

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

For HCRS use only

received
date entered

1. Name

historic First Church of Christ, Scientist

and/or common

2. Location

street & number 102 West University Parkway N/A not for publication

city, town Baltimore N/A vicinity of congressional district Seventh

state Maryland code 24 county Baltimore city code 510

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational	<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

Board of Trustees, First Church of Christ, Scientist
name c/o Mrs. Lovelace G. Slaughter, Chairman and Mrs. Carol C. Meyers, Clerk

street & number 102 West University Parkway

city, town Baltimore vicinity of state Maryland 21210

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Land Records Office

street & number Room 601, Baltimore City Courthouse

city, town Baltimore, state Maryland 21201

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

Maryland Historical Trust
title Historic Sites Inventory has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date 1979 federal state county local

depository for survey records Maryland Historical Trust, 21 State Circle

city, town Annapolis state Maryland 21401

7. Description

B-1405

Condition

excellent
 good
 fair

deteriorated
 ruins
 unexposed

Check one

unaltered
 altered

Check one

original site
 moved date _____

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance (for SUMMARY, see Continuation Sheet #1)

The First Church of Christ, Scientist, is a large 1911-1913 two-part ashlar masonry church structure with Greek Revival influenced decorative detailing on the interior and exterior. The building stands along the northerly side of West University Parkway in the second block west of North Charles Street in a residential area bordering the campus of Johns Hopkins University to the south. It consists of a large rectangular structure, which basically houses the sanctuary, with a smaller porticoed rectangular block projecting from the front. The main structure is divided into five bays by flat pilasters. The portico is pedimented and supported by six fluted Ionic columns with volute capitals. Both sections of the building have dentiled cornices.

The First Church of Christ, Scientist, was built from 1911-1913 at 102 W. University Parkway facing south toward Homewood in Baltimore, Maryland. Charles E. Cassell of Baltimore was the architect, and Thomas P. Johns the builder. Of Greek Revival design, it is built of white Beaver Dam marble from Baltimore County with terra cotta trim, including door frames, from the Conkling Armstrong Terra Cotta Co. of Philadelphia. Of the total \$165,000 construction cost, the stone contract was \$57,000. The rectangular auditorium (68'4" X 76' wide) is directly over a high, rusticated basement. To the front behind a 50 foot wide Ionic Portico is a large vestibule (40' 10" X 24'6" deep) which has a steel stair at each end with an ornate balustrade and marble treads. Over the arched vestibule is a 200-seat balcony which brings the church's capacity to about 1200. Under it are the cloak rooms. On each side of the central church part are double doors added for easier access to the basement Sunday school, office, library and toilets. A subbasement to the rear of the building houses the mechanical equipment. Around the sides and rear of the building is a driveway. Most of the small site (125' X 150") is utilized, but a landscape plan was submitted on July 28, 1914, by William H. Moon Co. with offices in the Stephen Girard Building in Philadelphia.

Even though its design is in a revival style, First Church is a modern building. It was built to be fireproof with wood used only for doors and the quartered oak floors which were laid directly on reinforced concrete or supported on steel framework. The auditorium has indirect lighting, steam radiators built into the walls behind iron grilles and a ventilation system which continues to be used as part of the air conditioning system installed during the summer of 1937. The membership considered two proposals for a cooling system: one which would have circulated air cooled by being forced over a large quantity of ice dumped into the basement through a coal chute and the other a \$12,253 General Electric system which was installed by Southern Supply Co. (315-17-19 North Calvert Street, Baltimore). The GE system had 8 "V" type condensing machines with 30 hp motors located in the east end of the basement. 1600 cubic feet of air per minute was circulated. Intake Grilles are located in the side of a false ceiling beam, one on the east and west near the north wall of the auditorium. Two-thirds of the air was recirculated, 1/3 went through the vestibule and Sunday School to produce secondary cooling and 1/3 of the return was fresh air drawn in through the penthouse built on top of the rear section of the church. The original openings in the ceiling covered with cast iron grilles were replaced with flush type "Anemostat Air Distributors" of spun aluminum concentric cones, then a recent development which increased the possibility of achieving draftless air conditioning. The compressors have recently been replaced.

