopal Church was donated by Mr. Henry Tiffany who owned "Rose Hill." His was one of the early Baltimore families for whom nearby Tiffany Street was named. It was the first Methodist church with free seating. One of Tiffany's conditions was that this church "be equal in value and architecture to the Charles Street edifice." The original lot was 80' on Madison by 130' between Townsend Street, later to be named Lafayette Avenue, and Morris Alley, now Morris Street. The building dimensions were "70' x 105', 20' of the length being occupied by the portico."

Owned, cared for, and later controlled by the City Station of the Baltimore Conference of Methodism, the church was conveyed to the congregation and incorporated as the Madison Avenue Station on February 20, 1865. The parsonage was erected in 1869 on an adjoining lot purchased for $2,083.33. In 1877 the church was renovated and painted, and in 1883 the interior was "refitted."

Methodism inaugurated the first Sabbath School in England, the first in America and the first in Baltimore with the start of the "Asbury Sunday-School Society" in 1816. This church started it's own Sunday School in June 1858.

Madison Avenue Methodist Episcopal Church continued until 1927 when, owing to demographic changes, many of it's constituents had moved further out to new suburban areas. As happened with many other churches in the area, this resource was purchased by a black congregation and in 1943 was named Douglas Memorial Community Church after it's first pastor, Reverend Frederick Douglas.

See Continuation Sheet No. 5

Renovations were made in 1954, including changing of the sanctuary windows and painting of the sanctuary ceiling, which was done by a German artist by the name of Wells.

Many early and prominent Baltimore families were members of the Methodist Episcopal Church during it's 70 year existence. Familiar old Maryland and Baltimore names such as Hopkins, Tilghman, Baldwin, Black, Warfield, Slagle, Parker, Hiss, Merryman, and Rogers were all members of this early congregation.

Likewise, following purchase by the Cosmopolitan Church in 1927, many influential and prominent black families have been and continue to be members of what is now Douglas Memorial Community Church including the present Mayor of Baltimore, the Honorable Kurt L. Schmoke, and his family. Some of those significant members were George W.S. McMechen and family (he was the third Black to graduate from Yale Law School); Dr. O.B. Jones, physician; Alma Kelly, Educator; Samuel T. Dorsey, founder; John H. Murphy, Jr., founder of the Afro-American Newspaper; Beatrice Hall, educator who devoted her life to working with the YWCA; Wilbur H. Waters, Clergyman; Dr. W. Rutherford Boykin, physician; Estelle Tilghman, nurse; Dr. Frances Cardozo, physician; Henry G. Parks, founder of the Parks Sausage Co. and former City Council member; William V. Lockwood, educator (for whom the downtown campus of the Community College of Baltimore is named); and Clayton T. James, prominent Baltimore businessman.

