B-127

Church of the Rock of Ages; Cummins Memorial Church; Emmanuel Christian Community Church & Rectory

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: 03-10-2011

Form No. 10-300 (REV. 6-72)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

B-127

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

1 NAME

HISTORIC: Church of the Rock of Ages; Cummins Memorial Church (preferr

AND/OR COMMON: Emmanuel Christian Community Church and Rectory

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER: 1210 West Lanvale Street — NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN: Baltimore — VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT: Seventh

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)	__PRIVATE	__UNOCCUPIED	__COMMERCIAL	__PARK
__STRUCTURE	__BOTH	__WORK IN PROGRESS	__EDUCATIONAL	__PRIVATE RESI
__SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	__ENTERTAINMENT	X RELIGIOUS
__OBJECT	__IN PROCESS	X YES: RESTRICTED	__GOVERNMENT	__SCIENTIFIC
	__BEING CONSIDERED	__YES: UNRESTRICTED	__INDUSTRIAL	__TRANSPORTA
		__NO	__MILITARY	__OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME: Emmanuel Christian Community Church
Attn: Mrs. Georgia Payne

STREET & NUMBER: 1210 West Lanvale Street

CITY, TOWN: Baltimore — VICINITY OF

STATE: Maryland 21217

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.: Records Office, Room 601

STREET & NUMBER: Baltimore City Courthouse

CITY, TOWN: Baltimore

STATE: Maryland 21202

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE: City of Baltimore Neighborhood Survey

DATE: Summer, 1978 — __FEDERAL __STATE __COUNTY X LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: Commission for Historic and Architectural Preservation

CITY, TOWN: Baltimore

STATE: Maryland 21202

DESCRIPTION

B-127

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
__EXCELLENT	__DETERIORATED	X_UNALTERED	X_ORIGINAL SITE
XGOOD	__RUINS	__ALTERED	__MOVED DATE_____
__FAIR	__UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Emmanuel Christian Community Church, situated on the northwest corner of West Lanvale Street and North Carrollton Avenue, is designed in the Gothic Revival style. The building and foundation walls are laid in granite ashlar. The roof is a high-pitched gable, with the gable end facing Carrollton Avenue. This facade is essentially one bay wide with a one-story, shed-roofed projection containing an entrance arcade. The arcade, with lancet-arched portals at either end, is punctuated by ten lancet-arched, stained glass windows with nine marble colonnettes equally spaced between them. The entrance portals, both recessed by a concrete stoop, are each punctuated by a flat, plate glass window set into an aluminum panel. The gable end is punctuated by a large, stained glass wheel with wood tracery. The wheel is housed in a truncated pointed arch and surmounts five flat, stained glass windows set into flat apertures with stone surrounds. Three stained glass lancet windows, the center one taller than the other two, are set into a recessed pointed-arch panel at the top of the gable end. A decorative cross caps the apex.

There are two-story, shed-roofed projections on the side elevations of the main body of the church like the entrance arcade. (These are the same height as the arcade because the ground falls away on the sides of the building.) These side aisles are each punctuated by four sets of three flat casement windows. Five stained glass clerestory windows on either side of the church are housed in truncated pointed arches just above the shed roofs. Above these both sides of the slate shingled main roof are punctuated by five dormers capped with miniature four-sided spires. At the far western end of the south facade is a short, two-staged tower with a slate-shingled, hexagonal roof. An entrance with an accented lancet arch is centered in the tower.

The west facade is flush with the rectory and is barely visible from any direction. It is constructed of common bond brick and houses a large stained glass, lancet-arched window with wood tracery.

The north facade is identical to the south facade with minor alterations. Its windows are arched with header bond brick instead of stone, and the aisle windows are punctuated with stone in place of the marble colonnettes. The aisle windows also are not recessed as those of the south facade. The two-staged tower is replaced with two thin stone spires dividing the length of the facade into thirds.

The main entrance leads to a long rectangular narthex, perpendicular to the axis of the church. Its walls and all of the church's interior walls are half-paneled with wood. The entrance to the rectangular nave reveals a westward thrust toward the pulpit and choir area. Above this, the western wall is decorated with a large lancet-arched, stained glass

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET #1.

