

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 St. John's Baptist Church
other names/site number New St. John Institutional Baptist Church/8DA5127
MIAMIGALLONS

2. Location

street & number 7335 NW 3rd Avenue N/A not for publication
city, town Miami N/A vicinity
state Florida code FL county Dade code 025 zip code 33138

3. Classification

Ownership of Property

- private
 public-local
 public-State
 public-Federal

Category of Property

- building(s)
 district
 site
 structure
 object

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing	Noncontributing
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>
	buildings
	sites
	structures
	objects
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>
Total	

Name of related multiple property listing:
Downtown Miami Multiple Resource Area

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 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 meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet.

Suzanne P. Walker (Deputy)
Signature of certifying official State Historic Preservation Officer
Florida Dept. of State, Division of Historical Resources

2/25/92
Date

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

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6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)
RELIGION: religious structure

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)
RELIGION: religious structure

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(enter categories from instructions)

MODERN MOVEMENT: Moderne

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation concrete

walls brick

roof ceramic tile

other

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

Please see continuation sheet.

See continuation sheet

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 1 St. John's Baptist Church

DESCRIPTION

St. John's Baptist Church, 1328 N.W. 3rd Avenue, is located on the southwest corner of N.W. 3rd Avenue and 13th Street in Overtown, a historically black section of Miami. It is a rectangular, two-story masonry building clad in buff brick. It has a front gable roof covered in clay tile and parapets that are capped by a simple masonry coping. The church is an eclectic architectural blend of Art Moderne details on Gothic style massing. Designed by the black architectural firm of McKissack and McKissack, the church was completed in 1940.

The main (east) facade of the building is three bays wide and has a central entrance set beneath a tower that is flanked by a series of setbacks. The tower is embellished by a simple circular window with triple windows above it. The entrance is made up of three doorways, each capped by a rectangular transom, and is framed by a masonry surround that contains stylized ornamentation with religious iconography. The triple doorway is approached by a series of broad steps which conceal the church's raised basement. Tall window openings are recessed within the end bays of the elevation.

The side elevations are five bays long and are relatively plain except for a water table that wraps around the church and brick corbeling found at the cornice. Each bay contains an elongated, multi-pane window set into a simple wood frame that rests on a flat masonry sill.

The interior of the church sanctuary is rather plain and is characterized by a balcony located to the rear of the church. The alter, set at the west end of the sanctuary, is flanked by a choir gallery set above the sanctuary floor level. A raised baptismal font is located behind the alter. Flat brick pilasters divide the interior walls into bays.

The lower level of the church consists of an auditorium and classrooms which are accessible from a side entrance found on the south elevation.

The modernistic image of the building is enhanced by a monolith found in front of the church which serves as signage. It is composed of glass block and buff-colored brick, and contains an inscription that the church is "fully air-conditioned."

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Section number 7 Page 2 St. John's Baptist Church.

St. John's Baptist Church has undergone very little alteration since its construction. The building maintains its integrity of design, materials, workmanship, feeling, location, and association.

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8. Statement of Significance

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)

Architecture

Period of Significance

1940

Significant Dates

1940

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Significant Person

N/A

Architect/Builder

McKissack and McKissack
(architects)

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

Please see continuation sheet.

See continuation sheet

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 1 St. John's Baptist Church

SIGNIFICANCE

St. John's Baptist Church, an Art Moderne style religious structure with Gothic massing, was constructed in downtown Miami during the historical period of the Bust and Great Depression (1927 to 1942). It is architecturally significant under Criterion C at the local level as a rare mixture of Art Moderne details on Gothic style massing in a religious building in Miami. Located in Overtown, a historically black section of Miami, the building was designed by the black architectural firm of McKissack and McKissack of Nashville. Construction was completed in 1940.

The exterior of St. John's Baptist Church embodies the distinctive characteristics of Gothic massing with Art Moderne details. The visual composition represents a fine example of modernism in ecclesiastical architecture in Dade County, as evidenced in the use of buff-colored brick as a surface material inside and out, and for the use of streamline stylistic features. The scale of the building, its construction materials, and corner location make this church one of the most prominent visual landmarks in Overtown.