(SEE CONTINUATION SHEET NO. 1)

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National Park Service

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First Church of Christ, Scientist

Continuation sheet Baltimore (city), Maryland Item number 7 Page 1

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On the interior curved mahogany pews form semicircular rows. Each side of the auditorium has five tall circular-headed windows of leaded opal glass set in the pattern of geometric Greek Grilles. A 1924 article in Through the Ages states the glass was patterned by Tiffany; church records indicate it was purchased from Henderson Brothers. Ionic pilasters on high bases frame the openings and similar plain circular panels on the front and rear walls. One is placed diagonally in each corner. They support a deep entablature and dentiled cornice. Large coffered ceiling sections with egg and dart moldings have guilloche bands interrupted by paterae at their intersections. The Renaissance balustrade of the speaker's platform and the rear gallery are similar to that of the front adjacent to the sidewalk. Behind and on each side of the speaker's platform is an Austin Organ with chimes and 1300 pipes, part of which are exposed above the platform. In each rear corner behind the auditorium are reader's rooms on the first floor and trustee's rooms above on the second. In the vestibule, the walls and pilasters are covered with art marble, a term used by the architect. The basement and church aisles were carpeted, but, for the tile lobby floor with its Greek fret border, cocoa matting was ordered.

During the design and construction of this Christian Science church, attention was given to quality workmanship and detail, all of which still remains unaltered. Parts of the building not seen received equal attention. Copper downspouts and outlets, copper cover for the top of the terra cotta cornices and flashing were supplied by William F. Miller & Company (1119-33 Denver Street, Baltimore). During construction, Mr. Cassell's letter of February 21, 1913, states it was decided that doors and partitions to the stairways on either side of the front vestibule were to be omitted, a decision that certainly increased its rich quality. On the exterior, the design of the three principal entrances are derived from that of the north door of the Erechtheum. The portico's six, 27-foot Ionic columns are in five sections, and attention was given to their entasis and spacing with the center pair being the farthest apart and the end pairs being the closest.

DESCRIPTION SUMMARY

The First Church of Christ, Scientist, is a large ashlar masonry structure constructed in 1911-1913 in the Greek Revival style, located at 102 West University Parkway in Baltimore, Maryland. The building, which faces south, consists of two parts: a 76' wide by 68'4" deep block housing the sanctuary, with a smaller (40'10" by 24'6") vestibule projecting from the front. A pedimented portico spans the facade, supported by six Ionic Columns. The building is faced with Beaver Dam marble with terra cotta trim. Both sections of the building have dentiled cornices. The main block is two stories high above a high rusticated basement. The five bays of the side elevation are defined by tall circular-headed windows of leaded glass set in the geometric pattern of a Greek grille; the windows are framed by flat pilasters. On the interior of the sanctuary, curved mahogany pews form semicircular rows. Ionic pilasters on high bases frame the openings and support a deep entablature and dentiled cornice. The ceiling is coffered, with sections decorated with egg and dart moldings and guilloche bands interrupted by paterae at their intersections. At the rear of the sanctuary, over the arched vestibule, is a 200-seat balcony. Both the balcony and the speaker's platform feature Renaissance balustrades. Organ pipes are exposed above the speaker's platform.

8. Significance

B-1405

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below		
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
			<input type="checkbox"/> science
			<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
			<input type="checkbox"/> social/humanitarian
			<input type="checkbox"/> theater
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates 1911-1913 **Builder/Architect** Charles E. Cassell, Architect

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph) Applicable Criterion: C

SIGNIFICANCE SUMMARY

The First Church of Christ, Scientist, achieves architectural significance from two sources. First, the building is an excellent example of the type of architectural style that was commonly used in Baltimore and most cities in the mid-Atlantic area in the early years of the twentieth century for such public buildings as churches, schools, libraries, and government offices. The classical idiom, seen in a Greek Revival variation in the First Church of Christ, Scientist was possibly the most popular in smaller, older, conservative cities such as Baltimore. The building takes on particular significance because it is one of the better examples of this type of building and also because of its location in a primarily residential area that faces the expanses of the Johns Hopkins University campus forming a backdrop terminating the university's grounds. Second, the building achieves significance from association with Charles E. Cassell (d. 1918), a Baltimore architect who designed the church. Cassell designed a number of buildings in Baltimore with the First Church of Christ, Scientist, being possibly the most academic in style.