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

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

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Cummins Memorial Church
Baltimore City
CONTINUATION SHEET Maryland ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 1

(DESCRIPTION continued)

window flanked with a decorative and colorful mural encompassing the ent wall. The window is composed of four lancet arches bracing a large circ all of which are interwoven with wood tracery. All the wooden pews face westward and are divided with one central and two side aisles. A wooden staircase in the southeast corner leads to a U-shaped balcony, extending along three-fourths of the side walls; it is supported by six simple woo columns. The interior roof is gambrel-shaped and is supported by eight large decorative brackets. A hexagonal lantern with trefoil arches is hung from each bracket. Central heating ductwork has been inconspicuous installed among the rafters. The two-story tower at the far southwester corner houses a stairwell which leads to Lanvale Street at ground level and to a basement. The basement or "center" is a nondescript rectangul room, functioning as a classroom for Sunday school and as a place of wor for some weekday services.

The adjoining Rectory is a three-story, two-bay building fronting Lanvale Street. The front facade, with two bowed projections, has been reconstructed to appear as a side facade in the Victorian style. (It was originally the front facades of two rowhouses). The facade is compo of brown brick laid in stretcher bond, and a cornice of decorative brick defines the roofline. The windows have one-over-one lights and lintels stretcher bond brick. Stone stringcourses define the sills of the windo at each floor. The foundation wall is composed of a similar rubble ston Five concrete steps lead to the multi-paneled door of the entranceway located in the left bay of the first story.

The entrance leads to an interior stairwell, providing access to al rooms. Church offices and choir rooms are housed in these three floors. Carved wooden molding defines the half-paneled mark in several offices. Hung ceilings, formica tiled floors, and plain light wooden doors are characteristic of the entire remodeled interior.

The Rectory is functionally adjoined to the Church through the stairwells.

Emmanuel Christian Community Church is located in the southwestern corner of Lafayette Square, second in beauty and grace only to Mt. Vernc Place among the residential squares of Baltimore. Four lovely churches variously designed in the Gothic Revival style, front the square. The maintenance of each is essential for the preservation of this unique and lovely park.

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET #2.

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	__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 Cornerstone laid May 2, 1878 BUILDER/ARCHITECT J. Appleton Wilson, archite

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

SIGNIFICANCE

The Emmanuel Christian Community Church building was erected in 187 for the Cummins Memorial Reformed Episcopal Church. Cummins Memorial, originally named Church of the Rock of Ages, is significant 1) as Baltim first Reformed Episcopal congregation, 2) as an elegant contribution to the Gothic Revival in mid-19th century American architecture, and 3) as an integral element of one of Baltimore's finest urban parks, Lafayette Square.

HISTORY

Bishop George David Cummins was both the founder of the Reformed Episcopal Church and of Cummins Memorial Reformed Episcopal Church of Baltimore. Born in Delaware in 1822, Cummins was truly a man of letters. He attained his status within the Protestant Episcopal Church through his untiring dedication and compassion for humanity. He was well traveled in his missions and became internationally renowned as a leader within his church. His service, however, was not free of trouble and conflict as he became increasingly distrubed by the inroads made by the "Ritualis during the 19th century. At the Episcopacy's General Convention in Baltimore in 1871, Cummins urged the Evangelicals to withdraw from a chu contaminated by Ritualists and advocated a new order based on the "purer' Prayer Book of 1785 (an original tenet dividing the Protestant Episcopac from the Church of England).

Though he remained loyal to the Protestant Episcopal Church to the end of his administration, Bishop Cummins officially resigned his status in November, 1873. A great deal of controversy was, of course, created within the Church, and the act received criticism in the public journals but many bishops within the Episcopacy recognized that Cummins' support was large among both ministers and laymen and acted with great cause and purpose. At a meeting in New York City, Bishop Cummins and his followin established the "Declaration of Principles of the Reformed Episcopal Chu Adopted, December 2, 1873", which has subsequently been used as the basi of all Reformed Episcopacy. Cummins was elected as the newly founded church's first presiding bishop on the same day.

In the following year, Cummins made a tour of the United States and Canada and established churches in many major cities including New York, Montreal, Chicago, Philadelphia, and Ottawa. Through correspondence a church was also established in London, the mother city of Episcopacy.

