Form No. 10-300 (Rev. 10-74)

B-2658

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED
DATE ENTERED

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC
SAINT PETER THE APOSTLE CHURCH & SUPPORTING BUILDINGS

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER
11 & 13 South Poppleton Street & 848 Hollins Street
__NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN
Baltimore
__ VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT
Third

STATE
Maryland

CODE
24

COUNTY
Baltimore City

CODE
510

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE	
__DISTRICT	__PUBLIC	X OCCUPIED	__AGRICULTURE	__MUSEUM
X BUILDING(S)	X PRIVATE	__UNOCCUPIED	__COMMERCIAL	__PARK
__STRUCTURE	__BOTH	__WORK IN PROGRESS	X EDUCATIONAL	__PRIVATE RESIDENCE
__SITE	**PUBLIC ACQUISITION**	**ACCESSIBLE**	__ENTERTAINMENT	X RELIGIOUS
__OBJECT	__IN PROCESS	__YES: RESTRICTED	__GOVERNMENT	__SCIENTIFIC
	__BEING CONSIDERED	X YES: UNRESTRICTED	__INDUSTRIAL	__TRANSPORTATION
		__NO	__MILITARY	X OTHER Community activities

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME
Archdiocese of Baltimore

STREET & NUMBER
320 Cathedral Street

CITY, TOWN
Baltimore
__ VICINITY OF

STATE
Maryland 21202

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.
Baltimore City Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER
St. Paul & Fayette Streets

CITY, TOWN
Baltimore

STATE
Maryland 21201

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE
Building Survey -- Area #3

DATE
August 5, 1965

__FEDERAL __STATE __COUNTY X LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS
Commission for Historical & Architectural Preservation

CITY, TOWN
City Hall, Baltimore

STATE
Maryland 21202

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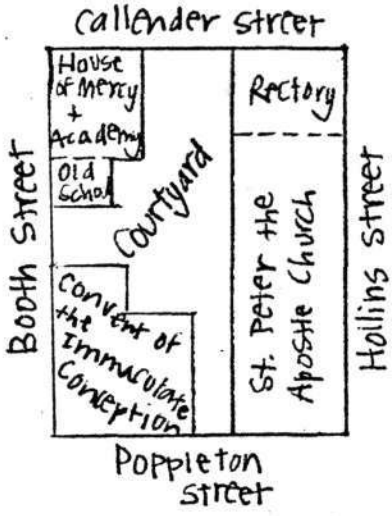
7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
__EXCELLENT	__DETERIORATED	X UNALTERED	X ORIGINAL SITE
X GOOD	__RUINS	__ALTERED	__MOVED DATE_____
__FAIR	__UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE



The complex of Saint Peter the Apostle Church and supporting buildings includes the following: (1) St. Peter the Apostle Roman Catholic Church, (2) Rectory, (3) Belfry, (4) Convent of the Immaculate Conception, (5) original Girls' School, and (6) House of Mercy (later, The Academy).

No. 1 - St. Peter the Apostle Church
13 South Poppleton Street
1842-1845

Modeled after the Greek Temple, The Theseus, also known as Hephaesteum, St. Peter the Apostle is a church in the Greek Revival style with an exterior of the Doric order. The facade (west elevation) has a double portico of granite with six columns behind which are an equal number of brick pilasters. The Doric columns support an entablature consisting of a plain architrave; modestly ornamented frieze of triglyphs typical of the Doric order, here carried out in molded brick; and a projecting stone cornice surmounted by a triangular pediment.

Three recessed double doors with stone lintels and projecting stone frames provide entrance to the building. There is a mullioned, leaded transom above each door.

The ridge roof has the gentle slope characteristic of the ancient Greek style of architecture, combined with the east-west axis required in early Christian churches. The basement story is of hammered granite brought from quarries in Ellicott City, Howard County (United States Catholic Magazine, October, 1843).

The interior is an open, unobstructed space with a basilica-style ceiling bearing on the outer walls. Pilasters spaced along the walls are finished in the Corinthian order. The west end contains a choir loft flanked by two galleries. The choir was originally covered by a third gallery, which has since been removed.

The east end of the church contains the chancel, which was originally square. In 1849 an additional forty feet were purchased along Hollins Street, twenty of which were added to the church. The east wall was rebuilt with the addition of a recessed apse (see copy of daguerrotype from 1856 issue of Frank Leslies' Illustrated Newspaper).

In the summer of 1868 the church was again extended eastwardly and the present circular apse was built. A stained glass lunette window over the altar was installed. The three windows in the west wall (over the doorways),

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DESCRIPTION

the two windows in the south wall of the sacristy and the two in the north wall of the oratory, as well as the four large windows in each of the north and south walls of the nave were put in. The latter are not the present stained glass windows, which were installed later. The walls were also adorned with frescoes at this time.

During the pastorate of Rev. William A. Reardon, 1898-1912, electricity was installed and the crystal gas chandeliers were removed. Also, during this period, the present eight stained glass windows in the nave were installed. They were executed by the Mayer Studio and Factory in Munich, Germany.

The present high altar of Vermont marble was installed in August-September, 1914. (Catholic Review, August, 1914).

The last renovation to the building was done in 1968, at which time the sanctuary rail and side altars were removed, the altar table facing the congregation was installed, and the altar in the basement, which was the original altar installed in the upper church in 1843, was dismantled and the basement area devoted to a parish hall and community center. At this time, also, the exterior paint was removed by sandblasting and the brick beneath exposed.

