

Architectural And Historic Survey



435#

Identification

STREET ADDRESS: 1618 Gordon Avenue	HISTORIC NAME: First Church of Christ Scientist
MAP & PARCEL: 9-12	DATE / PERIOD: 1958-59
CENSUS TRACT AND BLOCK:	STYLE: Colonial Revival
PRESENT ZONING: R-3	HEIGHT (to cornice) OR STORIES: 1 storey
ORIGINAL OWNER: First Church of Christ Scientist	DIMENSIONS AND LAND AREA: 150' x 171.8' (25,770 sq.ft.)
ORIGINAL USE: Church	CONDITION: Good
PRESENT USE: Church	SURVEYOR: Bibb
PRESENT OWNER: Trustee of First Church of Christ Scientist	DATE OF SURVEY: Spring 1982
ADDRESS: 1618 Gordon Avenue Ch'ville, VA 22903	SOURCES: City Records <u>The Daily Progress</u> , Ch'ville Bicentennial edition, 4/13/1962

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION

This small church building is particularly noteworthy for its use of slate. It is set on a high foundation constructed of brick laid in Flemish bond with rusticated brick quoins and a slate water table. Walls are stuccoed and have quoins of rusticated beige brick at the corner. The steep trunated hip roof is covered with slate and has a boxed cornice. A narrow flush band of slate defines a stuccoed frieze. Two segmental-headed, slate-walled dormers on the rear elevation contain louvered air vents. The main body of the church building is five bays long. In each bay a 12-over-16 light, double sash window with architrave trim, paneled wooden spandrel, and stone jack arch, is set within a round-arched recess outlined with beige brick. Basement windows are 4-light fixed-sash flanked by 4-light casement, with stone jack arch. The marthex is somewhat shorter and has a medium-pitched slate gable roof with a parapet gable on the facade. There is a stone urn with fruit on the cornice stop at each end. The facade is constructed of beige brick laid in stretcher bond. Four slate sonic pilasters on the facade and one on each side carry a wooden entablature. In the center bay there is a segmental-arched entrance loggia with slate keystone and end blocks. The entrance, under a segmental arch with cartouche, is in the form of a Palladian arch. Four decorated pilasters carry a cornice with Greek fret band above the 3-panel door and leaded fish-eye sidelights over panels. There is a half-round leaded fanlight over the door. Windows in the sides of the marthex are 8-over-12 light with stone jack arches, paneled wooden spandrels, and louvered shutters. They are not set in recesses. A square stuccoed tower with rusticated beige brick quoins is set at the rear of the marthex. Beige brick outline an octogonal niche in each side. It has a cornice with very shallow modillion. Upon this is set a square, white, wooden belfry with round-arched louvered air vents with keystones and end blocks. Sonic pilasters with inset panels support a pediment and frieze with Greek fret band. An octagonal spire, rising in two stages, is covered with metal plates and topped with a weatherwane. A small one-storey wing with a basement level wing behind it covers the rear elevation. Both have slate hip roofs and double-sash windows, 6-over-6 and 6-over-9 light, with paneled shutters. Windows in the last wing have stone jack arches, and there is a segmental-arched rear entrance loggia.

HISTORICAL DESCRIPTION

A Christian Science Society was formed in Charlottesville in 1920. The following year, the Levy Opera House (already converted to apartments) was purchased, and services were held there until a church building at 1707 Grady Avenue was completed in 1929, the same year that the Society was approved as a Church. The present lot a block away was purchased in 1956 (City DB 192-165). A large 2-storey brick house on the site has burned the year before while occupied by Kappa Alpha fraternity. The new church building was designed by Raymond Julian, a New York architect who lived in Charlottesville for several years. Construction was begun in 1958, and the first services were held on November 14, 1959.

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VIRGINIA HISTORIC LANDMARKS COMMISSION

HISTORIC DISTRICT SURVEY FORM

File No. 104-130
Negative no(s). 7220

Street address 1621 Gordon Ave.
Town/City Charlottesville

Historic name _____ Common name Maranatha Christian Center

- Material
- wood frame (siding: weatherboard, shingle, aluminum, bricktex, _____)
 - brick (bond: Flemish, stretcher, _____-course American, veneer?)
 - stone (random rubble, random ashlar, coursed ashlar, _____)
 - log (siding: weatherboard, shingle, aluminum, bricktex, _____)
 - stucco cast iron
 - concrete block terra cotta
 - enameled steel glass and metal
 - other: _____

