

Sharing the Journey

Duncan McIntosh, Minister of Proclamation

March 15, 2011

Ms. Leslie Miles, Chairman
Montgomery County Historic Preservation Commission
8787 Georgia Ave.
Silver Spring, MD 20910

Re: First Baptist Church of Silver Spring

Dear Chairman Miles:

On behalf of the First Baptist Church of Silver Spring, MD, the purpose of this letter is to express the Church's strong objection to the Silver Spring Historical Society's ("SSHS") nomination of the Church's buildings, located at 8415 Fenton Street in downtown Silver Spring (the "Property"), for designation on the Montgomery County Master Plan for Historic Preservation (the "Master Plan") or the Locational Atlas (the "Atlas"). As set forth in the report dated March 15, 2011, prepared by David S. Rotenstein, Ph.D, RPA and submitted into the record of this proceeding, the buildings meet none of the criteria for designation in the Master Plan or Locational Atlas under applicable County law. Moreover, the inclusion of all or a portion of the buildings in the Master Plan or the Atlas, or any regulation of the redevelopment of the property for historic preservation purposes, will prevent the Church from proceeding with the proposed redevelopment of the Property that the Church is currently pursuing. The plans for redevelopment will provide the Church with new facilities on the Property as part of a mixed-use project and allow the Church to continue its mission in the community.

We believe it is important that you understand why we need to replace these buildings with new, more suitable facilities for our ministries and mission. In this regard, there are significant functional inadequacies for this Federation of three churches in Silver Spring. The current building lacks spaces to accommodate the activities of a federation of churches that want to do education and worship simultaneously in three languages (English, Spanish and Creole/French). Such an arrangement is crucial to keep the youth who Anglicize from public school environments and soon seek to disassociate from the "foreign language" congregation of their birth. Simultaneous education allows children through young adults to take classes in English as

they are able while adults will have classes in English, Spanish, French or Creole. Together they would offer their members and the wider community worship opportunities in the same three languages. Our new plan will allow for sound-proofed worship spaces and adequate age-graded and language-separated class rooms.

Rotting wood and the danger of breaking asbestos tiles and insulation materials has forced us to close off the upper half of the 1925 parsonage. Water seepage at times of heavy rainfall causes serious mold problems in the 1941 building and the lower level of the 1956 building. Water seeps up through the ground-level slab of the 1941 building and permeates the porous east walls of the 1956 Fellowship Hall causing minor flooding. To a limited degree we control the mold by frequent use of dryers and very frequent carpet cleaning.

Only a small part of the 1956 building is handicapped accessible. The three distinct buildings in our complex are joined by steps preventing movement of wheelchairs and handicapped persons from building to building. Handicapped persons are confined to two areas in the upper (Worship Center) and the lower (Fellowship Hall) levels of the 1956 building. If elevators could be installed in the other two buildings, a handicapped person would have to exit the 1956 building to the parking lot and go around the buildings to Wayne Avenue where they could enter at ground-level door to access another elevator to go up or down in the other two buildings. But, they could not go from one building to the other inside the complex of buildings unless we install single level lifts at each level separation. However, these installations would require extensive building modifications because of very limited space in the stairways.

The current facility greatly limits our capacity to do some church programs and community ministries we consider essential to our mission. The church operates a weekday pre-school educational program, providing an essential service to the local community which eliminates rooms for adult programs such as literacy and language training. Though we have personnel who are fully qualified to run such ministries, we do not have adequate space to house them. Other programs are equally handicapped. All three buildings were built primarily as worship centers as the church grew over a period of four decades. When the second building was built, the first was adapted to Sunday School. When the third building was built, the 1st and 2nd buildings were adapted to Sunday School and weekday education. Today, our adult programs are limited to use of the Fellowship Hall, which is partitioned by aged folding walls that are mostly inoperable.

We also operate a Food Closet that serves over 40 families each Saturday morning, but it does not have adequate indoor space for people to gather as they wait for the distributions. When it is cold and/or wet, people stand in lines outside for 10 to 20 minutes.

Any one of a number of serious maintenance issues could more than wipe out all the church's current financial reserves!

1. About 6 years ago we lost the only "green" component of our HVAC when the 8,000 gallon under-ground tank to store chilled water sprung a leak creating a minor sinkhole under the pre-school play ground and the foundation of the 1941 building. The aged HVAC runs, thanks to prayer and skilled technicians who "jerry-rig" or custom craft parts such as pumps because they are no longer manufactured.
2. All the crash-bars on external doors have to be repaired at least twice a year because the springs are stressed and break after a few openings. Again, the age of the doors means that crash-bars of their sizes are no longer manufactured. Thus parts must be hand-crafted at considerable cost. Also, the rotting wood on the doors must be patched because the doors are not stocked sizes or designs in any catalog today.

I could go on with the fire-alarm system, total roofing, replacing internal water pipes that are filled with pin-holes, aged windows that do not close or keep out drafts, a kitchen that is decades out of date, storm drains that flood us instead of clearing away water, and inadequate handicapped accessible toilets. But, for the Church, the primary problem is the total inadequacy of the buildings for ministries in downtown Silver Spring in the 21st century.