No. 2 - The Rectory
848 Hollins Street
Circa 1849

The Rectory is a three-story, three-bay brick townhouse designed in 1843 by Robert Cary Long, Jr., a prominent Baltimore architect of the mid-19th century. An excerpt from The Sun on May 24, 1843, reads: "The Parsonage House attached to St. Peter's Church is now going up under the superintendance of Mr. Long and will be a splendid edifice, three stories high, 25 feet front, 35 feet deep, with back buildings." This building is in almost every respect the same as originally designed and built and is in very good condition.

No. 3 - The Belfry
1848

The belfry rises two stories above the church building. Capped on each

(see continuation sheet #2)

DESCRIPTION

No. 3 - The Belfry (continued)
1848

of its four sides by a triangular pediment, a cross is situated on the peak of the roof. There are two narrow, arched windows on each side of the tower just below the pediment. Beneath each pair of windows is a bricked-in, arched space. A large bell weighing 2,000 pounds was hung in the belfry in 1848. This bell was removed and recast of the same metal in 1910 by the McShane Bell Foundry in Baltimore. The bell is four feet high with a diameter of eight feet.

No. 4 - The Convent of the Immaculate Conception
11 South Poppleton Street
Circa 1865-1880

The date of construction for this building is not known for certain; however, its styling is obviously modeled after the adjacent church of St. Peter the Apostle. It consists of a main building facing west with a wing that was later added to the north. They are of brick painted red. The main section is a five-bay, 3 1/2 story brick structure with the entrance in the center bay. This entrance is a double door flanked by brick pilasters and topped with a simple entablature and cross. The windows of the first and second floors have jack arches over them. There is a stringcourse beneath the first floor windows and below the architrave. Beneath the lower one are two cellar windows in the southern-most bays. Above the upper stringcourse are five attic windows incorporated into the frieze. The entablature of the Convent repeats that of the church. This section has a nearly flat A-roof.

The entrance is set off by a small, brick-paved courtyard enclosed by a six-foot high wrought iron fence of fleur-de-lis design. This latter was conceivably manufactured in the neighborhood at the Hayward and Bartlett Plant on nearby Scott Street, now the Koppers Company.

The north wing is a two-bay brick addition of a full four stories with a flat roof. On the west facade there are jack arches over the windows of the first three stories and the stringcourses on the main section are continued on this addition. The entablature on the main building is also repeated but without attic windows in the frieze. There are two cellar windows in the west facade and an entrance on the south side which opens into the brick courtyard.

(see continuation sheet #3)

DESCRIPTION

No. 5 - Original Girls' School
Booth Street
1869

This building was erected in 1869 as a free school to accommodate classrooms for girls previously instructed in the church basement. It continued to be used for this purpose until 1917 when the present school building at 10 South Poppleton Street was constructed on the site of the original boys' school.

The school is a 2 1/2-story, four-bay brick building with an A-roof. Its front facade faces the courtyard. There are doors in the two central bays of the first floor; there are no openings in these bays above the doors. There are 6/6 sash windows in the two outer bays on both the first and second floors. Above these there are two attic windows with 3/3 sash.

The rear of the building, facing Booth Street, is also 2 1/2 storys but has a basement. There are boarded-up windows in all floors of each of the four bays and two bricked-in cellar windows.

No. 6 - House of Mercy (later the Academy of Our Lady of Mercy)
Callender Street
Circa 1869

Originally two houses fronting on Callender Street, these buildings were purchased by Mrs. Emily Mactavish, granddaughter of Charles Carroll of Carrollton, and presented bo the Sisters of Mercy. They were outfitted to enable the Sisters to fulfill their Rule, the care and training of distressed women and girls. A high brick wall was built to surround the convent, school and House of Mercy. The portion along Callender Street is still intace; that along Booth Street has been replaced with a concrete block wall. The House of Mercy is not presently used and its windows on the street facade have been boarded up.

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8. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
__PREHISTORIC	__ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	__COMMUNITY PLANNING	__LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	X RELIGION
__1400-1499	__ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	__CONSERVATION	__LAW	__SCIENCE
__1500-1599	__AGRICULTURE	__ECONOMICS	__LITERATURE	__SCULPTURE
__1600-1699	X ARCHITECTURE	__EDUCATION	__MILITARY	X SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
__1700-1799	__ART	__ENGINEERING	__MUSIC	__THEATER
X 1800-1899	__COMMERCE	__EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	__PHILOSOPHY	__TRANSPORTATION
__1900-	__COMMUNICATIONS	__INDUSTRY	__POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	__OTHER (SPECIFY)
		__INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1843 to about 1865 BUILDER/ARCHITECT Robert Cary Long, Jr.

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Civil War was "distant thunder" when Saint Peter the Apostle Parish began as a mission in 1838 under the energetic Edward McColgan, who, through 56 years as Pastor, was to exert a heavy influence on the entire western segment of Baltimore City. He commissioned a youthful artistic meteor to design and build his "gathering place." Robert Cary Long, Jr., was 24 years old when he started this seeming anachronism in the midst of dwindling farmlands and a burgeoning industrial complex.

What chemistry caused these two men to agree on a pristine Greek Temple to accommodate these immigrant Irish navvies with gnarled hands and tight "Sunday suits," and a sprinkling of genteel "colored folk?" But the Hephaesteum is named for Hephaestus, the ancient god of fire and metallurgy and thus appropriate for the stokers and blacksmiths, the welders and boilermakers from the new and growing Baltimore & Ohio Railroad, whose roundhouse and shops were just two blocks to the south.