B-4432

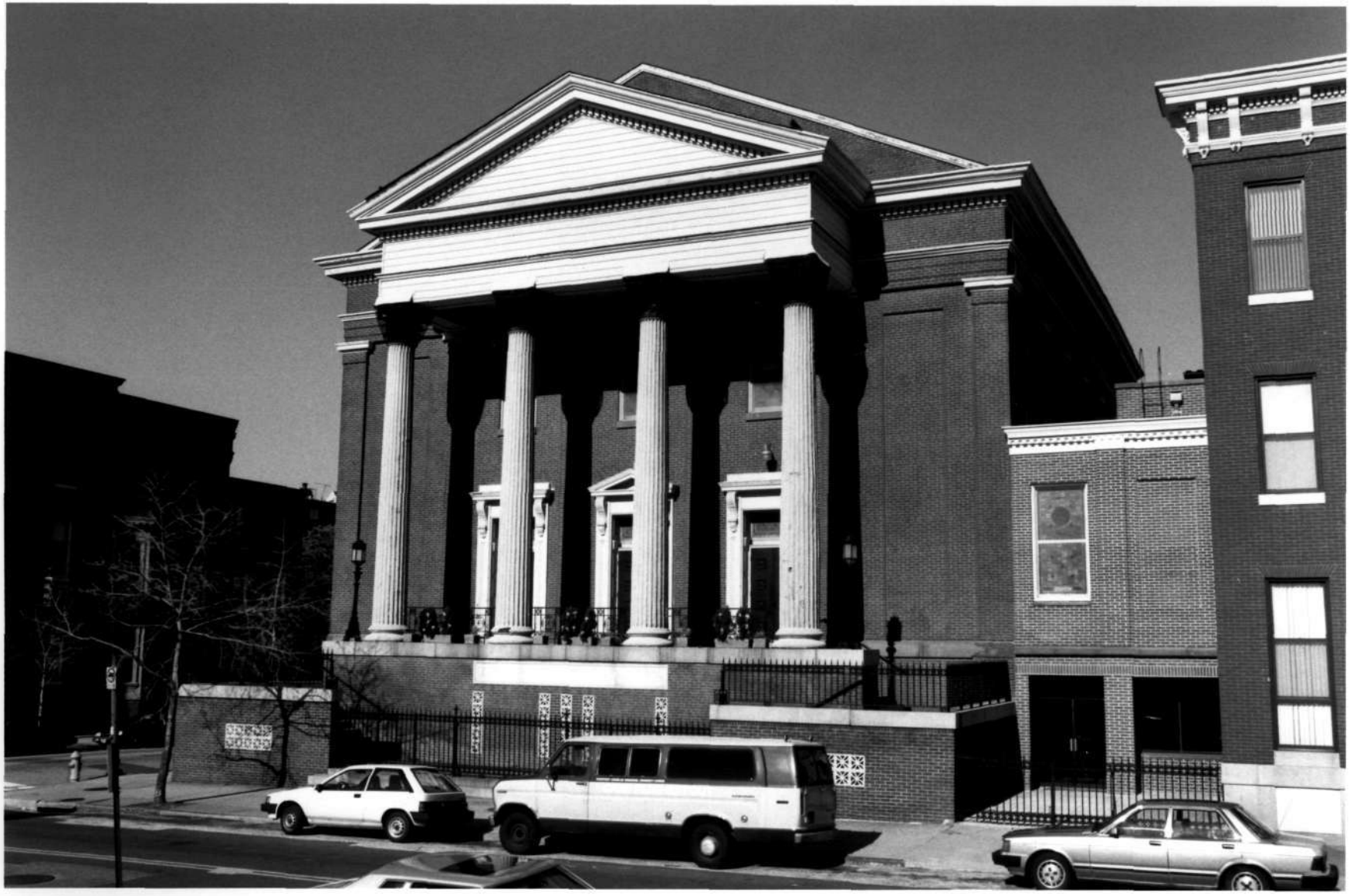
Madison Ave. Methodist Episcopal Church

Baltimore Maryland

18/859660/ 4351550

17'30"

Baltimore East quad



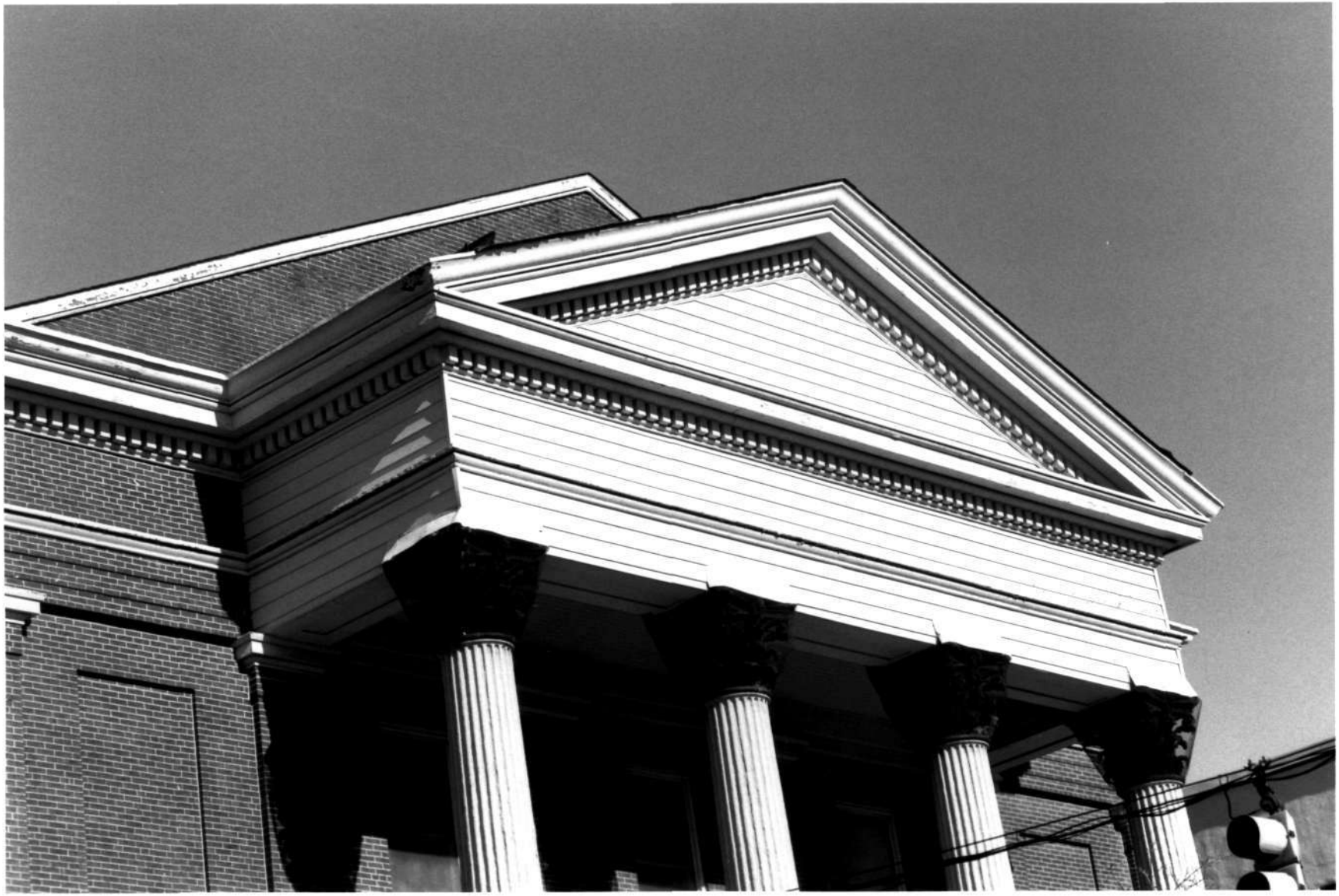
B-4432

Madison Ave M.E. Church
Baltimore, Md.

Ron Haisfield 3/91
1267 Battery Ave
Baltimore Md. 21230

South west elevation
(Madison Street)

1/33



Madison Ave M.E. Church
Baltimore, Md

B-4432

Ron Hairfield 3/91
1267 Battery Ave
Baltimore, Md. 21230

Southwest elevation of portico pediment and column capitals.