These inadequacies were also noted by the restoration architect brought to the buildings in 2005 by the Silver Spring Historical Society. In addition to concluding that our main building had no historical significance, he pointed out that even if we could get the \$5 million (more now) to bring the buildings up to code, we would still only have a 1950s building that would not adequately serve the needs of an urban church in 2000.

This same conclusion is drawn by Partners for Sacred Places, the organization suggested by the Historical Society to help us fund restoration. As national director for Church Planting for the American Baptist Churches in the USA from 1984 to 1997, I worked with the Historical Trust and Partners for Sacred Places on numerous projects across the country. Their first question is, "If restored, will this building serve the mission needs of this congregation for the next 25 years?" Because our buildings do not meet their test, they will not recommend or assist restoration.

In summary, if our buildings are placed on the Master Plan or Historic Atlas, or otherwise subject to regulation for historic preservation purposes in the event of redevelopment, it would be prohibitively expensive for our congregations to bring the buildings up to code. Even if we

could afford that financial outlay, we would be strapped with buildings that would inhibit faithful fulfillment of our Christian call to mission and ministry. The members of First Baptist Church have repeatedly affirmed their strong commitment to continue our ministries in downtown Silver Spring. For that reason we have chosen to rebuild on our current property rather than take flight to a more distant location such as the New Hampshire Avenue corridor north of Colesville that is already jammed with religious groups that had been driven from the inner city.

Further, the members of the three congregations associated at First Baptist Church want to make the Federation a reality because it will demonstrate the best of and for Silver Spring and Lower Montgomery County by cooperation across racial, linguistic and cultural lines.

As you consider this matter, we urge you to make the decision that will free us to continue serving this growing city rather than be forced to abandon our mission, our dream and our hope for continuing to be a redemptive catalyst in our city.

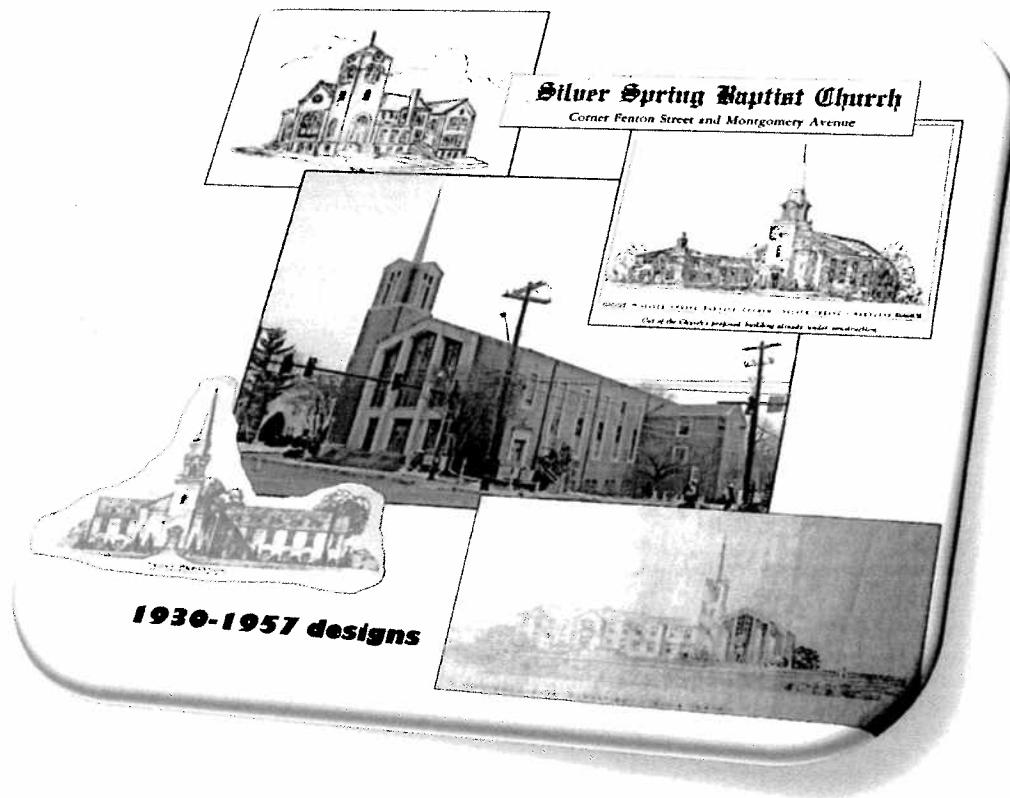
Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Duncan McIntosh". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the typed name.