Number of Stories	Roof Type	Roof Material
<input type="checkbox"/> 1 <input type="checkbox"/> 2½ <input type="checkbox"/> 1½ <input type="checkbox"/> 3 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 2 <input type="checkbox"/> _____	<input type="checkbox"/> shed <input type="checkbox"/> mansard <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> gable <input type="checkbox"/> gambrel <input type="checkbox"/> pediment <input type="checkbox"/> parapet <input type="checkbox"/> hipped <input type="checkbox"/> flat <input type="checkbox"/> other: _____	<input type="checkbox"/> slate <input type="checkbox"/> tile <input type="checkbox"/> wood shingle <input type="checkbox"/> pressed tin <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> composition <input type="checkbox"/> not visible <input type="checkbox"/> standing seam metal <input type="checkbox"/> other: _____

Dormers	Number of bays — Main facade
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 0 <input type="checkbox"/> 3 <input type="checkbox"/> shed <input type="checkbox"/> hipped <input type="checkbox"/> 1 <input type="checkbox"/> 4 <input type="checkbox"/> gable <input type="checkbox"/> _____ <input type="checkbox"/> 2 <input type="checkbox"/> _____ <input type="checkbox"/> pedimented	<input type="checkbox"/> 1 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 4 <i>Asym.</i> <input type="checkbox"/> 7 <input type="checkbox"/> 2 <input type="checkbox"/> 5 <input type="checkbox"/> 8 <input type="checkbox"/> 3 <input type="checkbox"/> 6 <input type="checkbox"/> _____

Porch	Stories	Bays	General description
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes <input type="checkbox"/> no	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1 <input type="checkbox"/> 3 <input type="checkbox"/> 2 <input type="checkbox"/> _____	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1 (center) <input type="checkbox"/> 2 <input type="checkbox"/> 4 <input type="checkbox"/> 1 (side) <input type="checkbox"/> 3 <input type="checkbox"/> _____	Distyle entry shelter with Tuscan columns and pierced pediment. Also side porch.

Building type

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> detached house	<input type="checkbox"/> garage	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
<input type="checkbox"/> detached town house	<input type="checkbox"/> farmhouse	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commercial (office)	<input type="checkbox"/> school
<input type="checkbox"/> row house	<input type="checkbox"/> apartment building	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial (store)	<input type="checkbox"/> church
<input type="checkbox"/> double house	<input type="checkbox"/> gas station	<input type="checkbox"/> railroad	<input type="checkbox"/> _____

Style/period Georgian Revival Date c. 1930-45 Architect/builder _____

Location and description of entrance Side-lights.



Miscellaneous descriptive information (plan, exterior and interior decoration, cornice/eave type, window type and trim, chimneys, additions, alterations)

This house, set on a corner lot, blends well with other buildings in the district.
Probably built in the 1930s, it shares features with other houses nearby.

Historical information

An earlier two-story frame house erected before 1920, according to the Sanborn maps, was centered on this lot and the adjoining one at 1609 Gordon Ave. (The house faced 17th St.). It appears that this house was moved to the lot north of this some time after 1929.

Source Eugenia Bibb; Sanborn maps.
Surveyed by Jeff O'Dell, VHLC Date 4-83; 9083



**VIRGINIA
HISTORIC LANDMARKS COMMISSION
HISTORIC DISTRICT SURVEY FORM**

File No. 104-130
Negative no(s). 7215, 7221

Page 1 of 2

Street address 1618 Gordon Ave.
Charlottesville

Town/City

Historic name First Church of Christ, Scientist Common name

- Material
- wood frame (siding: weatherboard, shingle, aluminum, bricktex, _____)
 - brick (bond: Flemish, stretcher, _____-course American, painted olive gray)
 - stone (random rubble, random ashlar, coursed ashlar, _____)
 - log (siding: weatherboard, shingle, aluminum, bricktex, _____)
 - stucco cast iron
 - concrete block terra cotta
 - enameled steel glass and metal
 - other: _____

Number of Stories	Roof Type	Roof Material
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1 + <i>bsmt</i> <input type="checkbox"/> 2 1/2 <input type="checkbox"/> 1 1/2 <input type="checkbox"/> 3 <input type="checkbox"/> 2 <input type="checkbox"/> _____	<input type="checkbox"/> shed <input type="checkbox"/> mansard <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> gable <input type="checkbox"/> gambrel <input type="checkbox"/> pediment <input type="checkbox"/> parapet <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> hipped <input type="checkbox"/> flat <input type="checkbox"/> other: _____	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> slate <input type="checkbox"/> tile <input type="checkbox"/> wood shingle <input type="checkbox"/> pressed tin <input type="checkbox"/> composition <input type="checkbox"/> not visible <input type="checkbox"/> standing seam metal <input type="checkbox"/> other: _____

Dormers	Number of bays — Main facade
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Building type

<input type="checkbox"/> detached house	<input type="checkbox"/> garage	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
<input type="checkbox"/> detached town house	<input type="checkbox"/> farmhouse	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial (office)	<input type="checkbox"/> school
<input type="checkbox"/> row house	<input type="checkbox"/> apartment building	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial (store)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> church
<input type="checkbox"/> double house	<input type="checkbox"/> gas station	<input type="checkbox"/> railroad	<input type="checkbox"/> _____

Style/period Georgian Revival Date 1958-59 Architect/builder Raymond Julian of NYC, arch.