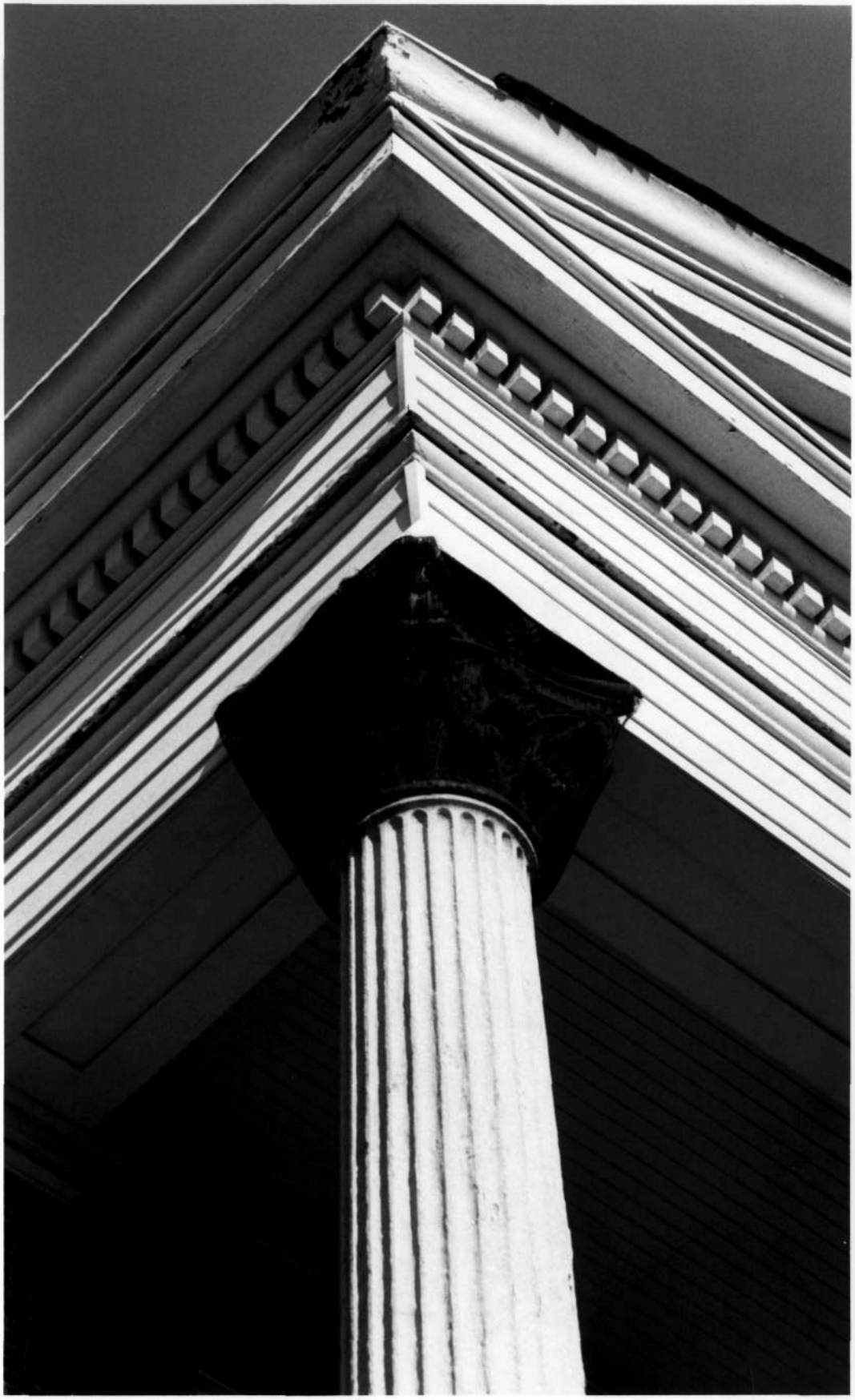
2/33

Madison Ave. M.E. Church
Baltimore, Md.

B-4432

Ron Haisfield 3/91
1267 Battery Ave.
Baltimore, Md. 21230

Cornice + transom over
center entrance doors
under Portico (S.W. elevation)
3/33



B-4432

Madison Ave. M.E. Church
Baltimore, Md.

Ron Haisfield 3/91
1267 Battery Ave.
Baltimore, Md. 21230

Westernmost corner portico
column capital and pediment
detailing

4/33

Madison Ave. M.E. Church
Baltimore, MD

B-4432

Ron Haisfield 3/91
1267 Battery Ave
Baltimore, MD. 21230

looking northwest
under portico

5/33

B-4432

Madison Ave. M.E. Church
Baltimore, Md

Ron Haisfield 3/91
1267 Battery Ave
Baltimore, Md 21230

Westernmost portico column looking up - showing severe deterioration of stucco fluting.

6/33

Madison Ave. M.E. Church
Baltimore, MD.

B-4432

Ron Haisfield 3/91
1267 Battery Ave
Baltimore, MD 21230

Cast & wrought iron
lamp post and part
Southernmost column
of portico.

7/33

B-4432

Madison Ave. M.E. Church
Baltimore, MD.

Ron Haisfield 3/91
1267 Battery Ave
Baltimore, MD. 21230

Southern most portico
column base showing fluting
stucco deterioration.

8/33

Madison Ave. M. E. Church
Baltimore, Md.

B-4432

Ron Hairsfield 3/91
1267 Battery Ave
Baltimore, Md 21230

Cast iron portico column base and wrought iron railing looking south from under portico.

9/33

Madison Ave. M.E. Church
Baltimore, Md.

B-4432

Ron Hairfield 3/91
1267 Battery Ave
Baltimore, Md 21230

View of Southeast and
Northeast sides
(Lafayette Ave on left and
Madison Avenue on right)

10/33

Madison Ave. M.E. Church
Baltimore, MD.

B-4432

Ron Hausfield 3/91
1267 Battery Ave
Baltimore, MD. 21230

N.W. Exterior Elevation

11/33

Madison Ave. M.E. Church
Baltimore, Md.

B-4432

Ron Haisfield 3/91
1267 Battery Ave
Baltimore, Md. 21230

Northwest corner and
entrance below Social
Hall

12/33

Madison Ave. M.E. Church
Baltimore, Md.