The church building houses a congregation that was organized on 17 June 1906. The first services were held in a small frame structure two blocks away from the present site. By 1939, with membership exceeding 1,000 parishioners, the present building was planned and subsequently built for approximately \$75,000.

The current building was constructed at the urging of Reverend J. W. Drake, one of Overtown's most well-known leaders. Drake was born in 1872 in Oglethorpe County, Georgia, and studied at the Baptist Seminary in Atlanta. He came to Miami in 1912 and transformed the Baptist Church in Overtown into one of the area's leading religious institutions. Drake died in 1951.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Please see cover nomination.

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 # _____

See continuation sheet

Primary location of additional data:

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

Specify repository:

Bureau of Historic Preservation

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of property Less than 1 acre

UTM References

A 17 51 80 11 80 28 5 2 185
 Zone Easting Northing
 C _____

B _____
 Zone Easting Northing
 D _____

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

Miami, Lots 19 and 20, less the southerly 90.6 feet, of Block 2 of the plat of SOSTS SUBDIVISION (PB B-27)

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

Boundary includes the city lots that have been historically associated with the property and that maintain their historic integrity.

See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Tulie W. Taylor, Historic Sites Specialist Sarah Eaton, Preservation
 organization Division of Historical Resources date 2-27-92 Planner
 street & number 500 S. Bronough St. telephone (904) 487-2333
 city or town Tallahassee state Florida zip code 32399

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Division of
United States Department of the Interior

MAY 8 1992

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

P.O. BOX 37127

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20013-7127

Historical
Resources



IN REPLY REFER TO:

The Director of the National Park Service is pleased to inform you that the following properties have been entered in the National Register of Historic Places. For further information call 202/343-9542.

MAY 1 1992

WEEKLY LIST OF ACTIONS TAKEN ON PROPERTIES: 4/20/92 THROUGH 4/25/92

KEY: State, County, Property Name, Address/Boundary, City, Vicinity, Reference Number NHL Status, Action, Date, Multiple Name