HISTORY AND SUPPORT

Though Christian Science was taught and practiced in Baltimore as early as 1887, the First Church of Christ, Scientist, was organized in the Spring of 1893. Their charter from the State of Maryland was issued on March 13, 1894. Services were first held in a teacher's home at 1414 Linden Avenue, then at the Lyceum Parlors, 1109 North Charles Street, beginning October 6, 1895, and from March 4, 1897, at Heptasoph's Hall (I.O.H. Hall) at Cathedral and Preston Streets. In 1897, one faction formed the Second Church because of differences, purchased a lot on Mt. Royal Avenue at Oliver Street in 1900, and by Christmas, had erected a chapel. On April 3, 1902, the two groups were reunited as the First Church and met at the Mt. Royal Avenue chapel. However, when that building proved to be inadequate for the congregation, two factions emerged: those who wanted to sell the property and build elsewhere and those who thought the chapel should be used as part of a new structure. A group who wanted to build elsewhere withdrew in 1906 and began the Third Church which was soon renamed Second Church since the former Second Church no longer existed. Both the theater in which the new Second Church held its services and the lot it was given in 1906 were within three blocks of the First Church. Since the Second Church had not been built, the First Church, in order to expand, purchased the property adjoining their chapel in 1909 for \$26,000. Their Board of Trustees had plans for a church seating 1200 which was to cover the entire lot, but when there were objections, First Church's Board rejected those plans.

The Board of Trustees of the First Church held a special meeting on October 3, 1910, to hear a report concerning the site for a new church. They selected the present site on University Parkway near Homewood, and that was approved 73 to 1 four days later by the membership. The new site was to be purchased for a maximum of \$15,000 (actual

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Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

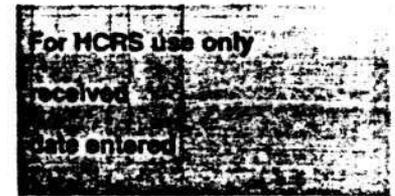
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First Church of Christ, Scientist

Continuation sheet Baltimore (city), Maryland Item number

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cost, \$14,304.85) and the old property to be sold for \$45,000. A building committee selected Charles E. Cassell (d. 1916) of Baltimore as the architect on February 26, 1911. At a special members' meeting on April 6, 1911, the preliminary plans were reviewed and the following motions passed:

1. the church was to be designed in the classic style of architecture;
2. the Building Committee was to try to get plans for a church to seat 1000 costing \$75,000 to \$80,000;
3. there were to be no side galleries;
4. there were to be no towers as shown on the plans;
5. the church would have no dome.

Later in the month, amendments for a dome and for the Gothic style lost, but a motion authorizing the Building Committee to have specifications made was passed. The Board of Trustees then authorized the Committee to employ Charles E. Cassell as the architect to prepare detailed drawings and specifications for construction in accordance with preliminary drawings previously done by him. Mr. Cassell's office was at 822-25 Law Building in Baltimore. His commission was set at 4% of the building cost, including supervision of the work until completion. One percent was to be paid when the detailed drawings were accepted and the balance as construction progressed.

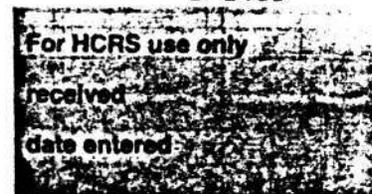
The detailed drawings were completed by the end of June, 1911, the first contracts awarded on July 21st, ground broken the next day, and the cornerstone containing church records, a Bible and works of Mary Baker Eddy was laid October 23. The church, designed for 1200, is 106 X 82 feet exclusive of a 12 X 48 X 55 feet high portico on a lot 125 X 150 feet deep. While the building was being finished, the Sunday School was initially used for church services beginning on December 24, 1911, but later was to be divided into classrooms for 600. Beginning in 1911, the United Railway Company's Roland Park Boulevard trolley made a special stop on University Parkway in front of the church. The congregation met for the first time in the auditorium directly above the Sunday school on October 5, 1913.