Dr. Duncan McIntosh, Pastor

C: Mr. Scott Whipple, Historic Preservation Supervisor
Tom Peddicord, Moderator, First Baptist Church
Rosemary Piercey, Trustee Chair, First Baptist Church
John Rosecrans, Architect for First Baptist Church
Josh Adler, Partner, LaKritz/Adler Development Co.
Scott C. Wallace, Attorney, Linowes & Blocher

First Baptist Church of Silver Spring: History and Historic Preservation Recommendations



H⁴H Historian for Hire

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March 15, 2011

Table of Contents

Table of Contents.....	i
Summary	1
Results.....	1
Silver Spring Historic Context.....	4
First Baptist Church of Silver Spring History.....	7
First Baptist Church of Silver Spring: Land and Buildings.....	18
Parsonage (1926)	21
First Unit (1931)	23
Education (1940).....	24
Sanctuary (1950).....	25
Sanctuary (1956).....	27
Ronald S. Senseman.....	30
Historic Preservation Activities	32
Historic Preservation Criteria	34
Cultural and Historical Criteria.....	34
Architectural Criteria	35
Architectural Integrity.....	46
Conclusions and Recommendations	49
References Cited	52

Appendices

1. April 2010 Draft MIHP (Historic Preservation Office)
2. November 2010 SSHS MIHP Form
3. February 2011 SSHS MIHP Form
4. 2002 CBD survey form
5. 2005 emails between SSHS and former HPC members
6. David S. Rotenstein CV

First Baptist Church of Silver Spring: History and Historic Preservation Recommendations

David S. Rotenstein, Ph.D., RPA
March 2011

Summary

This report presents research and findings that show that the First Baptist Church of Silver Spring property meets none of the legal criteria for designation in the Montgomery County Master Plan for Historic Preservation. The Silver Spring Historical Society (SSHS) has requested that the Montgomery County Historic Preservation Commission (HPC) evaluate the property's historical and architectural significance based on documentation submitted to the Montgomery County Planning Department's Historic Preservation Section (HPS). The SSHS research was based on incomplete and inaccurate information derived mainly from secondary sources, i.e., newspapers and magazines, and not primary historical documents, e.g., legal instruments, business records, etc. The findings presented by the SSHS in two Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties forms are not valid and not based on credible research.

The findings presented in this report are the result of research conducted on behalf of the First Baptist Church of Silver Spring. This new research includes primary documentary research in the records of the church, its parent organization (District of Columbia Baptist Convention), oral history interviews, and legal instruments filed with government entities. The SSHS documentation recommends designation under five of nine criteria defined at Montgomery County Code § 24A-3. This report deconstructs the historical narrative prepared by the SSHS and the bases used for recommending designation and finds that the First Baptist Church of Silver Spring meets *none* of Montgomery County's criteria for designation in the Master Plan for Historic Preservation.

Results

This report presents defensible evidence that the information presented to the HPC by the SSHS was substantially incorrect and based on inaccurate and incomplete research. This report specifically finds:

- 1) The First Baptist Church of Silver Spring property has multiple connected buildings constructed and altered over three quarters of a century and that none of these buildings is individually historically distinctive and they collectively do not constitute a significant coherent and distinguishable entity;
- 2) The remaining First Baptist Church of Silver Spring buildings lack sufficient integrity to convey information about their historical significance;

- 3) The history of the church prepared by the Silver Spring Historical Society has significant and substantive factual errors and does not effectively articulate the church's organizational history nor its position in Silver Spring, Montgomery County, and the Washington metropolitan region's historic context;
- 4) The Silver Spring Historical Society omitted details available in the sources cited and embellished information presented in its documentation to support its claims of historical and architectural significance;
- 5) The First Baptist Church of Silver Spring complex does not constitute a "familiar visual feature" because of new construction and development that has transformed Silver Spring's Central Business District landscape isolating the FBCSS property; and,
- 6) The First Baptist Church of Silver Spring addition designed by architect Ronald S. Senseman is not the work of a master as defined in Montgomery County Code § 24A-3(b)(2)(b) and by historic preservation technical publications published by the National Park Service for use in preparing National Register of Historic Places nominations.

Table 1			
First Baptist Church of Silver Spring: Montgomery County Historic Preservation Designation Criteria			
§ 24A-3(b)(1)	<i>Historical and cultural significance</i>	SSHS Recommendation	This Evaluation
a	Has character, interest or value as part of the development, heritage or cultural characteristics of the county, state or nation;	<i>yes</i>	<i>no</i>
b	Is the site of a significant historic event;	no	<i>no</i>
c	Is identified with a person or a group of persons who influenced society; or	no	<i>no</i>
d	Exemplifies the cultural economic, social, political or historic heritage of the county and its communities.	<i>yes</i>	<i>no</i>
§ 24A-3(b)(2)	<i>Architectural and design significance</i>		
a	Embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period or method of construction;	<i>yes</i>	<i>no</i>
b	Represents the work of a master;	<i>yes</i>	<i>no</i>
c	Possesses high artistic values;	no	<i>no</i>
d	Represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction; or	no	<i>no</i>
e	Represents an established and familiar visual feature of the neighborhood, community or county due to its singular physical characteristic or landscape.	<i>yes</i>	<i>no</i>
Montgomery County Code § 24A-3: Historic Resources Preservation, Criteria for designation of historic sites or districts.			