B-4432

Ron Haisfield 3/91
1267 Battery Ave.
Baltimore, Md. 21230

Cornice of red sandstone
over N.W. Corner entry

13/33

Madison Ave. M.E. Church
Baltimore, Md.

B-4432

Ron Hausfield 3/91
1267 Battery Ave
Baltimore, Md. 21230

Rear Wall of Social Hall
looking Southwest

14/33

Madison Ave. M.E. Church
Baltimore, Md.

B-4432

Ron Harsfield 3/91
1267 Battery Ave
Baltimore, Md. 21230

Rear Wall of Social Hall
looking Northwest

15/33

B-4432

Madison Ave. M.E. Church
Baltimore, MD

Ron Hausfield 3/91
1267 Battery Ave
Baltimore, MD. 21230

South east elevation
(partial)

16/33

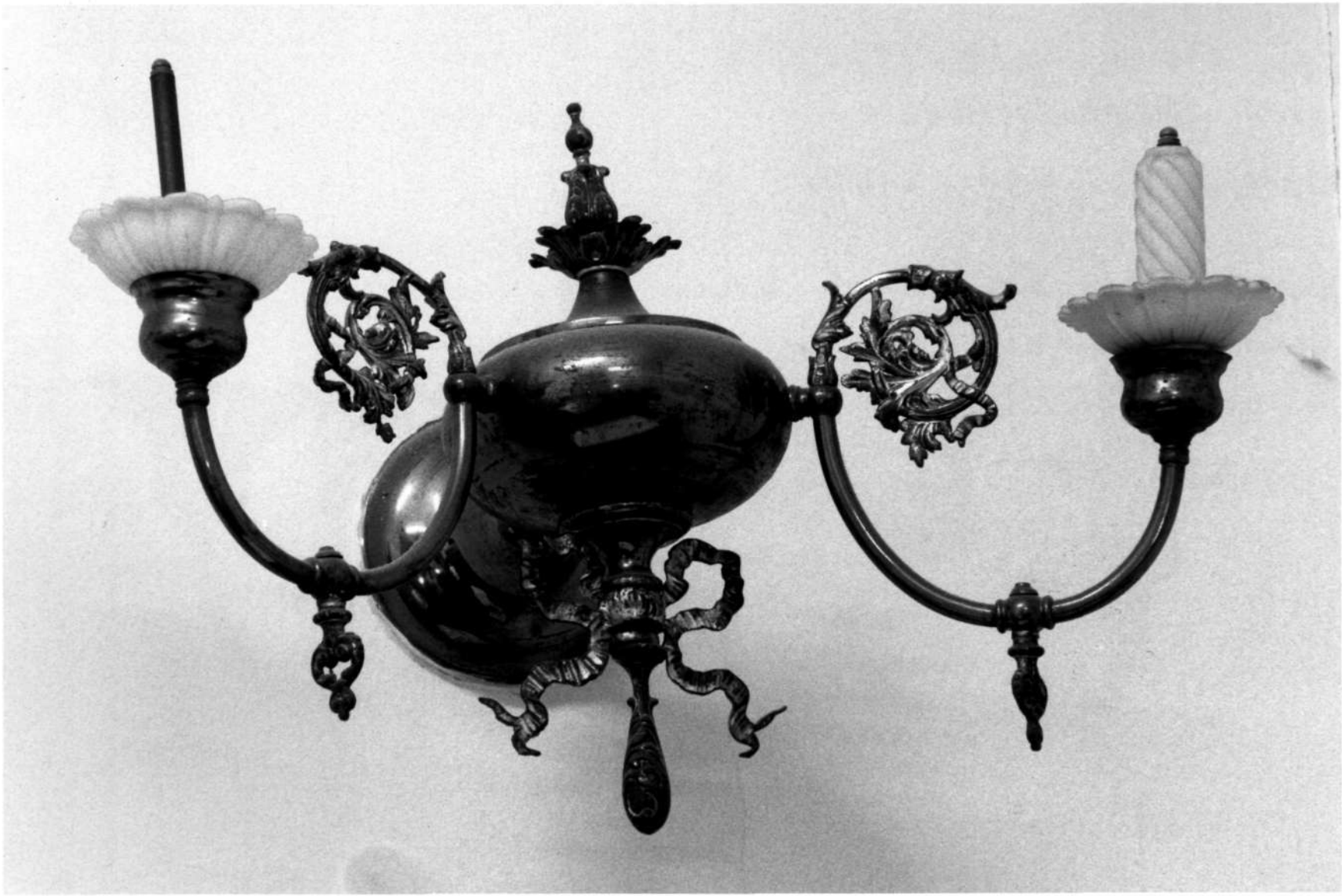
Madison Ave. M.E. Church
Baltimore, Md.

B-4432

Ron Hairfield 3/91
1267 Battery Ave
Baltimore, Md. 21230

Undercroft of Church
looking Northeast

17/33



B-4432

Madison Ave. M.E. Church
Baltimore, MD.