Robert Cary Long, Jr., has been described by Wilbur Hunter of the Municipal Museum of the City of Baltimore (Peale Museum) as an "ecumenical architect: and indeed in his tragically short life (he died at age 30), he had designed and built in Baltimore, the Lloyd Street Synagogue, Franklin Street Presbyterian Church, Mt. Calvary Episcopal Church and had designed the wrought iron fence surrounding the Washington Monument in Mt. Vernon Place."

A contemporary account of the construction of the church is complimentary to Long: "The architecture of the building is under the skillful direction of Robert Cary Long, Esq., and will fully sustain his reputation, and bear a favorable comparison with the numerous other evidences of his good taste that are to be found in the city." (Sun, 9/1/1843).

From his parish of St. Peter the Apostle, which originally extended from Howard Street to Elkridge Landing, Monsignor Edward McColgan was responsible for the founding of other institutions, including St. Martin's Church on the site of the former estate of Confederate Gen. George Hume Steuart, now centered around Fayette St. and Fulton Ave., St. Jerome's Church at Scott and Hamburg Streets, The House of Good Shepherd on the site now occupied by Steuart Hill Elementary School, and St. Mary's Industrial, now Cardinal Gibbons High School.

From the Poppleton Historic Study (Summer, 1975) by Dr. Phoebe Stanton, Professor of the History of Art, Johns Hopkins University:

(see continuation sheet #4)

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

"The flat roof was clearly the last work in modernity when, in 1843, Robert Cary Long, Jr., built the presbytery for St. Peter's Church on Hollins Street. Baltimore's most distinguished architect, Long prided himself on his knowledge of the literature and exemplars of the latest fashions in design. The presbytery may well be the first flat-roofed dwelling in Poppleton and the first to follow the Italian Renaissance manner, then just beginning its reign in New York and Philadelphia whence it had moved from London.

The Christian Brothers established a boys' school in a house across the street from St. Peter's in the late 1840s. In 1917 the present school building was constructed on this site (it is presently leased by the City and not included within this nomination).

The Sisters of Mercy established a convent on this site in 1855. Their purpose in doing this, as published in their "Charter, By-Laws Articles of Association" in 1894, was as follows:

> The objects of this Association shall be to establish and maintain Academies and Free Schools in [Baltimore] City for the education of female children, to open and maintain a House of Protection for homeless indigent females, to qualify them by training and education, for the discharge of such domestic duties as will enable them to procure protection and support; to visit and nurse the sick, and for that purpose to establish and maintain an infirmary, or more than one in the discretion of the Corporation, if deemed convenient and necessary for such purposes.

By 1860 the Sisters had established two schools: one parochial school for the children of the laboring classes of the parish and the Academy of Our Lady of Mercy for the daughters of the wealthier parishioners. The latter became one of the leading Catholic Schools in the city. It was closed in 1891, but the parochial school continued in operation well into the 20th century and the Sisters established a number of other schools in Washington, D.C., Baltimore, and other parts of Maryland.

The donation by Mrs. Emily Mactavish, granddaughter of Charles Carroll of Carrolton, of two houses on Callender Street, permitted the Sisters

(see continuation sheet #5)

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

to establish the "House of Protection" of their Charter. A high brick wall was built around these houses enclosing them with the convent, church, school, and rectory around a small courtyard. The object of this house was specified as follows:

> Distressed women of good character admitted to the house of mercy shall, if necessary, be instructed in the principal mysteries of religion and required to comply with their religious obligations. Suitable employment shall be sought for them, and great care taken to place them in situations for which they are adapted.

The Sisters also maintained an infirmary. In 1874 they took charge of the Old Baltimore City Hospital. The nearby Lombard Street Infirmary (later Maryland University Hospital) was staffed by the Sisters from 1880 to 1889. In the latter year they founded the City Hospital of Baltimore at Calvert and Saratoga Streets, now Mercy Hospital.

The St. Peter complex is now deeply involved in not only religious and educational activities, but is also freely used by community organizations. It is now a site for a food cooperative sponsored by the City of Baltimore, and its facilities are used regularly as a meeting place for the Project Area Committee and other activities related to the Poppleton Urban Renewal Area. It will continue to be a moving force in a revitalized and reawakening neighborhood.

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9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

"The Sisters of Mercy of Maryland," Sr. M. Loretto Costello, (B. Herder & Co., 1931).
Frank Leslie's Illustrated Newspaper, New York: February 2, 1856.
The (Baltimore) Sun. 5/18, 5/33, 5/24, 9/1/1843; 9/23/1844; and 8/9/1848.
Charter, By-Laws, Articles of Association of the Sisters of Mercy in the City of Baltimore. Baltimore: John Murphy & Co., 1894.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY one-half acre

UTM REFERENCES

	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
A				B			
C				D			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

njm

NAME / TITLE: Reverend John Delclos, Pastor

ORGANIZATION: Saint Peter the Apostle Parish — DATE: January 9, 1976

STREET & NUMBER: 848 Hollins Street — TELEPHONE: 685-5044

CITY OR TOWN: Baltimore — STATE: Maryland 21201

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 National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