The documentation produced by the SSHS is building-centric and reduces the First Baptist Church of Silver Spring's history to one of constant planning for a master-architect-designed church to fill the church's property at the corner of Fenton Street and Wayne Avenue.¹ The SSHS documentation fails to connect people, places, and buildings within a credible and defensible historic context. The research presented in this report documents the shortcomings of the SSHS research and constructs a historic context based on primary documentary and oral history research to more effectively evaluate the First Baptist Church of Silver Spring property under Montgomery County's historic preservation ordinance.

The SSHS prepared a Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties (MIHP) form that copied extensively from an earlier MIHP form completed by HPS staff.² The SSHS form departed from the earlier form by adding additional narrative about Silver Spring's historical development and its buildings. The SSHS form also expanded the earlier form's biographical narrative of architect Ronald S. Senseman. Factual and chronological errors introduced in the earlier form were reproduced in the later SSHS documentation and additional factual errors were made by the SSHS authors in their work.

The SSHS submitted a revised MIHP form to the Historic Preservation Section following a February 2011 meeting with the church's pastor, legal counsel, historic preservation staff, and this consultant. At the February 2011 meeting, the SSHS indicated that its revised form would strengthen points made in the earlier form.³ The changes in the revised form, submitted in February 2011, appear mainly editorial and cosmetic. The one substantive change to the earlier MIHP form, a discussion of architect George E. Merrill's involvement in the design of a 1931 addition to the church, presents incorrect and incomplete information on Merrill's role. The editorial changes in the revised form furthermore appear to deflect responsibility for factual errors in the earlier report from the SSHS to the HPS staff who completed the 2010 draft MIHP form.

Research to prepare this report was conducted at the Library of Congress, the Montgomery County Historic Preservation Section office, and the D.C. Public Library's Washingtoniana collection. Business records held by the First Baptist Church of Silver Spring and architectural drawings in the custody of the church's trustees were consulted along with the records of the church's parent organization, the District of Columbia Baptist Convention. Telephone interviews were conducted with architect Ronald Senseman's widow, the wife of Senseman's last business partner, and First Baptist Church of Silver Spring trustee Dwight Sapp.

This report is laid out in eight sections after this introduction. A brief historic context follows in the first section. The context includes an overview of Silver Spring's history and an examination of the sources typically used by preparers of historic preservation documentation in Montgomery

¹ Silver Spring Historical Society, *Silver Spring Baptist Church*, Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form, 2010, p. 8-1.

² Lisa Mroszczyk and Clare Lise Kelly, *Silver Spring Baptist Church*, Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form, April 16, 2010.

³ George French, February 8, 2011 meeting.

County. The next section presents a detailed history of the First Baptist Church of Silver Spring. This history documents the church's founding and its relationship to larger religious and secular communities in suburban Washington. Following this historical narrative is a section on the development of the church's real estate holdings and the various buildings built and bought at the expanded site since the 1920s. The next section presents a biographical discussion of architect Ronald S. Senseman. The history of historic preservation activities involving the First Baptist Church of Silver Spring is discussed next and this is followed by a detailed application of the Montgomery County Master Plan for Historic Preservation criteria for designation to the church property. The final two sections in this report include a discussion of the property's architectural integrity and setting and the conclusions that the First Baptist Church of Silver Spring meets none of the nine criteria for designation in the Montgomery County Master Plan for Historic Preservation. Appended to the report are Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties forms completed by the Montgomery County Historic Preservation Section and the Silver Spring Historical Society; the 2002 Silver Spring CBD survey inventory form for the property; 2005 emails between the SSSHS and then-Montgomery County Historic Preservation Commission members; and, this report's author's CV.

Silver Spring Historic Context

Silver Spring is an unincorporated community in southern Montgomery County, Maryland. The community has a permanent settlement history that includes antebellum farms and commercial development along a rapidly developing transportation infrastructure. Its proximity to the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad and roads connecting Washington, D.C., with outlying farms and communities made Silver Spring an attractive location for seasonal resorts and permanent housing as Montgomery County became dissected by roads, rails, and public utilities like electricity, sewer, and water during the first quarter of the twentieth century.

Although Silver Spring's history has been outlined in various academic and popular histories, there is no comprehensive and credible history of the community. Silver Spring's history has been treated in several countywide history surveys, including 1976's *A Grateful Remembrance*.⁴ Architectural historian Richard Longstreth has spent several decades exploring Silver Spring's commercial history and architecture in articles and book chapters that provide solid research insights into Silver Spring's twentieth century development.⁵

⁴ Richard K MacMaster and Ray Eldon Hiebert, *A Grateful Remembrance: The Story of Montgomery County, Maryland* (Rockville, Md: Montgomery County Govt, 1976); Clare Lise Cavicchi, *Places from the Past: The Tradition of Gardez Bien in Montgomery County, Maryland* (Silver Spring, Md: The Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission, 2001).