Ron Haisfield 3/91
1267 Battery Ave
Baltimore, Md 21230

Converted original brass
gas sconce under
Social Hall

18/33

B-4432

Madison Ave. M.E. Church
Baltimore, Md

Ron Hairfield 3/91
1267 Battery Ave
Baltimore, Md. 21230

View looking West at
lower level entry lobby

19/33

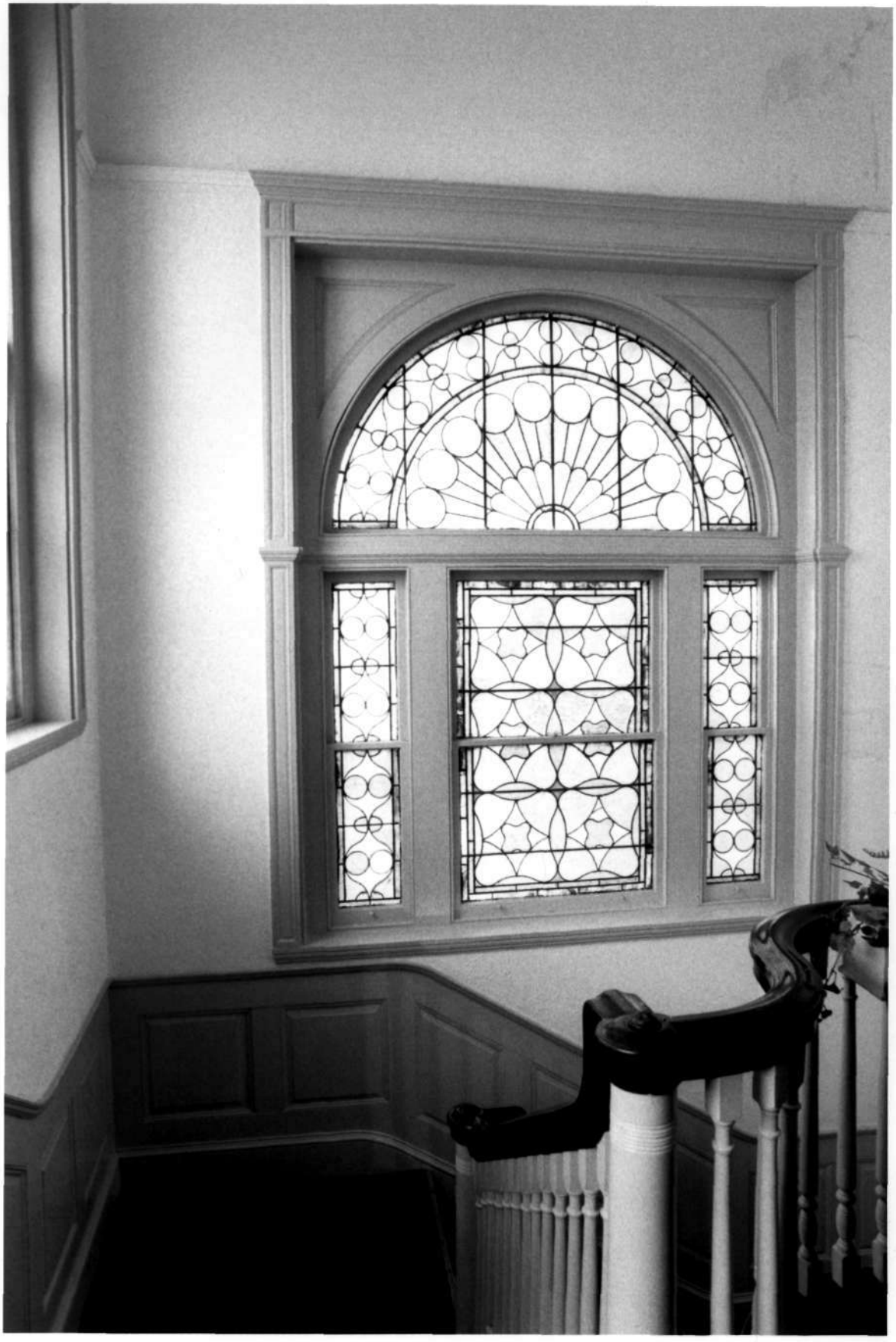
Madison Ave. M.E. Church
Baltimore, Md.

B-4432

Ron Hairfield 3/91
1267 Battery Ave
Baltimore, Md. 21230

Converted wrought iron gas chandelier on lower level at entry lobby.

20/33



Madison Ave. M. E. Church
Baltimore, Md.

B-4432

Ron Haisfield 3/91
1267 Battery Ave
Baltimore, Md, 21230

leaded glass window on intermediate landing at North corner

21/33

Madison Ave M.E. Church
Baltimore, Md.

B-4432

Ron Haisfield 3/91
1267 Battery Ave
Baltimore, Md. 21230

leaded glass windows on
landing to Social Hall-
2nd level - North corner

22/33

Madison Ave. M.E. Church
Baltimore, Md.

B-4432

Ron Haisfield 3/91
1267 Battery Ave
Baltimore, Md. 21230

Social Hall looking north

23/33

Madison Ave. M.E. Church
Baltimore, Md.

B-4432

Ron Haisfield 3/91
1267 Battery Ave
Baltimore, Md. 21230

Social Hall Looking East

24/33

Madison Ave. M.E. Church
Baltimore, Md.

B-4432

Ron Haisfield 3/91
1267 Battery Ave
Baltimore, Md. 21230

Fireplace, mantel and
over mantel - Southwest
wall of Social Hall.