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET #2.

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(SIGNIFICANCE continued)

After his extended tour, Cummins took lodgings in Baltimore, where he had been stationed previously. During this visit, the Church of the Rock of Ages was established as Baltimore's first Reformed Episcopal Church. The congregation first met at Lehman's Hall on Howard Street on December 27, 1874 and was incorporated on September 26, 1877. After the Bishop died at his home in Lutherville, Maryland in 1878, the name of the congregatic was changed to Cummins Memorial, in honor of the Church's founder.

The church building, at the northwest corner of Carrollton Avenue and Lanvale Street, was designed by J. Appleton Wilson, one of the foremc Baltimore architects of the period. Wilson (1851-1927) attended Columbia College in Washington in the early 1870's and the Boston Institute of Technology (presently M.I.T.) in 1877, a year before America's great architect Henry Hobson Richardson did the same. He subsequently became a prolific part of Baltimore's "second" (post-Civil War) generation of architects. His most notable buildings include: the McKim House (1879) at 1035 Calvert Street, and the remainder of the east side of "Belvidere Terrace", Baltimore's finest example of Queen Anne architecture; the Wil House (1877) at 1201 St. Paul Street; and the Newcomer House (c.1885) at 1211 St. Paul Street. Several other outstanding buildings in the Mt. Ve area, designed in partnership with his cousin William T. Wilson, include the Baltimore Club-house (1895) at 916 N. Charles Street (American Archi No. 1034); the Bruce House (1889) at 1112 N. Calvert Street; and the Wil House (c.1880) at 1129 St. Paul Street. Wilson's accomplishments includ the restoration of the State Chamber of the Maryland State House in Annapolis, Maryland. He was also the corresponding secretary of the Maryland Historical Society for a number of years, and he served as a member of the Baltimore Municipal Art Commission until his death in 1927.

The Gothic Revival styling of the Cummins Memorial Church building perfectly suited to the expression and function of its original congrega tion. In the 1840's, mature Gothic Revivalism appeared in American chur architecture in the form of the English Gothic Revival. Churches were thus copies of the true Medieval and English Gothic, unlike earlier Goth imitations prevalent in America in the early 19th century. Episcopal churchmen found these church styles appealing because they suggested the English background and the distinguished lineage of their church. The Cummins Memorial Church thus used this architectural style as a means of expressing their roots in Episcopacy.

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET #3.

Form No 10 300a
(Rev 10-74)

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(SIGNIFICANCE continued)

The English parish church was the model for Gothic Revival, the paris church connoting the individual property of a single denomination. The use of the parish style thus expressed the independence which the Reforme Episcopal Church had established apart from the Protestant Episcopacy.

The Gothic Revival led to a deepened understanding and appreciation of older, particularly Medieval, art. As Phoebe Stanton notes: "The wish to copy Gothic architecture and the thoughts about the building whic developed as a result were singularly expressive of the respect and nosta for the past which were characteristic of the nineteenth century." (1968 p.xvii.) Believers of the movement were convinced that the presence of "good" art from a "better" age would improve contemporary life. The integration of the old and "better" art form as the expression of the new and Reformed Episcopal Church could not have more clearly symbolized Bishop Cummins' attempt to renew his church through the use of a "purer" manuscript from a past era (the Prayer Book of 1785).

Among the notable members of the Cummins Church is Baltimore's current Mayor, William Donald Schaefer. Mayor Schaefer got his introduct into the political world as treasurer of this church.

The Emmanuel Christian Communnty Church, founded by Reverend Robert S. Stansbury on July 8, 1934, purchased the building during the 1930's, at a time when the Lafayette Square area was quickly changing racially fr white to black. Numerous other churches in the area had similar turnover in the 1920's. Lafayette Square and nearby Pennsylvania Avenue became th cultural and commerical hub of the Baltimore black community. The 1920's and '30's were the years of the Harlem Renaissance for blacks in the Unit States, an era of great strides in black music, literature, and the arts. Black self-pride was awakened during the Harlem Renaissance all across th country, including the Lafayette Square community. The growth of black music, in the form of jazz, and black entertainment was particularly noticeable along the nearby Pennsylvania Avenue Corridor.