⁵ Richard Longstreth, "The Neighborhood Shopping Center in Washington, D. C., 1930-1941," *Journal of the Society of Architectural Historians* 51, no. 1 (March 1992): 5-34; Richard Longstreth, "The Diffusion of the Community Shopping Center Concept during the Interwar Decades," *Journal of the Society of Architectural Historians* 56, no. 3 (1997): 268-293; Richard Longstreth, "The Mixed Blessings of Success: The Hecht Company and Department Store Branch Development after World War II," *Perspectives in Vernacular Architecture* 6 (1997): 244-262; Richard Longstreth, "Silver Spring: Georgia Avenue, Colesville Road and the Creation of an Alternative 'Downtown' for Metropolitan Washington," in *Streets: Critical Perspectives on Public Space*, ed. Zeynep Çelik, Diane Favro, and Richard Ingersoll (Berkeley: University of California Press, 1994), 247-58, 294.

Most of the historical literature on Silver Spring, however, is confined to site- and area-specific studies of buildings and neighborhoods, mainly written by amateur historians and architectural historians working in concert with the county's historic preservation program. These efforts include designation documentation prepared for Silver Spring's Perpetual Bank Building; Robert Oshel's history of the Woodside Park subdivision; and, the Silver Spring Historical Society's two picture books focused on downtown Silver Spring.⁶

There have been several professional historic preservation documentation projects, including those undertaken by the Historic American Engineering Record (HAER) at the former Canada Dry Bottling Plant in downtown Silver Spring and at a 1930s water treatment plant on Silver Spring's periphery at Burnt Mills.⁷ George Washington University historic preservation graduate student Stephanie Sechrist wrote a 1994 thesis on Silver Spring's twentieth century residential development history that includes a solid discussion of Silver Spring's historic context.⁸

In the 1980s, there were several countywide thematic historic preservation surveys that included many Silver Spring properties.⁹ And, federal and state agencies complying with federal environmental laws, like the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (as amended) and the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, continue to do project-based cultural resource management surveys for federally funded and licensed undertakings like the proposed Purple Line rail project.¹⁰ To assist its consultants and cultural resource management staff identify and evaluate historic properties in regulatory reviews, the Maryland Department of Transportation

⁶ Jerry A McCoy and Silver Spring Historical Society (Silver Spring, Md.), *Historic Silver Spring*, Images of America (Charleston, SC: Arcadia, 2005); Jerry A McCoy and Silver Spring Historical Society (Silver Spring, Md.), *Downtown Silver Spring* (Charleston, S. C: Arcadia Pub, 2010); Robert E Oshel, *Home Sites of Distinction: The History of Woodside Park, Silver Spring, Maryland* (Silver Spring, Md: Woodside Park Civic Association, 1998); EHT Tracerics, Inc., *Silver Spring Branch Office of the Perpetual Building Association*, Report prepared for the Silver Spring Historical Society (Silver Spring, Maryland, December 31, 2007), http://www.montgomeryplanningboard.org/agenda/2008/documents/20080110_PerpetualBuildingAssociationSilverSpringBranchOfficeFinalCorrectedReport1_2_08.pdf (accessed February 2, 2011).

⁷ Justine Christianson, *Robert B. Morse Water Filtration Plant* (Washington D.C.: Library of Congress, 2008), <http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.pnp/hhh.md1796> (accessed February 2, 2011); Robin Ziek, *Canada Dry Bottling Plant* (Washington D.C.: Library of Congress, 2004), <http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.pnp/hhh.md1587>.

⁸ Stephanie Ann Sechrist, "Silver Spring, Maryland: Residential Development of a Washington Suburb, 1920 to 1955" (George Washington University, 1994).

⁹ Andrea Rebeck, *Early Twentieth Century Multi-Family Dwellings in Montgomery County* (Silver Spring, Md: M-NCPPC, 1987), http://www.montgomeryplanningboard.org/agenda/2008/documents/20080612_resource-rebeck1_print.pdf (accessed February 2, 2011); Andrea Rebeck, *Montgomery County in the Early Twentieth Century: A Study of Historical and Architectural Themes* (Silver Spring, Md: M-NCPPC, 1987), http://www.montgomeryplanningboard.org/agenda/2008/documents/20080612_resource-rebeck2_print.pdf (accessed February 2, 2011); Andrea Rebeck, *Automobile-related Structures of Early Twentieth Century Montgomery County*, n.d.