25/33

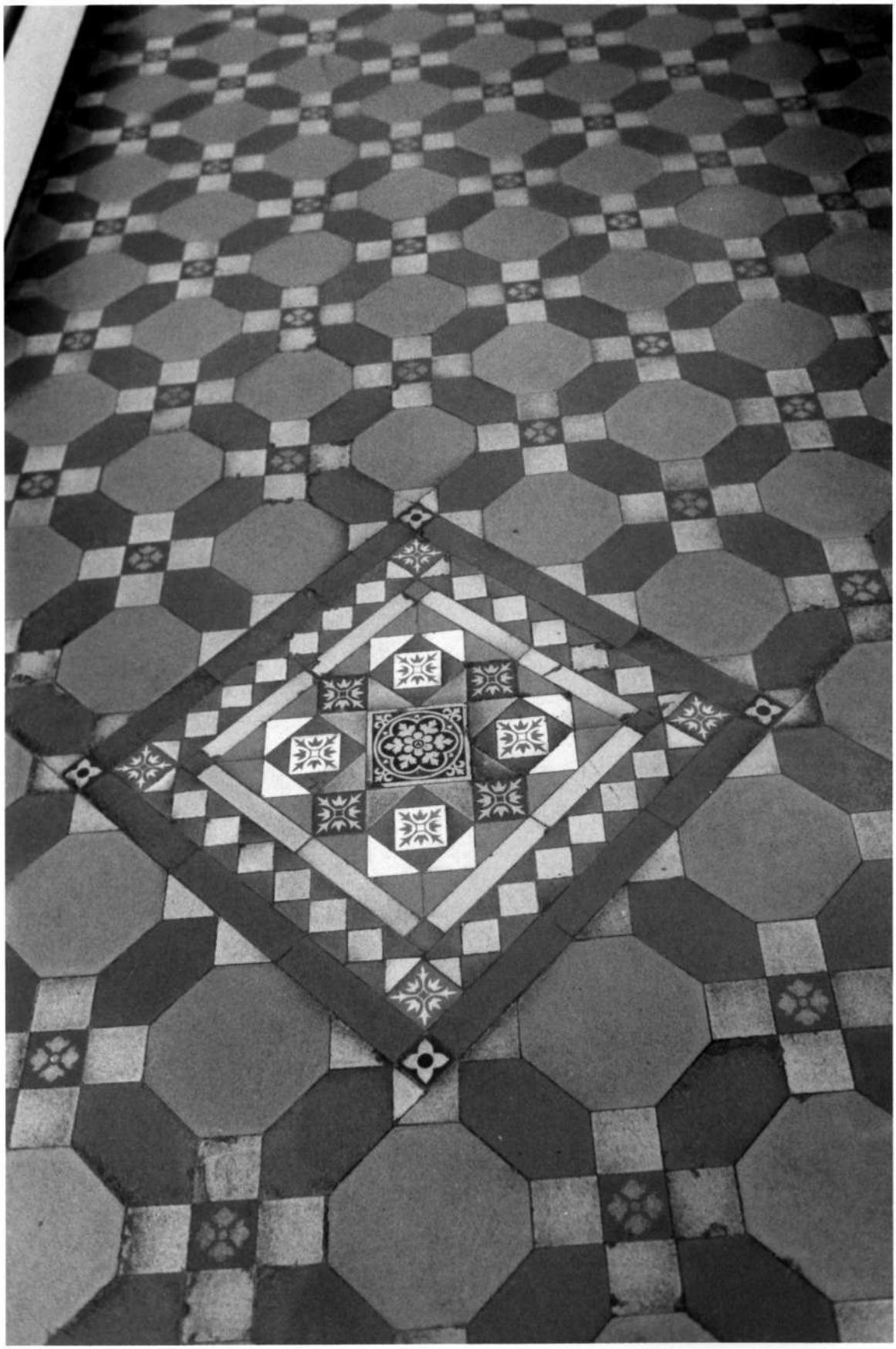
Madison Ave. M.E. Church
Baltimore, Md

B-4432

Ron Harsfield 3/91
1267 Battery Ave
Baltimore, Md. 21230

Narthex looking northwest
from landing on stair to
balcony.

26/33



B-4432

Madison Ave. M.E. Church
Baltimore, Md.

Ron Haisfield 3/91
1267 Battery Ave
Baltimore, Md. 21230

Ceramic tile Narthex
floor - (multi-colored)

27/33

Madison Ave. M.E. Church
Baltimore, Md.

B-4432

Ron Haisfield 3/91
1267 Battery Ave
Baltimore, Md. 21230

Sanctuary and altar looking northeast down center aisle

28/33

IHS

B-4432

Madison Ave. M.E. Church
Baltimore, MD.

Ron Haisfield 3/91
1267 Battery Ave.
Baltimore, MD. 21230

Elevation of Altar
N.E. end of Sanctuary

29/33

Madison Ave. M.E. Church
Baltimore, Md.

Ron Haisfield 3/91
1267 Battery Avenue
Baltimore, MD. 21230

View of Sanctuary Interior
Looking North from
Balcony

30/33

B-4432

ALL TO THE GLORY OF GOD

Madison Ave. M.E. Church
Baltimore, MD.

B-4432

Ron Hausfield 3/91
1267 Battery Ave.
Baltimore, MD. 21230

View of Sanctuary Interior
looking Southwest at
rear elevation

31/33

Madison Ave. M.E. Church
Baltimore, Md.

B-4432

Ron Haisfield 3/91
1267 Battery Ave.
Baltimore, Md, 21230

Typical Sanctuary Ceiling
painted detail.