In addition to being an important part of the early expansion and growing numbers of Christian Scientist in Baltimore, the city's First Church is an excellent example of early twentieth century Greek Revival architecture. Its good proportion and detail form an imposing structure even though it is now crowded on both sides by large apartment buildings. Charles Cassell, a charter member of the AIA's Baltimore chapter in 1870, is known to have designed two other Baltimore churches, the Bishop Cumming's Memorial Church (1887) at Carrolton Avenue and Lanvale Street and the Bishop Whittingham Memorial Church, as well as Christ Episcopal Church in Cambridge, Maryland. The last two were Gothic Revival churches with Christ Church designed with heavy stonework and the Bishop Whittingham Church having stick style gables over a cut stone base. Of these known examples of his work, the First Church of Christ, Scientist, is Cassell's best design.

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First Church of Christ, Scientist
Continuation sheet Baltimore (city), Maryland Item number 9 and 10

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MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

"A Baltimore Church," Through the Ages, May, 1924, pp. 35-36, (published monthly by the National Association of Marble Dealers, Gay and Water Streets, Baltimore, Maryland).

Cassell, Charles E. (Report) To the Building Committee of the First Church of Christ, Scientist. October 21, 1912.

Church documents:

1. Application for loan to Central Savings Bank, Nov. 6, 1912.
2. Balance sheets of First Church of Christ, Scientist, Feb. 28, 1911.
3. Contractor's bills and accounting sheets for materials and services.
4. Letter from Charles C. Baldwin to Secretary of the Building Committee from William F. Zeller and Company, October 30, 1912.
5. Letter to the Building Committee from William F. Zeller and Company, October 30, 1912.
6. Note from Charles Cassell, no date.
7. Remarks of M.W. Clarence Craumer, First Reader at the Dedicatory Maryland Services of First Church of Christian Science, Baltimore, Maryland, Sunday, May 25, 1919.
8. Reports of Board of Trustees and business meetings.
9. Reports of the Building Committee
10. Reports of members meetings.

Instruction Book for the Air Conditions System Installed Summer of 1937.
Prepared by L. Gwathmey, Southern Supply Co., Inc., March, 1938.

Maryland Historical Trust Historic Sites Inventory: Baltimore City (B-1405).
George Andreve, compiler, 1979.

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Beginning on the northeast side of University Parkway at a distance of 206'-4" northwesterly from the corner formed by the intersection of the northeast side of University Parkway with the west side of Oak Street and running thence on the northeast side of University Parkway north 49° - 50' west 125' thence at right angles with said line of University Parkway north 40° - 5' east 150' thence parallel with University Parkway and south 49° - 55' east 125' by a line at a right angle with University Parkway south 40° - 5' west 150' to the beginning.

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

Nominated acreage includes only the city lot upon which the resource stands.

9. Major Bibliographical References

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SEE CONTINUATION SHEET #3

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property .44 acres

Quadrangle name Baltimore East, Maryland

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UMT References

A	<u>1</u> <u>8</u>	<u>3</u> <u>6</u> <u>0</u> <u>2</u> <u>8</u> <u>0</u>	<u>4</u> <u>3</u> <u>5</u> <u>5</u> <u>0</u> <u>0</u> <u>0</u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing

B			
	Zone	Easting	Northing

C			
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D			
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E			
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F			
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G			
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H			
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Verbal boundary description and justification