¹⁰ John Randall, *An Historic Preservation Assessment of the Falkland Apartment Complex in Silver Spring, Montgomery County, Maryland*, Report prepared for the Maryland Transit Administration (Baltimore, Maryland, December 5, 2007), http://www.montgomeryplanningboard.org/agenda/2008/documents/20080612_resource-mta12-07_print.pdf (accessed February 1, 2011).

produced a *Suburbanization Historic Context and Survey Methodology* covering Montgomery and Prince George's counties.¹¹

History and historic preservation students at area universities have begun deconstructing Silver Spring's history and historic preservation efforts. These include a 2005 University of Maryland doctoral dissertation on revitalization, memory, and historic preservation in downtown Silver Spring and a 2008 University of Maryland thesis on evaluating the significance of recent past (e.g., post-World War II) architecture and historic preservation in Silver Spring.¹²

The lack of a body of credible research has led to Montgomery County's historic preservation regulators' reliance on amateur histories, picture books, and historic preservation designation documents prepared by consultants relying on earlier historic preservation work and incomplete and incorrect secondary historical works.¹³ Although the county attempted to remedy the dearth of credible historical literature by retaining a cultural resource management consultant to prepare a survey of Silver Spring's Central Business District and a historic context, that work too was incomplete. The 2002 survey failed to correctly identify or evaluate the First Baptist Church of Silver Spring property despite the fact that the property contained buildings that at the time that the survey was completed (2002) were fifty years old or more.¹⁴

Another shortcoming in Silver Spring's existing body of historical literature are studies that depart from a building-, site-, and neighborhood-centric focus to take in larger issues of social and economic development and ethnic and religious groups. As Silver Spring's population grew during the 1920s, religious institutions established a foothold in the community and began building houses of worship and other places to achieve community outreach and educational goals. Congregations, like the First Baptist Church of Silver Spring, were founded during this period and have grown with the community. Baptists, Catholics, Lutherans, Methodists, Adventists, and Jews made their homes in the subdivisions that sprouted along southern Montgomery County's major transportation corridors and they created vibrant communities that have yet to be fully explored by historians.

¹¹ KCI Technologies, Inc., *Suburbanization Historic Context and Survey Methodology*, Report prepared for the Maryland Department of Transportation State Highway Administration (Baltimore, Maryland, November 1999), <http://www.marylandroads.com/Index.aspx?PageId=214> (accessed February 1, 2011).

¹² Bruce Richard Johansen, "Imagined pasts, imagined futures: race, politics, memory, and the revitalization of downtown Silver Spring, Maryland" (Dissertation, College Park: University of Maryland, 2005), <http://drum.lib.umd.edu/handle/1903/3210>; Joy Elizabeth Tober, "It's not ugly, it's the recent past : facing aesthetic challenges of modern architecture within historic preservation" (Thesis, College Park: University of Maryland, 2008), <http://hdl.handle.net/1903/8411>.

¹³ David S. Rotenstein, "Bar for historic preservation must be set higher," *The Gazette* (Silver Spring, Md, October 6, 2010), http://www.gazette.net/stories/10062010/montlet183710_32536.php; David S. Rotenstein, "Limit poorly-researched historic designations in Montgomery," *Greater Greater Washington*, November 15, 2010, <http://greatergreaterwashington.org/post/8061/limit-poorlyresearched-historic-designations-in-montgomery/> (accessed February 2, 2011).

¹⁴ Potomac-Hudson Engineering, Inc., *Historic Sites Survey Report*, Report prepared for the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission (Silver Spring, Maryland: Potomac-Hudson Engineering, Inc., December 2002). The 2002 CBD survey did include a building it called the "First Baptist Church Sunday School/Inglesia Bautista (CBD-118). According to the MIHP form completed by the consultant, the building was built in 1950 based on the date stone observed. The building surveyed in 2002 appears to be two of the buildings in the First Baptist Church of Silver Spring complex: the parsonage and its addition and the 1950 sanctuary addition.

First Baptist Church of Silver Spring History

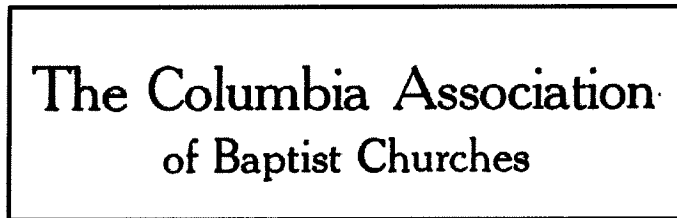


Figure 1. Columbia Association of Baptist Churches letter block.

The District of Columbia's Baptists were among the people who recognized Silver Spring's growing potential in the mid-1920s. As Washington's residential suburbs took shape and commercial districts

emerged to support the new communities, competing religious

groups — within and between faiths — sought new members. Washington's Baptist churches were organized under the District of Columbia Association of Baptist Churches (succeeded later by the District of Columbia Baptist Convention; Figure 1). Maryland's Baptists were organized under the Maryland Baptist Union Association, based in Baltimore. According to Robert Cochran, associate executive director of the District of Columbia Baptist Convention, the Maryland and D.C. groups fought over who would control the new suburban Maryland congregations.¹⁵

Recognizing that the Maryland suburbs were a fertile field for new churches and new members, the D.C. Baptists sought to strike a deal with the Maryland association that would have allowed Washington Baptists to establish new churches in the Maryland organization's territory. In early 1924, the D.C. Baptist Association began negotiations with the Maryland Baptist Union Association. Rather than executing an agreement that would have formally allowed Washington Baptists to establish churches in Maryland, the two organizations struck a deal that reinforced the artificial geographical boundaries separating them. The agreement, which was memorialized in November 1924, addressed "territorial questions" and it established that "The territorial jurisdiction of the Maryland Baptist Union Association shall be the State of Maryland, and that the Columbia Association shall be the District of Columbia."¹⁶ Excluded from the agreement, however, were existing churches "belonging to either Association."