TITLE — DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST: DATE

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

Baltimore West
B-2658
17'30"
St. Peter the Apostle complex
Coppin State Teachers College
NORTH
Eastwood Park
St Peters Cemetery
MARYLAND
WINCHESTER ST
Lafayette Square
Lutheran Hospital
Harlem Park
FRANKLIN STREET
MULBERRY STREET
Edgar Allen Poe Home
Hospital
Franklin Square
Bon Secours Hospital
Union Square
St Pauls Cem
Falls
Western Cemetery
PENNSYLVANIA
GWYNNS FALLS PARK
Mt Olivet Cemetery
Carroll
PARK
CARROLL
Golf Course
Wilhelm Park
Our Lady of Victory Ch
St Agnes Hospital
Run
Gwynns
Falls
Gasoline
Transformer Station
Mount Winans
Westport
MIDDLE BR
PATAPSCO R
Smith Cove
Radio Towers (WFBR)
Morrell Park
CITY OF BALTIMORE
BALTIMORE CO
Mt Auburn Cemetery
Lakeland
West Baltimore
Dorchester Heights
Cherry Hill
5.5 MI TO MD 7 HAVRE DE GRACE 37 MI
2.8 MI TO U.S. 40
1.3 MI TO U.S. 40
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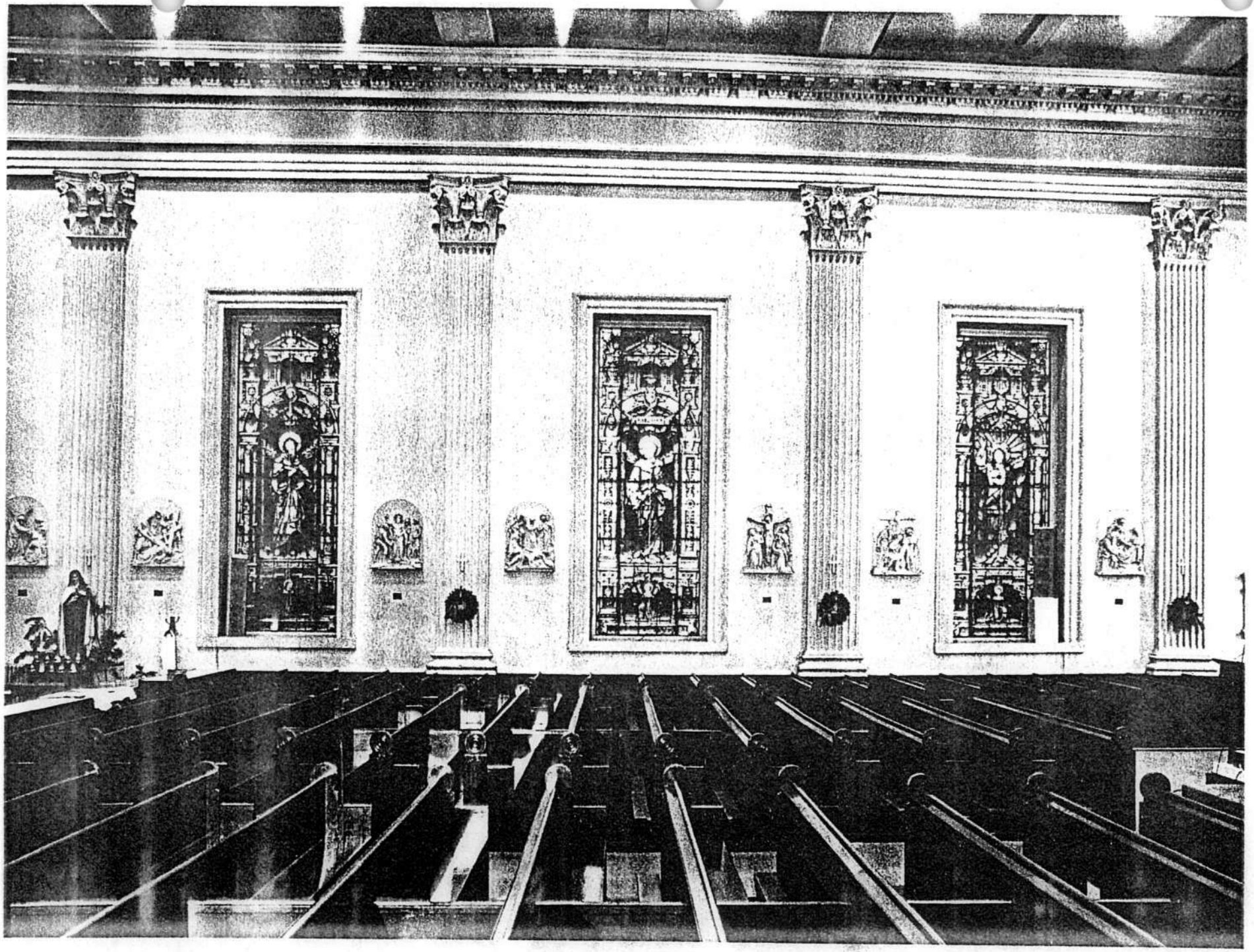