Location and description of entrance Single-leaf door with sidelights and fanlight.



Miscellaneous descriptive information (plan, exterior and interior decoration, cornice/eave type, window type and trim, chimneys, additions, alterations)

This unusual Georgian Revival church features a main block with hipped roof, rusticated quoins, tall sash windows in blind ^{arch} recesses; a scaled-down front extension with gable roof and plain composite pilasters ^{on} the facade; and a tower consisting of plinth, belfry, and double-tapered spire.

Historical information

This church stands on the site of a two-story brick house, built before 1920, that burned in 1956 while occupied by Kappa Alpha fraternity.

Daily Progress article; Eugenia Bibb;
Source Sanborn maps; Real Estate Dept; City Directory
Surveyed by Jeff O'Dell, VHLC Date 4-83; 8-83

✓ Christian Science Church - 1618 Concordance ~~1618 Broadway~~

192-165 1st Ch of Christ, Scientist 1956 plat 99-95

1-5, basement

brick & some blk found., brick & stucco walls, flat slate & built up roof
built 1958-59

Alpha Epsilon Pi 102 Kent Ter -> Ch Sci Church 509 17th
Sept ~~1957~~ 1958; new Ch being built
flat home at 16 Gordon Ave dem. 1956
(2 1/2-5 brick w/ metal roof, 14 rooms)

Ch'v B'icen Prog 4/13/62, p11

10/1920 Chris Sci Society formed, formally registered 1/1921
services in Odd Fellows Hall

early 1921 purchased Levy Opera House (then called Haden Apts)
2 first floor rooms combined

1929 2 rooms NB rented for reading room

4/1929 lot at 17th & Brady bought

summer 1929 1st unit completed, to be used for services & SS at first
& later only as SS

7/1929 approved as church instead of society

Decided orig plans for adding sanctuary to 1st bldg wouldn't
leave ~~too~~ enough parking space, so decided start over.

Bought burned-out KA house at 17th & Gordon

11/14/1929 1st services in new bldg

Christian Science Church

192-165 Fraternity Housing Coys. → Trustees of 1st Ch of Christ,
5/17/1956 Scientist, Ch'co, Va

lot w/ imp'ts 150' on Gordon Ave bet 17th NW & 15' alley,
back 174.1 on W & 171 on E

same as 152-83, 1950, for Azalia T Williams

98-464, 1939, Ewing P Stringfellow → Tiffany J Williams

portico in center?

Christian Science Church

high brick found - Flem bond; slate water table;
rusticated brick quoins

walls lt tan stucco; corner quoins of rusticated ^{beige} ~~grey~~ brick

step truncated hip roof, slate, boxed cornice;
slate marks off a fringe ^{above} ~~above~~ quoin stop?

chim near rear E

main block 5 bays long
stone jack-arched window w/ arch trim & spandrel set within round-
arched recess ~~door~~ bordered w/ ^{beige} ~~grey~~ brick

basement 12-2 (2 casement + center fixed), ^{stone} jack arched

shorter

shorter ^{rather} ~~stage~~ proj for facade
med gable roof w/ parapet gable on facade ^{slate} ~~slate~~
^{side} windows 5/12 w/ stone jack wch, same architrave & spandrel
lowered shutters, but no round-arched recess
facade beige brick, stacher

4 slate pilasters carry white wooden entab
seg-arched ent loggia center, slate keystone & end blocks
3-panel door, leaded fish-eye sidelights over panels,
semi-circular leaded fanlight over door only, 4 dec
pilasters carry cornice w/ Greek fret band below ^{fanlight} ~~door~~
seg arch w/ cartouche over all
slate pilaster around corner beyond quoins
stone urn w/ fruit ^{on} at each corner of facade

square tower set on ^{rather} ~~rough~~ agit main block
stucco of same grain, slate-marked frieze, ~~also~~
~~boxed~~ cornice of very shallow modillions; gray brick
outlines out niche (stucco) in each side
white wooden platform

• " " square ^{bell} belfry:

round-arched lowered air vent of ^{keystone & end blocks} ~~solid~~
^{with inset panels & egg & dot capitals?}
pilasters support frieze of brick flat & Δ pediment
tapering (2 stages) out giro covered of metal panels
weather vane

^{raised} slate terrace ~~at rear~~ at ent, brick wall of win

2 reg-headed dormers on rear; slate walls, lowered air vent

lower 1-storey wing covers rear; slate hip roof, boxed cornice;
6/6 ^{rear} windows w/ paneled shutters
6/9 side

lower wing behind it, above-basement level; roof same,
windows 6/9 w/ stone jack arches & paneled shutters;
reg-arched ent. loggia w rear