At the time the Washington Baptists were negotiating with their Maryland neighbors, the D.C. organization was moving forward with its plans to establish a permanent congregation in Silver Spring. At its June 26, 1924 meeting, the D.C. Association voted "to authorize a survey of the

¹⁵ Robert Cochran, interview by David S. Rotenstein, January 26, 2011.

¹⁶ "Agreement Between the Maryland Baptist Union Association and the District Association," 1924, Executive Board Meeting Minutes, District of Columbia Baptist Convention; "Minutes of the Forty-Seventh Annual Meeting of the Columbia Association of Baptist Churches," 1924, 12-13; "Baptists Convene in Annual Meeting," *Washington Post*, November 18, 1924.

territory known as Silver Springs [sic.], Maryland.”¹⁷ Later that year, the association’s annual report noted:

An excellent opportunity is opening before us at Silver Spring, Maryland. We have had this community canvassed and have since held a number of conferences with our Baptist friends there. Silver Spring is a large and rapidly growing village, without a church organization of any kind. This is for many reasons the opportune time for us to enter, and there is every reason to believe that we shall soon have a vigorous Baptist Church at that place.¹⁸

According to D.C. Baptist Convention records, the church’s earliest meeting with thirteen members occurred in October, 1924 and the congregation held its first public service December 9, 1924, with the Association’s executive secretary Henry W.O. Millington officiating.¹⁹

Work to formally establish a Silver Spring church continued through the spring of 1925. In April, 1925, the Executive Committee discussed the new congregation. “The work at Silver Spring, including the matter of the call of a pastor, was discussed at length without formal motion,” the group wrote.²⁰ One month later Stephen Cunliffe was appointed as the new congregation’s pastor. Cunliffe (1882-1967) was a New Jersey native and a 1909 graduate of Colgate University’s theological school and he was working in Bordentown, New Jersey, when he was called to serve the Silver Spring church at an annual salary of \$1,800.²¹

After selecting a pastor and its plans for permanence moving forward, the Silver Spring church created a legal entity to govern the new institution. On June 25, 1925, Lester E. Veirs and Clyde E. Creese met with Pastor Cunliffe at the home of Claude W. Mitchell for their first business meeting. Veirs and Creese were elected trustees along with Howard Sedgewick, who did not attend the meeting. With its governing body in place, the members proceeded to ratify a corporate charter establishing the entity’s legal name as the “Trustees of the Silver Spring Baptist Church of Silver Spring, Maryland.” In addition to establishing a new name and rules for governance, the new charter also detailed the organization’s role:

The objects of said Corporation are to purchase, or otherwise acquire, provide, keep, maintain, mortgage, sell or otherwise dispose of a place of divine worship for the use of the members of said Church, and a place of ministerial residence for the use of the Pastor and members of said Church....²²

¹⁷ Executive Committee Minutes, June 26, 1924. District of Columbia Baptist Convention.

¹⁸ “1924 Annual Meeting Minutes,” 16.

¹⁹ “Minutes of the Forty-Eighth Annual Meeting of the Columbia Association of Baptist Churches,” 1925, 23. Millington was an English transplant who came to the Washington area in 1907 to become pastor of the Brookland Baptist Church. He rose rapidly through the local association and became its long-serving executive secretary. He retired in 1936 and died in 1938.

²⁰ Executive Committee Minutes, April 9, 1925. District of Columbia Baptist Convention.

²¹ “1925 Annual Meeting Minutes,” 17.

²² Articles of Incorporation, The Silver Spring Baptist Church of Silver Spring, Maryland. Records of the First Baptist Church of Silver Spring. The instrument was filed with Montgomery County July 6, 1925 and recorded in Charter Book 1, Folio 446.