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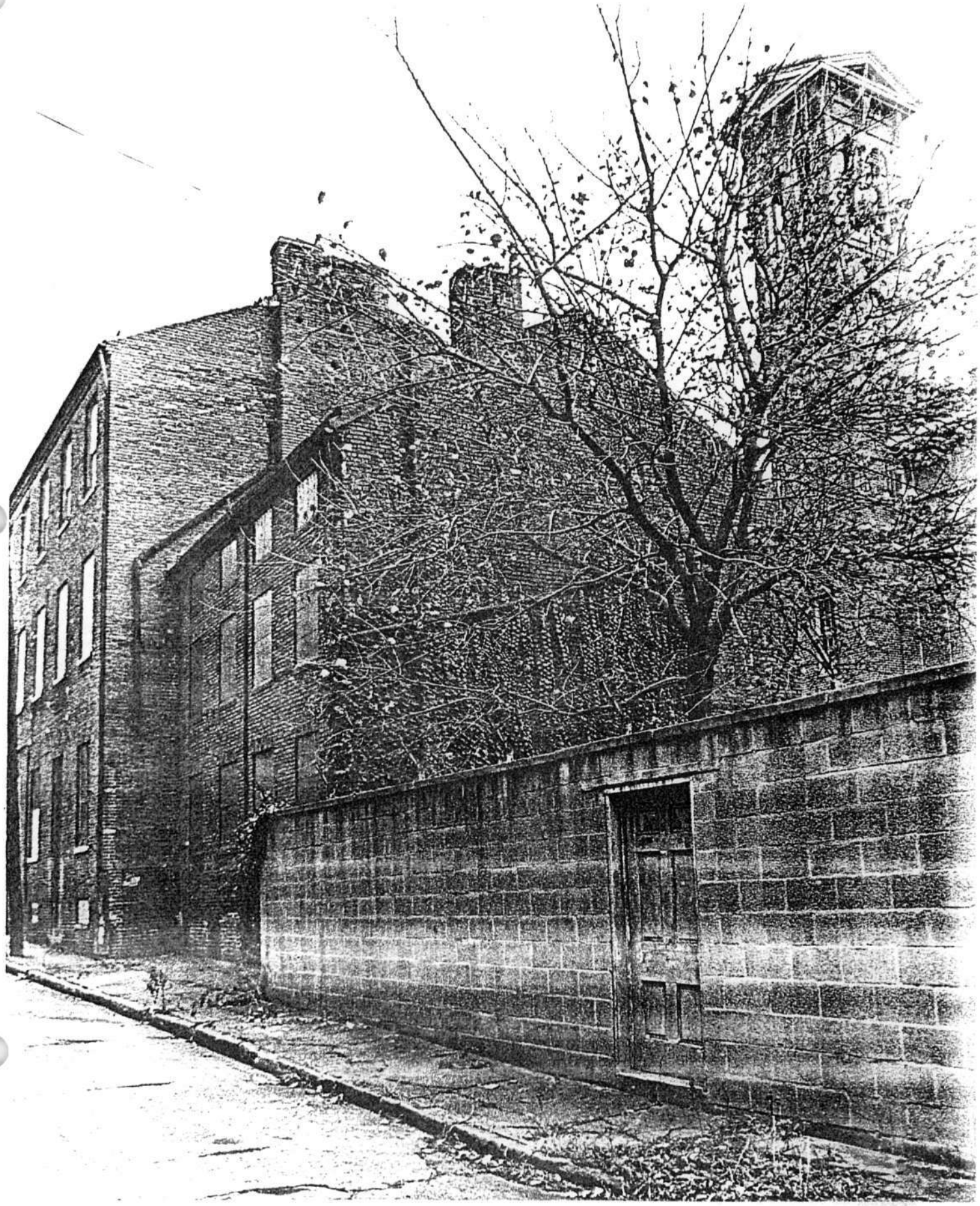