- ALABAMA, MOBILE COUNTY, Convent and Academy of the Visitation, 2300 Springhill Ave., Mobile, 91000844, NOMINATION, 4/24/92 (Historic Roman Catholic Properties in Mobile MPS)
- ALABAMA, MOBILE COUNTY, Convent of Mercy, 753 St. Francis St., Mobile, 91000845, NOMINATION, 4/24/92 (Historic Roman Catholic Properties in Mobile MPS)
- ALABAMA, MOBILE COUNTY, Saint Vincent de Paul, 351 S. Lawrence St., Mobile, 91000839, NOMINATION, 4/24/92 (Historic Roman Catholic Properties in Mobile MPS)
- ARIZONA, COCONINO COUNTY, Ridge Ruin Archeological District, Address Restricted, Flagstaff vicinity, 92000339, NOMINATION, 4/20/92
- CALIFORNIA, LOS ANGELES COUNTY, Examiner Building, 1111 S. Broadway, Los Angeles, 92000382, OWNER OBJECTION, 4/21/92
- CALIFORNIA, SANTA CRUZ COUNTY, Pacific Avenue Historic District, Roughly bounded by Pacific Ave., Water, Front, and Cathcart Sts., Santa Cruz, 87000004, REMOVAL, 4/21/92
- CONNECTICUT, FAIRFIELD COUNTY, Booth, Nathan B., House, 6080 Main St., Stratford, 92000317, NOMINATION, 4/17/92
- FLORIDA, CITRUS COUNTY, Citrus County Courthouse Old Sq, Courthouse Sq., Inverness, 92000340, NOMINATION, 4/17/92
- FLORIDA, DADE COUNTY, Great Bethel AME Church, 245 N.W. 8th St., Miami, 88002987, NOMINATION, 4/17/92 (Downtown Miami) DA 2367
- FLORIDA, DADE COUNTY, St. John's Baptist Church, 1328 N.W. 3rd Ave., Miami, 88002970, NOMINATION, 4/17/92 (Downtown Miami) BA 5127
- FLORIDA, SEMINOLE COUNTY, St. James A.M.E. Church, 619 Cypress Ave., Sanford, 92000352, NOMINATION, 4/24/92, SE 457
- ILLINOIS, COOK COUNTY, Stahmer, George F., House, 704 N. 4th Ave., Maywood, 92000358, OWNER OBJECTION, 4/22/92 (Maywood MPS)
- IOWA, AUDUBON COUNTY, Poplar Rural District, Roughly, area from Poplar S and W to Wolf Cr., Jacksonville vicinity, 91001463, NOMINATION, 4/09/92 (Ethnic Historic Settlement of Shelby and Audubon Counties MPS)
- KENTUCKY, POWELL COUNTY, Nada Tunnel & Petroglyphs, Address Restricted, Nada vicinity, 92000342, NOMINATION, 4/20/92 (Prehistoric Rock Art Sites of Kentucky MPS)
- KENTUCKY, SPENCER COUNTY, Hough, Charles, House, 309 Washington St., Taylorsville, 92000301, OWNER OBJECTION, 4/17/92
- MARYLAND, ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY, Davidsonville Historic District, Along MD 214 E to jct. with Davidsonville Rd., Davidsonville, 92000141, NOMINATION, 3/27/92
- MASSACHUSETTS, ESSEX COUNTY, Lynn Common Historic District, Roughly, N. and S. Common St. from Market Sq. to City Hall, Lynn, 92000247, NOMINATION, 4/10/92
- MASSACHUSETTS, ESSEX COUNTY, Washington Street Historic District, Washington, Main, Holton and Sewall Sts., Peabody, 85002380, ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTATION, 4/17/92
- MINNESOTA, HENNEPIN COUNTY, St. Anthony Falls Historic District, Around Mississippi River between Plymouth and S. 10th Aves., Minneapolis, 71000438, ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTATION, 4/23/92
- MINNESOTA, PIPESTONE COUNTY, Great Northern Depot, jct. of 5th Ave. SE. and 2nd St. SE., Pipestone, 92000258, OWNER OBJECTION, 4/09/92
- NEW MEXICO, COLFAX COUNTY, Dawson Cemetery, Approximately 4 mi. NW of jct. of US 64 and the Dawson Rd., Dawson, 92000249, NOMINATION, 4/09/92
- NORTH CAROLINA, QUILFORD COUNTY, East White Oak School, Former, 1801 Tenth St., Greensboro, 92000360, NOMINATION, 4/21/92 (Greensboro MPS)
- NORTH CAROLINA, QUILFORD COUNTY, Forney, Edward J., House, 1402 Spring Garden St., Greensboro, 92000359, NOMINATION, 4/21/92 (Greensboro MPS)
- NORTH CAROLINA, QUILFORD COUNTY, Pomona High School, Former, 2201 Spring Garden St., Greensboro, 92000361, OWNER OBJECTION, 4/21/92 (Greensboro MPS)
- NORTH DAKOTA, DICKEY COUNTY, Ellendale Opera House Block, 105--111 Main St., Ellendale, 92000354, NOMINATION, 4/22/92
- PUERTO RICO, SAN JUAN MUNICIPALITY, House at 659 La Paz Street, 659 La Paz St., Miramar, 91002007, NOMINATION, 1/30/92
- SOUTH CAROLINA, SALUDA COUNTY, Webb--Coleman House, 2 mi. S of Chappells, .3 mi. E of SC 39, at jct. of three dirt rds., Chappells vicinity, 92000365, NOMINATION, 4/24/92
- TENNESSEE, HAMILTON COUNTY, McConnell, Chancellor T. M., House, 517 E. Fifth St., Chattanooga, 92000314, NOMINATION, 4/17/92
- TENNESSEE, LAWRENCE COUNTY, Lawrenceburg Commercial Historic District, Roughly bounded by N. Military St., Public Sq., E. Gaines St. and E. Pulaski St., Lawrenceburg, 92000346, NOMINATION, 4/14/92
- TENNESSEE, MADISON COUNTY, Lane College Historic District, Lane Ave., Jackson, 87001117, BOUNDARY INCREASE, 4/21/92

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FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Jim Smith
Secretary of State

DIVISION OF HISTORICAL RESOURCES

R.A. Gray Building
500 South Bronough

Tallahassee, Florida 32399-0250

Director's Office Telecopier Number (FAX)
(904) 488-1480 (904) 488-3353

May 14, 1992

Miami Heritage Conservation Board
c/o Ms. Sarah Eaton
Historic Preservation Planner
City of Miami Planning Department
Post Office Box 330708
Miami, Florida 33133

Re: St. Johns Baptist Church, Miami, Florida

Dear Board Members:

It is a pleasure to advise you that the above referenced site has been officially listed in the National Register of Historic Places as of April 17, 1992.