32/33

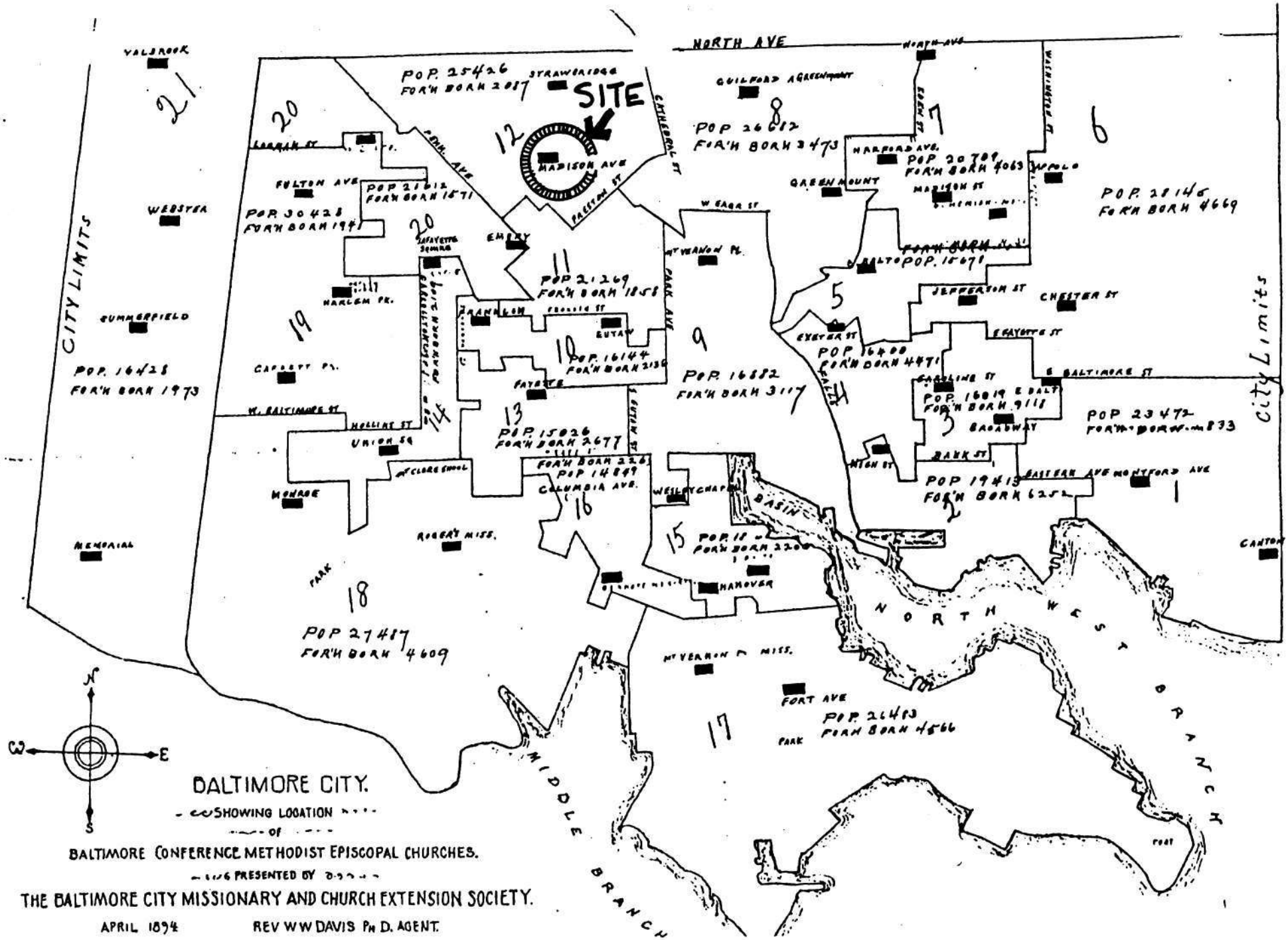
Madison Ave M.E. Church
Baltimore, Md.

B-4432

Ron Haisfield 3/91
1267 Battery Ave
Baltimore, Md. 21230

Typical Sanctuary Ceiling
light fixture and
decoration

33/33



BALTIMORE CITY.

SHOWING LOCATION OF

BALTIMORE CONFERENCE METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCHES.

PRESENTED BY

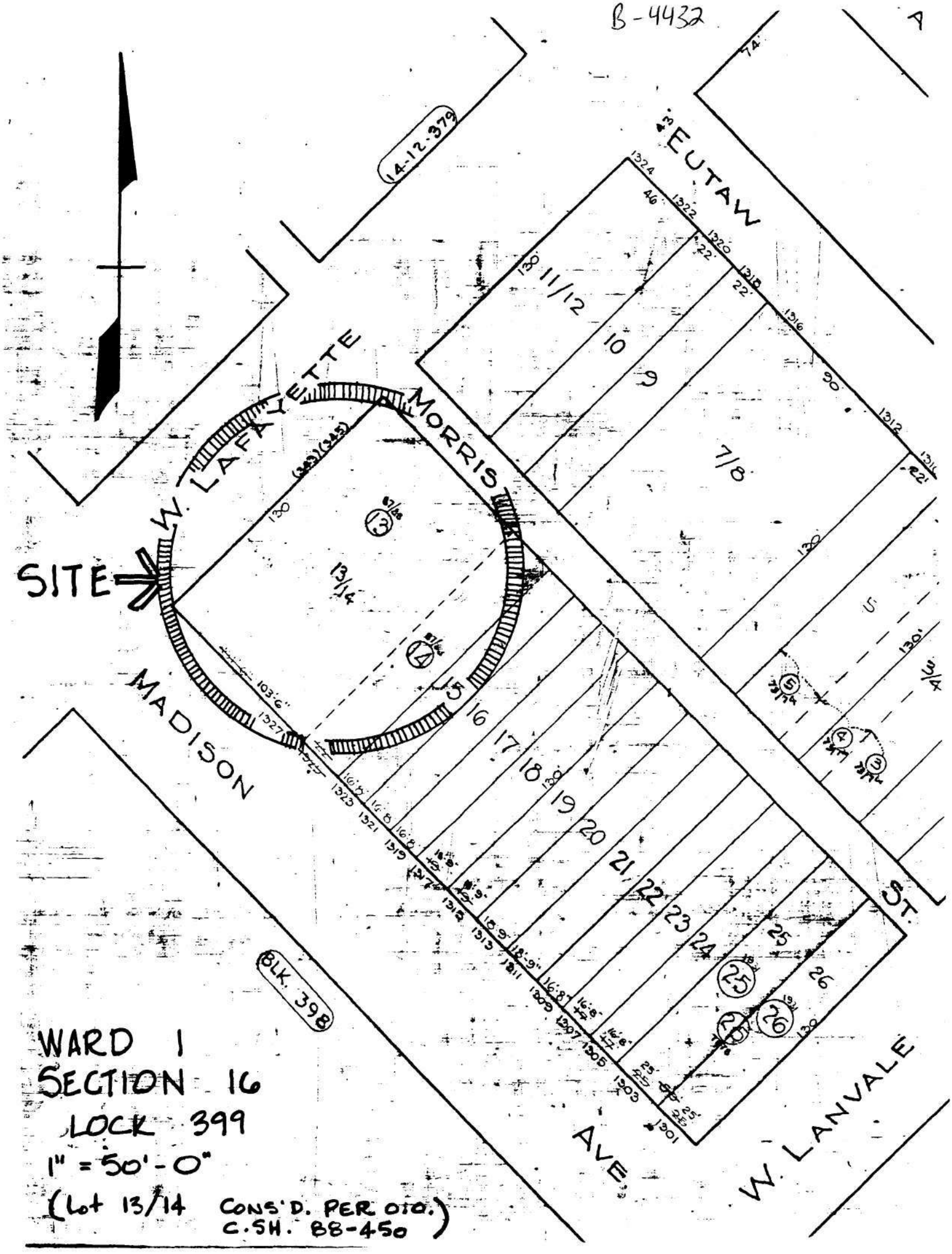
THE BALTIMORE CITY MISSIONARY AND CHURCH EXTENSION SOCIETY.