Though the community has since fallen on hard times, not unlike many inner City areas, a spirit of vitality has been renewed through the effor of both the Department of Housing and Community Development and the Emman Christian Community Church.

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET #4.

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Cummins Memorial Church
Baltimore City
CONTINUATION SHEET Maryland . ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 4

(SIGNIFICANCE continued)

As an element of Lafayette Square, the church building significantly contributes to the square's overall beauty. Four lovely churches, in various expressions of the Gothic style, front the park, second only to Mount Vernon Place among the residential squares of Baltimore. The St. John's A.M.E. Church, just north of the Emmanuel Church, creates a rare case in Baltimore where two churches are positioned side by side. Lafaye Square was unfortunately scarred in 1975 by the demolition of the State Normal School, once located at the northwest corner of Lafayette and Carrollton Avenues. The maintenance of the remaining buildings, includir the Emmanuel Christian Community Church, is essential for the preservatic of this lovely and unique park.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

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Cummins, A. M. Memoir of George David Cummins, D.D.: First Bishop of t
Reformed Episcopal Church. Philadelphia: E. Claxton and Company, 1

Hunter, Wilbur H. and Elam, Charles H. Century of Baltimore Architectur
Baltimore: The Peale Museum, 1957.

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET #5

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 105' x 60' lot size (less than one acre)

QUADRANGLE NAME Baltimore West quadrangle QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:24000

UTM REFERENCES

	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
A	1,8	3,5,8,7,5,0	4,3,5,0,9,2,0
B			
C			
D			
E			
F			
G			
H			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION Beginning at the northwest corner of W. Lany Street and N. Carrollton Avenue, go 105' due west, continue at right ang 60' due north, continue at right angle 105' due east, continue at right angle 60' due south back to starting point.

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE
Bill Tamburrino, Planning Assistant

ORGANIZATION
Commission for Historic and Architectural Preservation

DATE
Se

STREET & NUMBER
100 N. Holliday Street

TELEPHONE
(301) 396-4866

CITY OR TOWN
Baltimore

STATE
Maryland 21202

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL ___ STATE XX 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 8-20-79

TITLE STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

DATE

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

ATTEST: DATE

CHIEF OF REGISTRATION

GPO 921-

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Reisfeld, Jon. "William Donald Schaefer: A Dossier." Baltimore Magaz
September, 1978, pp. 54-56.

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Louis H. Everts, 1881.

Stanton, Phoebe B. The Gothic Revival and American Church Architecture.
Baltimore: The Johns Hopkins Press, 1968.