The enclosed fact sheet outlines the effect of listing in the National Register with reference to major laws and Federal regulations related to listed properties. Local planning agencies should be aware of the review requirements pertaining to any Federally assisted activities that may have an impact on listed properties.

Sincerely,

Suzanne P. Walker
for George W. Percy
State Historic
Preservation Officer

GWP:Tbm

Enclosure

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY NAME: St. John's Baptist Church

MULTIPLE NAME: Downtown Miami MRA

STATE & COUNTY: FLORIDA, Dade

DATE RECEIVED: 11/21/88 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 12/06/88
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 12/22/88 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 1/05/89
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 88002970

NOMINATOR: STATE

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

APPEAL: N DATA PROBLEM: Y LANDSCAPE: N LESS THAN 50 YEARS: Y
OTHER: N PDIL: N PERIOD: N PROGRAM UNAPPROVED: N
REQUEST: N SAMPLE: N SLR DRAFT: N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

ACCEPT RETURN REJECT 1/3/89 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

See attached comments

RECOM./CRITERIA Return
REVIEWER A. Schubert
DISCIPLINE Historic
DATE 1/3/89

DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y/N see attached SLR Y/N

Reviewer's Comments

The cover nomination and the individual forms for the properties within the Miami Multiple Resource Area clearly illustrate the importance of the historic resources still remaining in the core of Miami's downtown. The residential buildings and the commercial buildings are all well documented, and the forms explain clearly the significance of these properties in the city's commercial and residential growth periods. Many institutional buildings, primarily religious institutions, also have been nominated. The properties in this category constructed during the boom times of the 1920s reflect the growth of the city during that time. This context is documented briefly in the cover form. The National Register has therefore accepted several of these properties under the area of significance "Religion" or "Community Development."

The significance of several of these institutional properties, however, is not demonstrated in the documentation. Five of the nominations included within the Miami Multiple Resource Area nomination, four churches and one school, are therefore being returned for further analysis. In two cases, the Greater Bethel AME Church and the St. John's Baptist Church, the significance of the buildings in community developmental history is not established. What specific role did these churches play in the social, religious, and institutional history of Miami? In two other cases, the Ebenezer Methodist Church and the First Presbyterian Church, the significance of the architectural design and the role of this particular building in religious history and the community's developmental history is not documented either, especially since these properties are significantly less than fifty years of age. The importance of Ebenezer Methodist in the riots of the 1980s must be stated in historical terms, using historical research methods, and may have to wait to be recognized with the perspective of scholarly review. Finally, the history of education in the city and the role of the Miramar Public School in this historical pattern needs to be documented in that specific nomination--this is particularly key because education as an area of significance was not covered in the cover nomination.

CLASSIFICATION

count resource type

STATE/FEDERAL AGENCY CERTIFICATION

FUNCTION

historic current

DESCRIPTION

architectural classification
 materials
 descriptive text

SIGNIFICANCE

Period Areas of Significance--Check and justify below

Specific dates Builder/Architect
Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

summary paragraph
 completeness
 clarity
 applicable criteria
 justification of areas checked
 relating significance to the resource
 context
 relationship of integrity to significance
 justification of exception
 other