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET #3

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	N/A	code	county	code
ate		code	county	code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Staff

organization Maryland Historical Trust date August 1981

street & number 21 State Circle telephone 301-269-2438

city or town Annapolis state Maryland 21401

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 Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature J. Smith 11-15-82

title STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER date

For HCRS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

Keeper of the National Register

Attest: _____ date

Chief of Registration

B-1405

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

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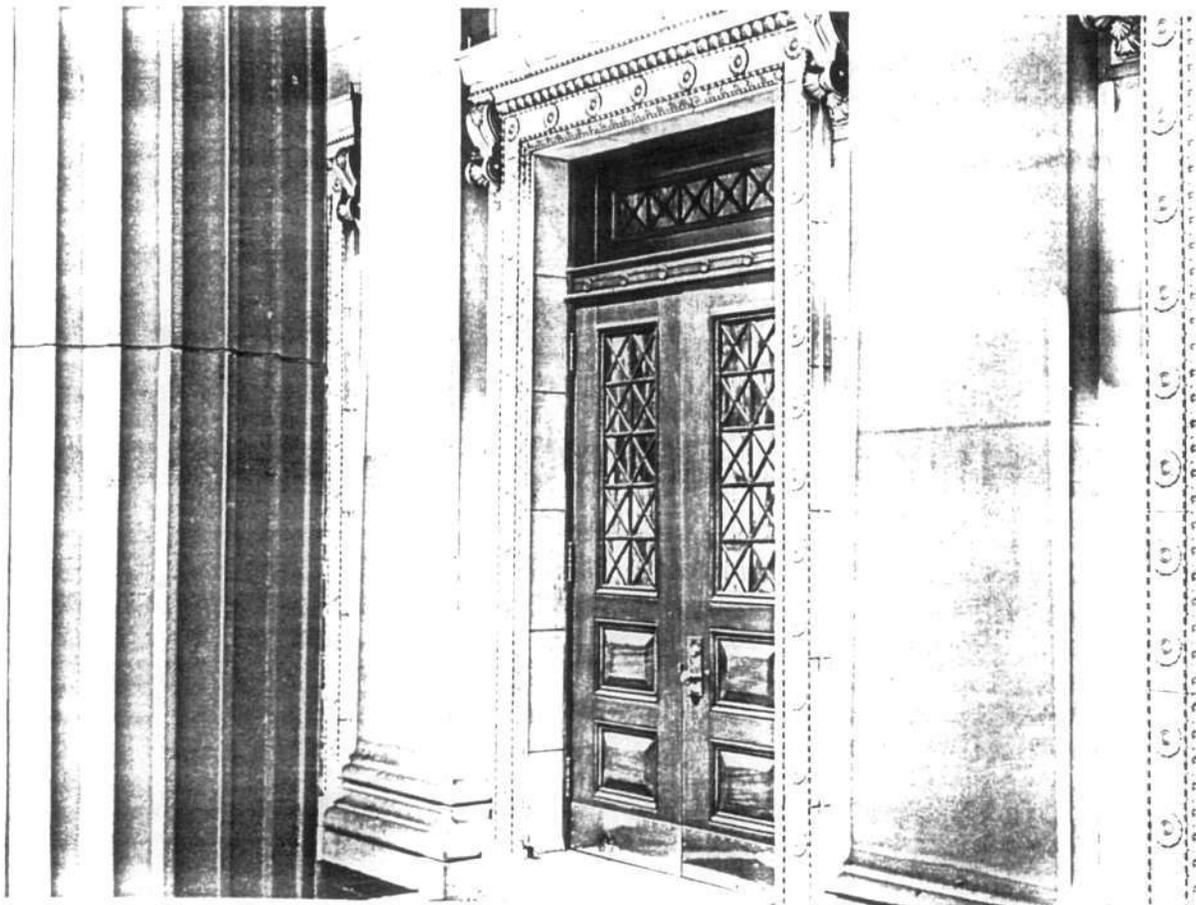
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Baltimore City, Md