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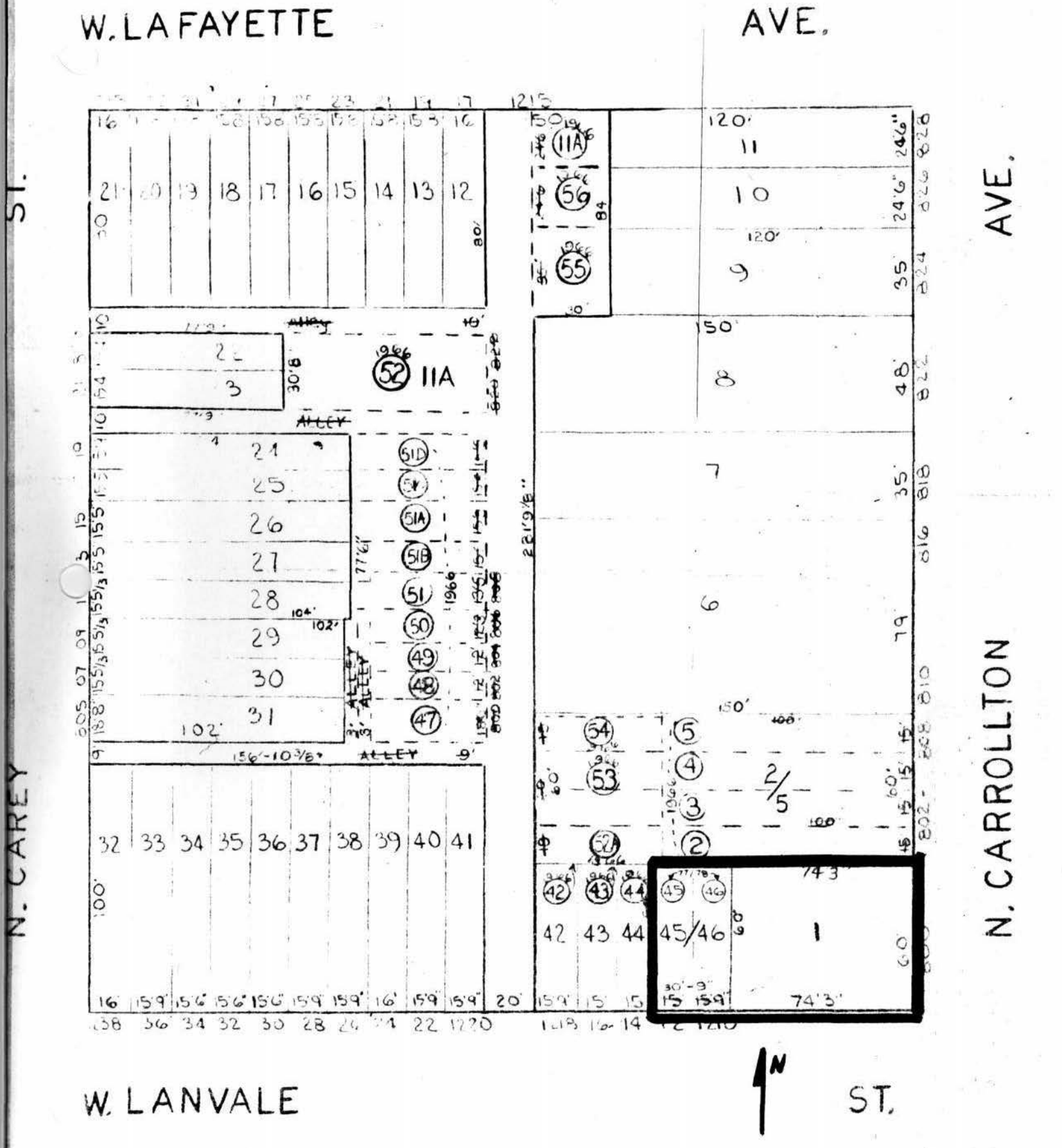
W. LAFAYETTE AVE.
N. CAREY ST.
N. CARROLLTON AVE.
W. LANVALE ST.
ALLEY
11A
52
51D
51A
51B
51
50
49
48
47
56
55
54
53
2/5
1
74'3"
N

B-27


Baltimore West Quad
Church of the Rock of Ages
(Cummins Memorial)
Preferred
BALTIMORE
Druid Hill Park
Druid Lake
Hampden
Woodberry
Childrens Hospital School
Lake Ashburton
Hanlon Park
Douglass High School
Walbrook
Coppin State Teachers College
Easterwood Park
St. Peters Cemetery
Lutheran Hospital
Harlem Park
Lafayette Square
Franklin Square
Union Square
Bon Secours Hospital
Edgar Allen Poe Home
St. Pauls Cem
Mt Olivet Cemetery
GWYNNS FALLS PARK
Western Cemetery
Penn Central
Gwynns Falls
Jones Falls
Druid Park Lake Drive
Park Avenue
Pennsylvania Avenue
Baltimore Street
Lexington Street
Fayette Street
Franklin Street
Mulberry Street
Laurens Street
Monroe Street
Fulton Avenue
Calhoun Street
Carrollton Avenue
Linden Avenue
Hilton Road
Edgewood Road
Towanda Road
Gwynns Falls Parkway
Wyman Park
Maryland Avenue
Lafayette Avenue
North Avenue
Baker Street
Windchester Street
Poplar Grove Street
Bentalou Street
Pratt Street
Carroll
Park
Quarry
Tower
Cem
Zoo
PO
Water
Drive-in Theater
Overlea 6.8 mi
Bel Air 23 mi.
Hare De Grace 37 mi.
28 mi to US 40
(Baltimore East)
5662 I SE
17'30"
4355
4354
4349



B-127
Commms Memorial Church
(church of the Rock of Ages)
1210 W. Lanvale Street
Baltimore