BIBLIOGRAPHY

GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

acreage verbal boundary description
 UTMs boundary justification

ACCOMPANYING DOCUMENTATION/PRESENTATION

sketch maps USGS maps photographs presentation

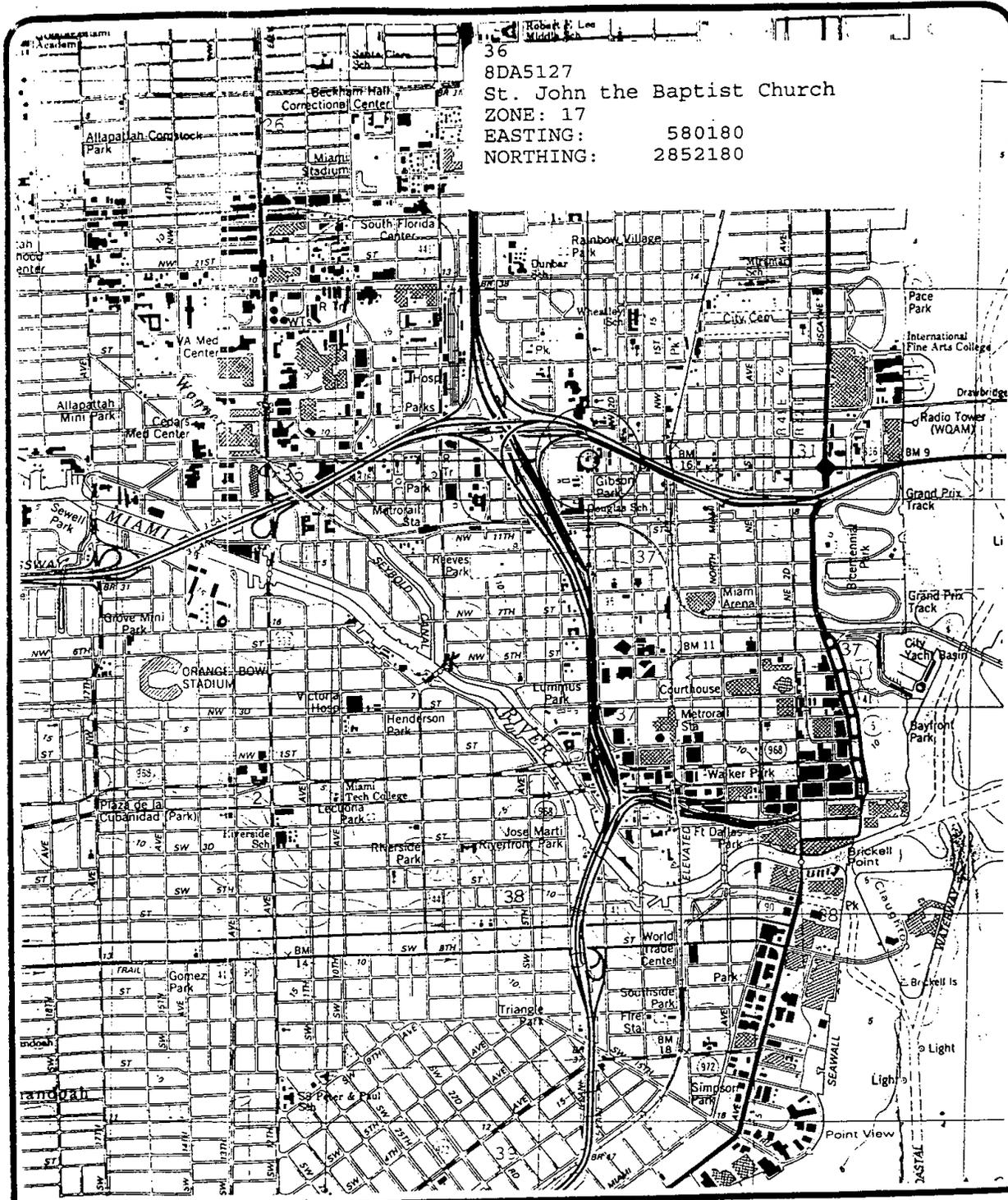
OTHER COMMENTS

Questions concerning this nomination may be directed to

_____ Phone _____

Signed *[Signature]* Date 1/18





36
 8DA5127
 St. John the Baptist Church
 ZONE: 17
 EASTING: 580180
 NORTHING: 2852180

Miami, Florida
 USGS 7.5 Minute Series (Topographic)
 1988 (Photorevised 1990)
 Scale = 1:24,000