First Church of
Christ Scientist

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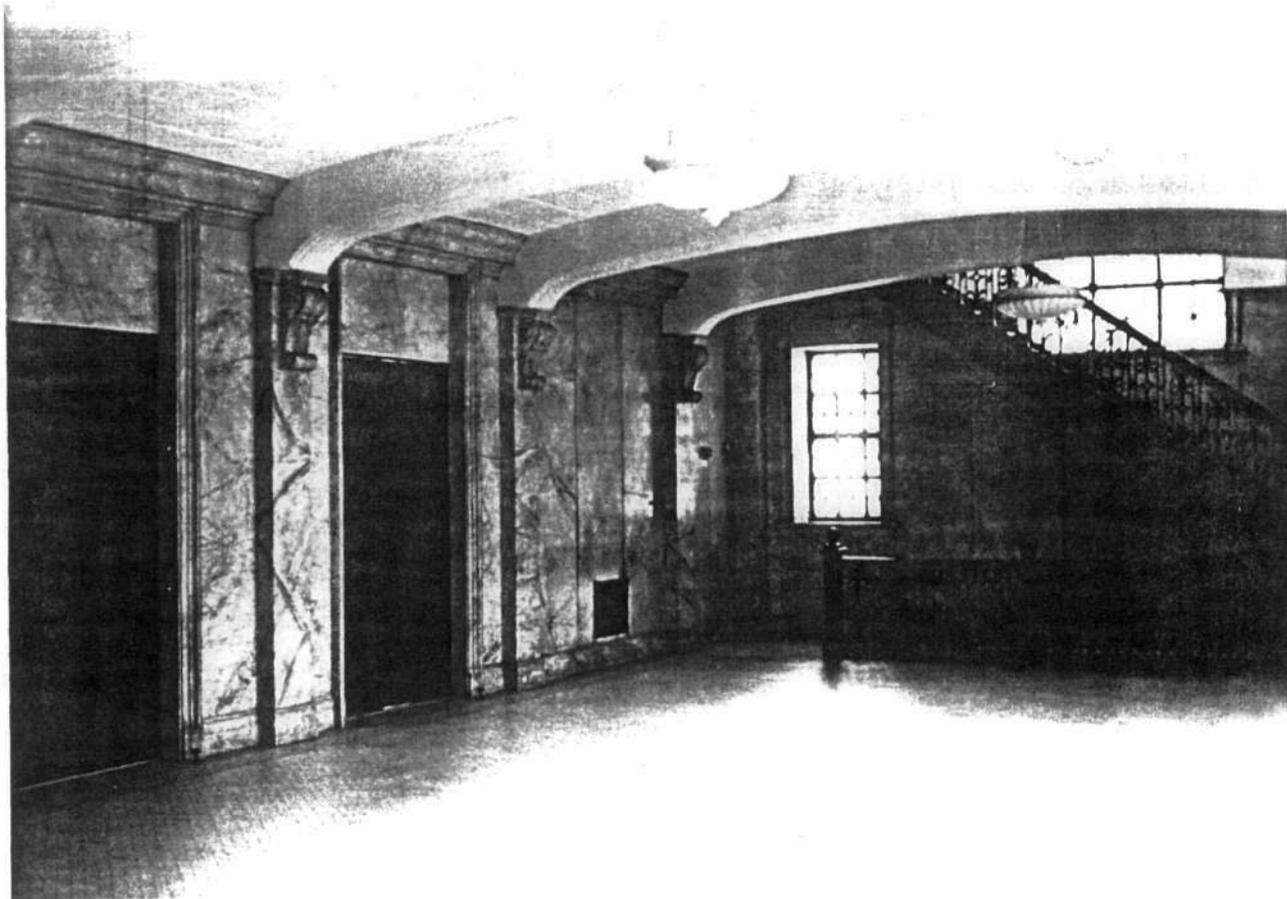


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First Church of Christ, Scientist
Baltimore City, Maryland
Photo: Ronald L. Andrews, June 1981
Neg: MD Historical Trust, Annapolis, MD
Front (south) facade
1/4

First Church of Christ, Scientist
Baltimore City, Maryland
Photo: Ronald L. Andrews, June 1981
Neg: Maryland Historical Trust, Annapolis
Entrance Doors (detail)
2/4

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First Church of Christ, Scientist
Baltimore City, Maryland
Photo: Ronald L. Andrews, June 1981
Neg: MD Historical Trust, Annapolis, MD
Lobby interior
3/4

First Church of Christ, Scientist
Baltimore City, Maryland
Photo: Ronald L. Andrews, June 1981
Neg: MD Historical Trust, Annapolis, MD
Sanctuary interior
4/4