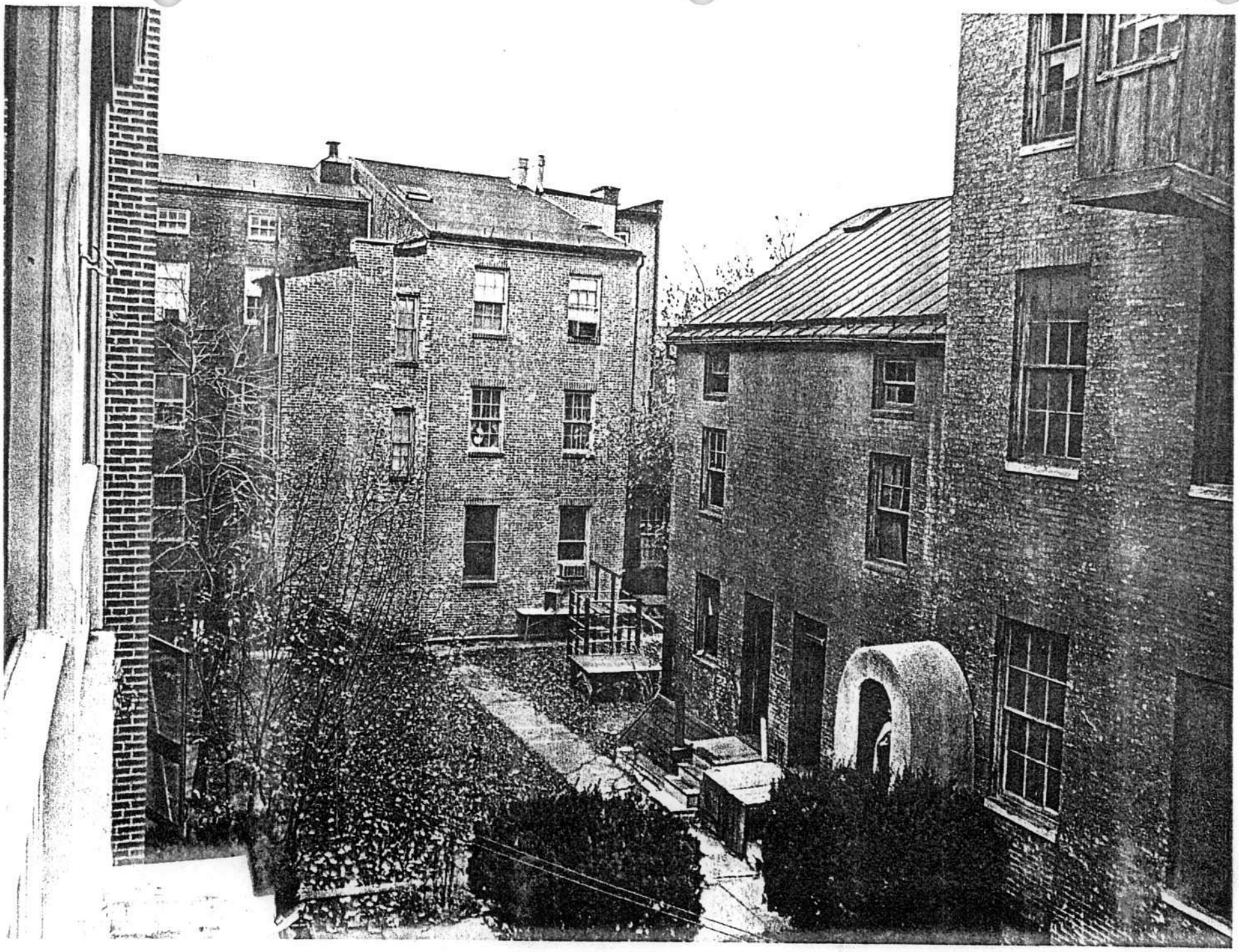

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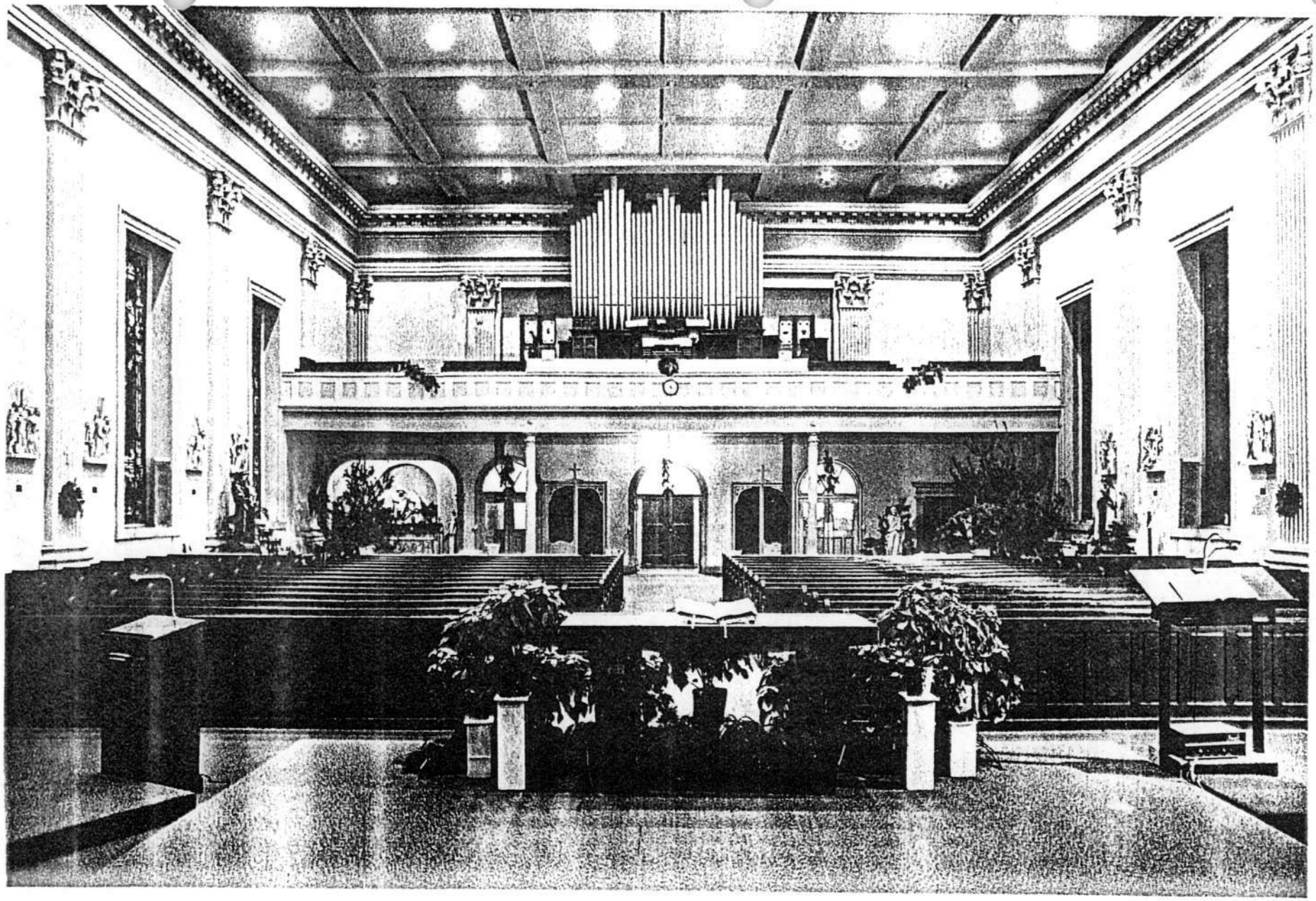

