

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

B-127

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

79

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 (preferred)

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NOT FOR PUBLICATION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

☐ DISTRICT☒ BUILDING(S)☐ STRUCTURE☐ SITE☐ OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

☐ PUBLIC☒ PRIVATE☐ BOTH

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

☐ IN PROCESS☐ BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

☒ OCCUPIED☐ UNOCCUPIED☐ WORK IN PROGRESS

ACCESSIBLE

☒ YES: RESTRICTED☐ YES: UNRESTRICTED☐ NO

PRESENT USE

☐ AGRICULTURE☐ COMMERCIAL☐ EDUCATIONAL☐ ENTERTAINMENT☐ GOVERNMENT☐ INDUSTRIAL☐ MILITARY☐ MUSEUM☐ PARK☐ PRIVATE RESIDENCE☒ RELIGIOUS☐ SCIENTIFIC☐ TRANSPORTATION☐ 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 ☒ LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDSCommission for Historic and Architectural Preservation

CITY, TOWN

Baltimore

STATE

Maryland 21202

DESCRIPTION

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CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
☐ EXCELLENT	☐ DETERIORATED	☒ UNALTERED	☒ ORIGINAL SITE
☒ GOOD	☐ 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

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(DESCRIPTION continued)

window flanked with a decorative and colorful mural encompassing the entire wall. The window is composed of four lancet arches bracing a large circle 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 wood 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 inconspicuously installed among the rafters. The two-story tower at the far southwestern corner houses a stairwell which leads to Lanvale Street at ground level and to a basement. The basement or "center" is a nondescript rectangular room, functioning as a classroom for Sunday school and as a place of worship 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 composed 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 of stretcher bond brick. Stone stringcourses define the sills of the windows at each floor. The foundation wall is composed of a similar rubble stone. 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 all rooms. Church offices and choir rooms are housed in these three floors. Carved wooden molding defines the half-paneled walls 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. Vernon 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.

SIGNIFICANCE

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PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
☐ PREHISTORIC	☐ ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	☐ COMMUNITY PLANNING	☐ LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	☒ RELIGION
☐ 1400-1499	☐ ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	☐ CONSERVATION	☐ LAW	☐ SCIENCE
☐ 1500-1599	☐ AGRICULTURE	☐ ECONOMICS	☐ LITERATURE	☐ SCULPTURE
☐ 1600-1699	☒ ARCHITECTURE	☐ EDUCATION	☐ MILITARY	☐ SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
☐ 1700-1799	☐ ART	☐ ENGINEERING	☐ MUSIC	☐ THEATER
☒ 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, architect

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE SIGNIFICANCE

The Emmanuel Christian Community Church building was erected in 1878 for the Cummins Memorial Reformed Episcopal Church. Cummins Memorial, originally named Church of the Rock of Ages, is significant 1) as Baltimore's 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 disturbed by the inroads made by the "Ritualists" during the 19th century. At the Episcopacy's General Convention in Baltimore in 1871, Cummins urged the Evangelicals to withdraw from a church contaminated by Ritualists and advocated a new order based on the "purer" Prayer Book of 1785 (an original tenet dividing the Protestant Episcopacy 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 followers established the "Declaration of Principles of the Reformed Episcopal Church Adopted, December 2, 1873", which has subsequently been used as the basis 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.

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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 congregation 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 foremost 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 Will 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. Vernon area, designed in partnership with his cousin William T. Wilson, include: the Baltimore Club-house (1895) at 916 N. Charles Street (American Architect No. 1034); the Bruce House (1889) at 1112 N. Calvert Street; and the Will House (c.1880) at 1129 St. Paul Street. Wilson's accomplishments include 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 congregation. In the 1840's, mature Gothic Revivalism appeared in American church architecture in the form of the English Gothic Revival. Churches were thus copies of the true Medieval and English Gothic, unlike earlier Gothic 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.

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Baltimore City

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(SIGNIFICANCE continued)

The English parish church was the model for Gothic Revival, the parish church connoting the individual property of a single denomination. The use of the parish style thus expressed the independence which the Reformed 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 which developed as a result were singularly expressive of the respect and nostalgia 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 introduction into the political world as treasurer of this church.

The Emmanuel Christian Community 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 from white to black. Numerous other churches in the area had similar turnover in the 1920's. Lafayette Square and nearby Pennsylvania Avenue became the cultural and commercial hub of the Baltimore black community. The 1920's and '30's were the years of the Harlem Renaissance for blacks in the United States, an era of great strides in black music, literature, and the arts. Black self-pride was awakened during the Harlem Renaissance all across the 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 efforts of both the Department of Housing and Community Development and the Emmanuel Christian Community Church.

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Baltimore City

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(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. Lafayette 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, including the Emmanuel Christian Community Church, is essential for the preservation of this lovely and unique park.

MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

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

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

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET #5

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

A 18 358750 4350920

B

ZONE EASTING NORTHING

ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C

D

E

F

G

H

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION Beginning at the northwest corner of W. Lanv Street and N. Carrollton Avenue, go 105' due west, continue at right angle 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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Bill Tamburrino, Planning Assistant

ORGANIZATION

DATE

Commission for Historic and Architectural Preservation Se

STREET & NUMBER

TELEPHONE

100 N. Holliday Street

(301) 396-4866

CITY OR TOWN

STATE

Baltimore

Maryland 21202

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

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

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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Baltimore City

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

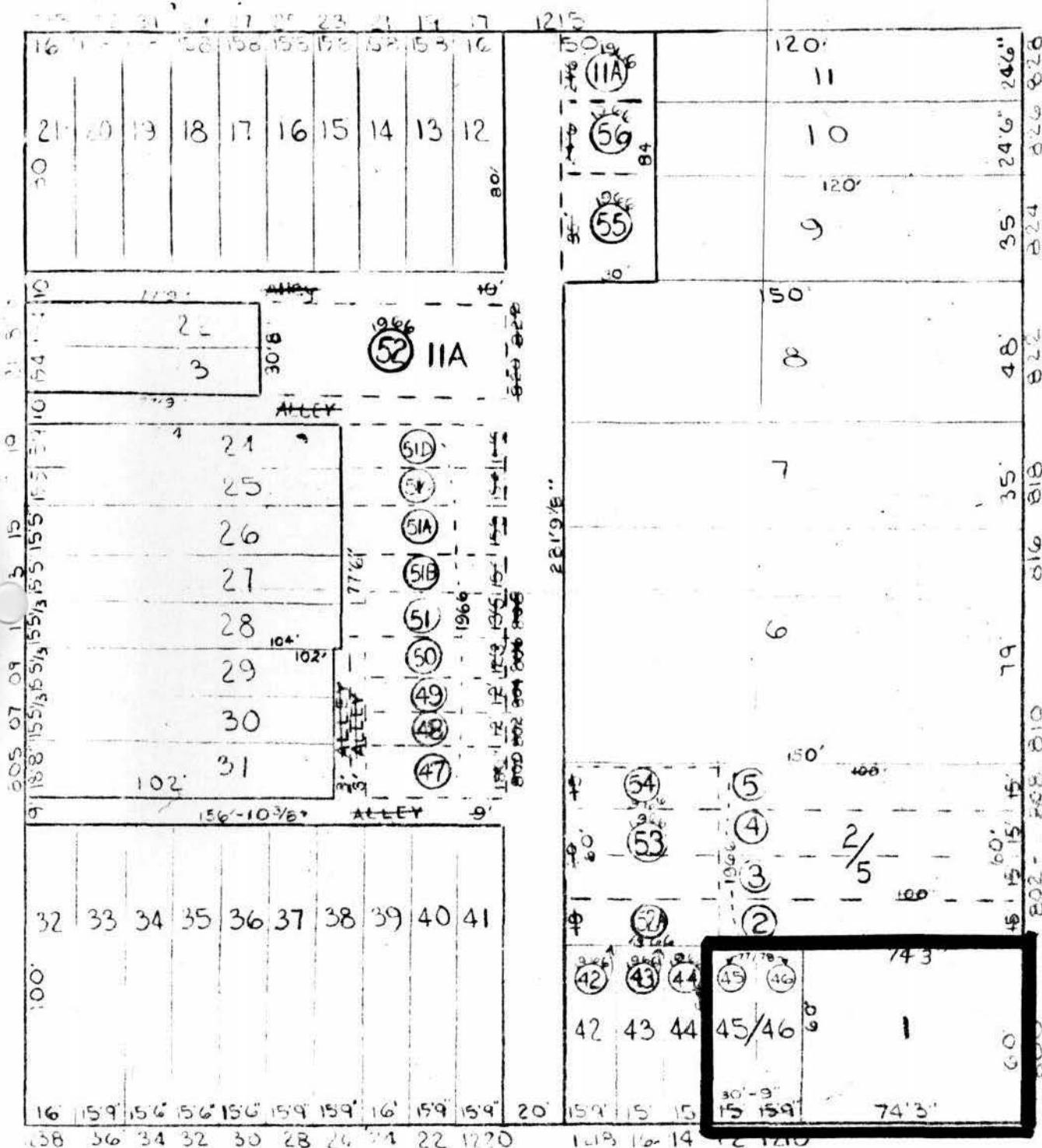
W. LA FAYETTE

AVE.

ST.

AVE.

N. CARROLLTON



W. LANVALE

ST.

B-127

Baltimore
West
Quad



Church of
the
Rock of
Ages
(Cummins
Memorial)

Preferred