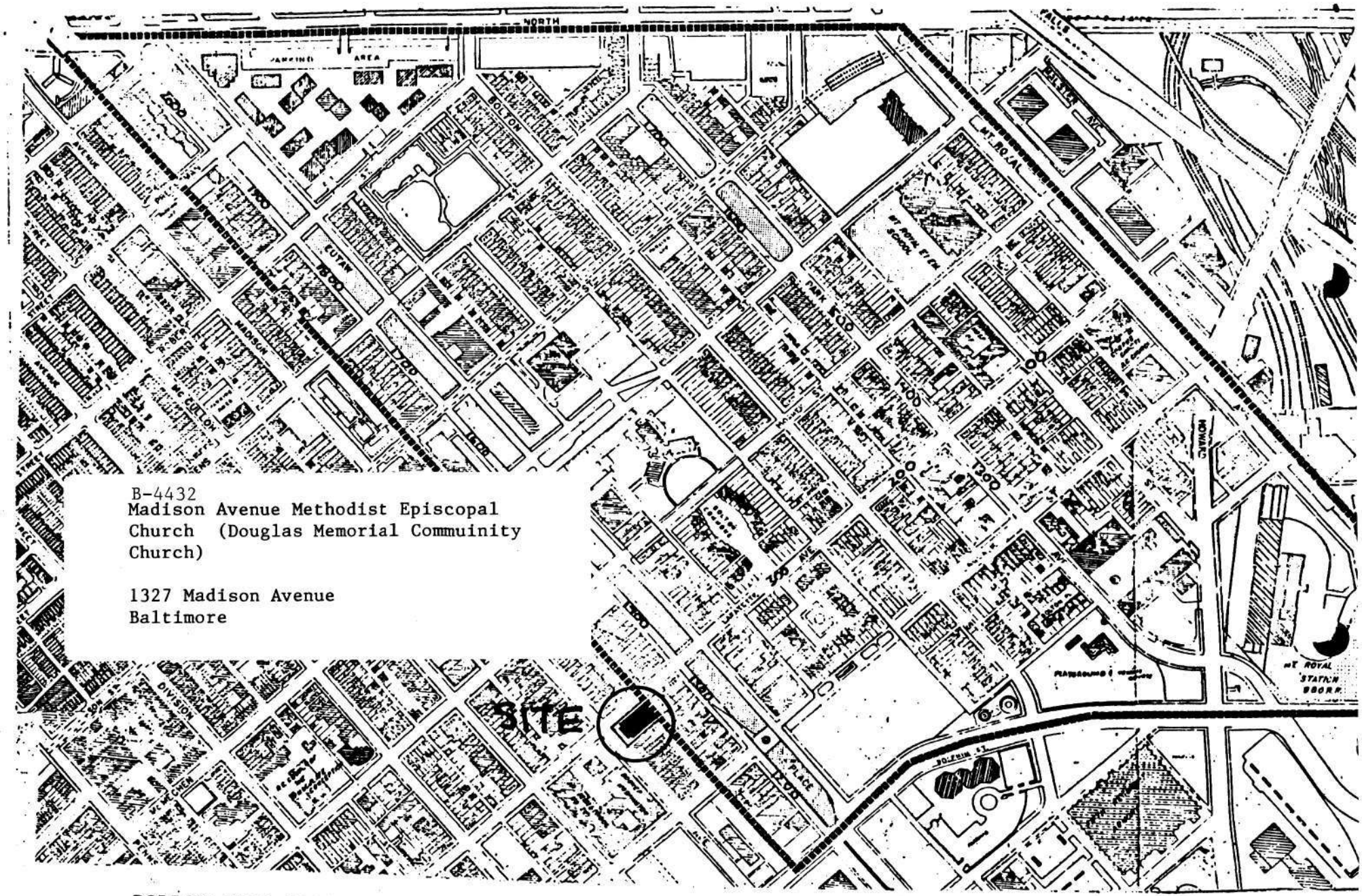
APRIL 1894 REV W W DAVIS PH D. AGENT.

B-4432

B-4432

A


14-12-379
EUTAW
W. LAFAYETTE
MORRIS
MADISON
SITE
ST.
AVE.
W. LANVALE
BLK. 398
11/12
10
9
7/8
13/14
5
6
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
WARD 1
SECTION 16
LOCK 399
1" = 50'-0"
(Lot 13/14 CONS'D. PER OTO.
C.SH. 88-450)



B-4432
Madison Avenue Methodist Episcopal Church (Douglas Memorial Commuinity Church)

1327 Madison Avenue
Baltimore

BOLTON HILL BALTIMORE CITY HISTORIC DISTRICT 6/15/67
BOLTON HILL NATIONAL REGISTER HISTORIC DISTRICT 9/17/71