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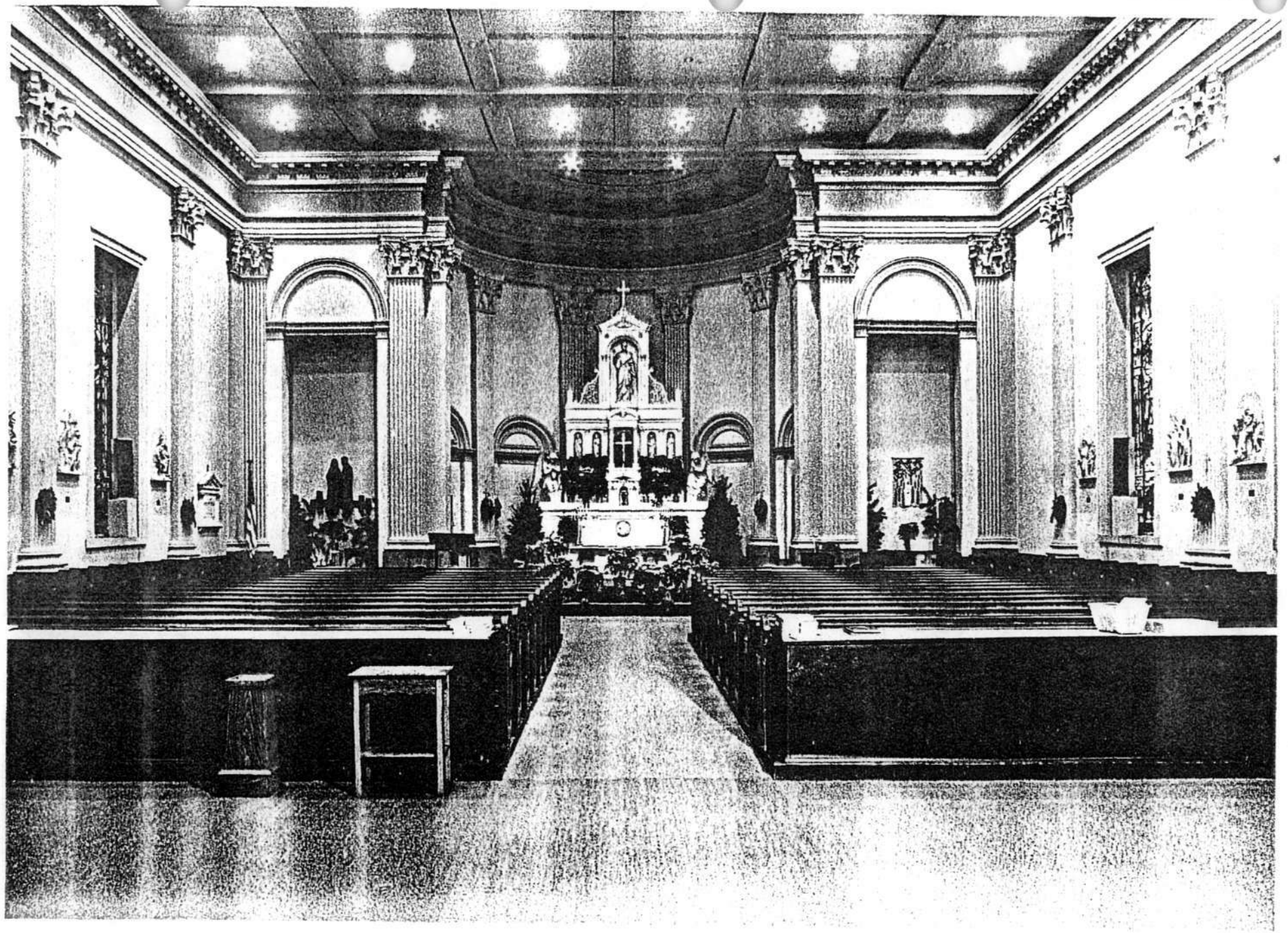

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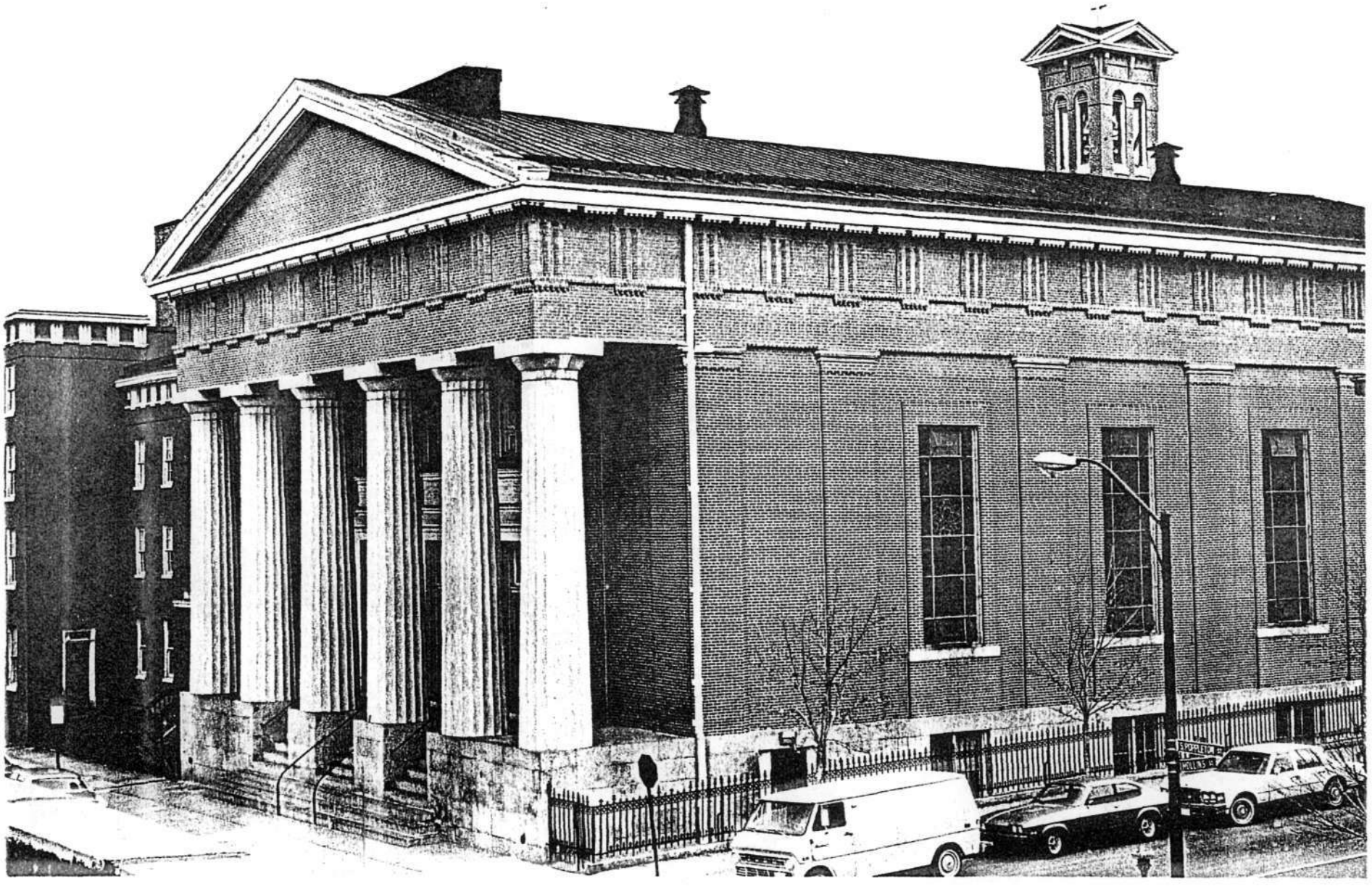

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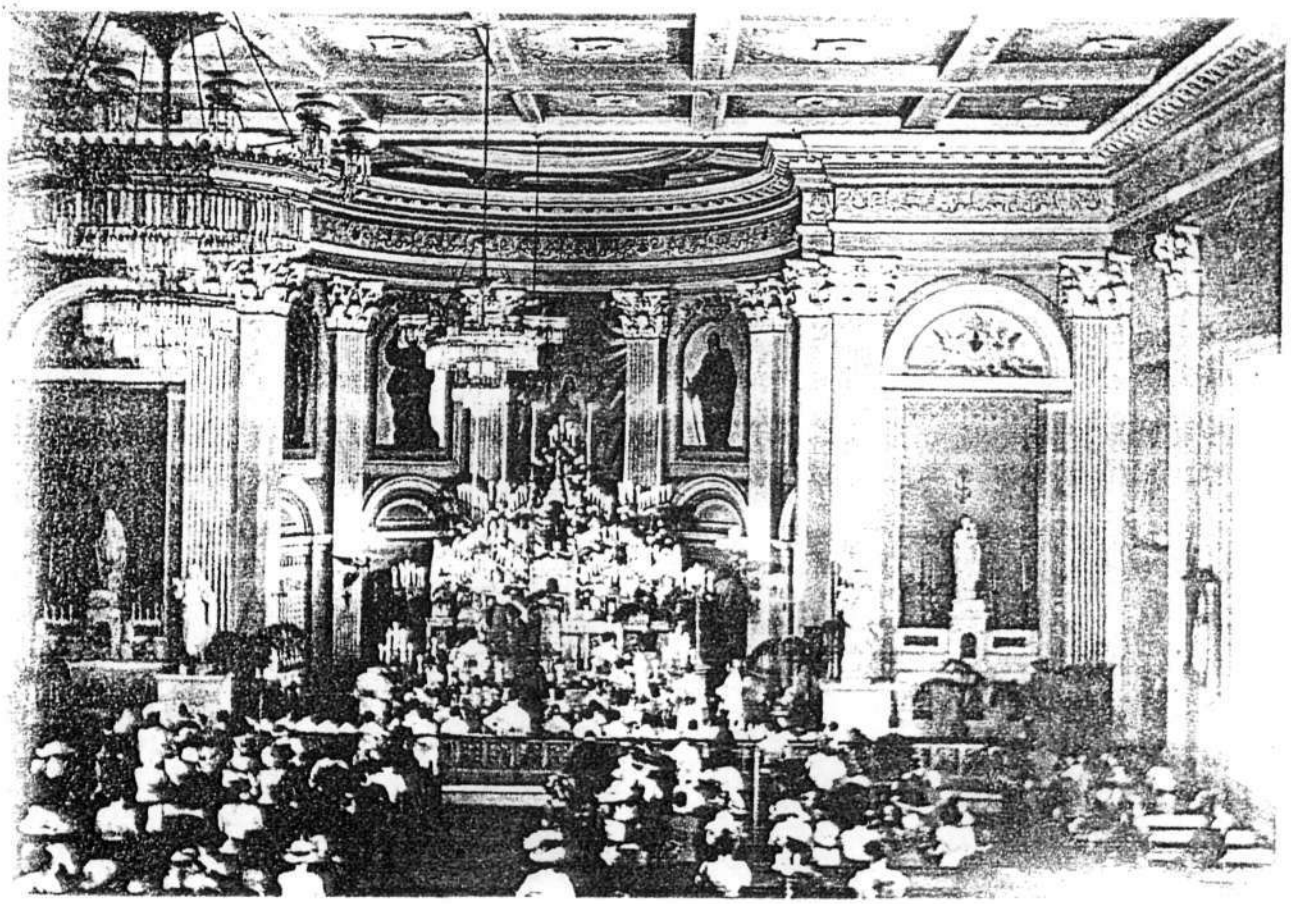

St. Peter the apostle Church B-2658
looking E on Hollins St.

STOP

B-2658

St. Peter the Apostle Parochial School Bldg. (1917)
10 S. Hoppleton St. B City