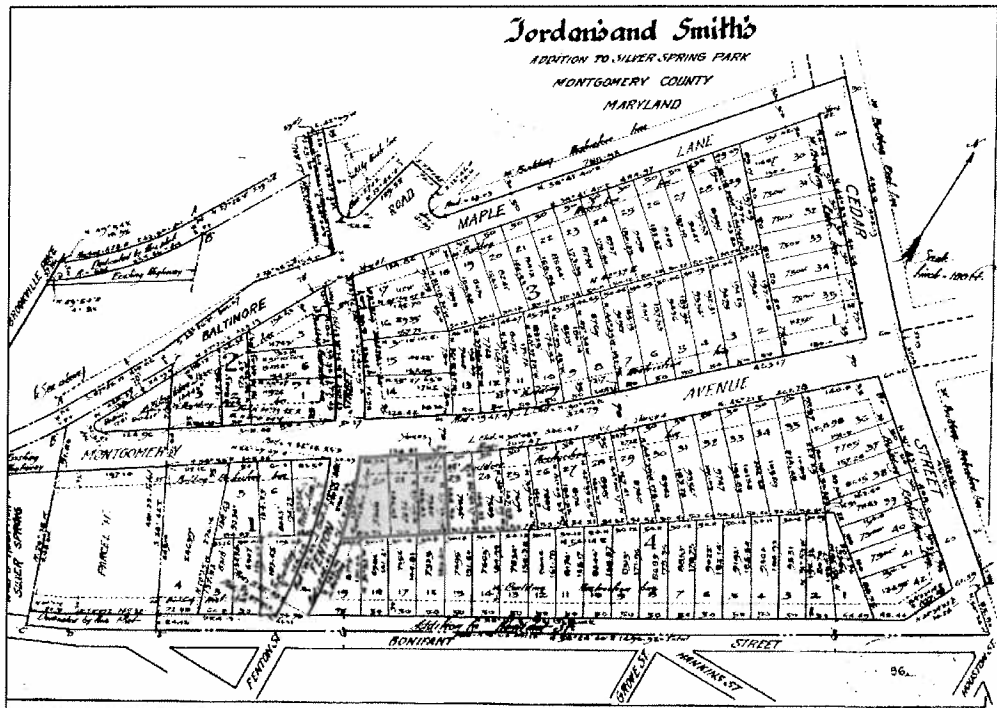


Figure 2. Jordan's and Smith's Addition to Silver Spring showing the initial lots purchased by the

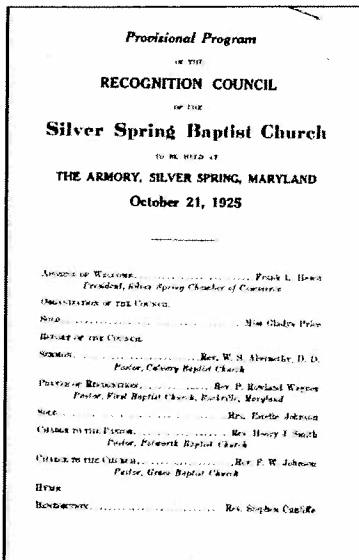


Figure 3. 1925 dedication program.

With a new pastor and a governing body in place and the legal authority to execute contracts on behalf of the church, the new Silver Spring church bought three contiguous lots in the heart of Silver Spring. On July 23, 1925, the Trustees of the Silver Spring Baptist Church bought lots 20, 21, and 22 in the Jordan's and Smith's Addition to Silver Spring subdivision from Hatton and Effie Waters (Figure 2).²³ Correspondence with the D.C. Association suggests that the church paid \$4,600.00 for the three unimproved lots fronting on Montgomery Street (later Wayne Avenue).

The Silver Spring church financed the construction of a parsonage by borrowing more than \$10,000, secured by the property in lot 22 where the parsonage was built. The construction project marked the beginning of more than seventy-five years of growth and challenges to meet the congregation's

²³ Montgomery County Land Records, liber 382, folio 87. The SSHS MIHP form gives the incorrect date for the initial purchase. The date given in the SSHS form is the recording date, not the purchase date.

needs within tight budgets and constrained architectural envelopes.²⁴

Without space in which to hold Sunday services, daily prayer meetings, and Sunday school classes, the young Silver Spring congregation met in the homes and businesses of some of its early members and in the Silver Spring National Guard Armory building located on Georgia Avenue.²⁵ As its first building was under construction, the congregation was formally recognized by its parent organization in a program held at the Silver Spring Armory the evening of October 21, 1925 (Figure 3).

The D.C. Association's officers had high hopes for the new Silver Spring church:

Silver Spring has a population of over 4,000, and, until we entered it, had no organized church. It was the largest unchurched community in the State of Maryland. We are fortunate in our position there, and also in our people, and great things may be expected at Silver Spring.²⁶

Crisis struck the young church early when its pastor came under fire from D.C. Baptist Association leaders. It is unclear what precipitated the D.C. Association's steps in early 1926 to dismiss Pastor Cunliffe. It may have been the debt acquired by the Silver Spring church to build its parsonage or it may have been some other reason not detailed in the organization's records. By June of 1926, Association leaders had concluded that it had become necessary to withdraw financial support to the Silver Spring church to force Pastor Cunliffe's resignation. The tensions continued through the summer of 1926 and on October 14, 1926 — after just eighteen months in the job — Pastor Cunliffe announced his resignation effective at the end of that month. The Association's Millington stepped in as preacher and to lead prayer meetings while the search for a replacement was made.²⁷

With assistance from the D.C. Association, the Silver Spring church appears to have corrected course. "The Church at Silver Spring has had a variety of experiences. Developments came which broke in upon early promise on this field. Some matters have been pleasant and hopeful, but on the whole the conditions have been disappointing," the Association reported at its 1926 annual meeting. Some of the corrective steps included transferring the Silver Spring church's assets to the parent organization and convincing the dozen members who had left the congregation to return.²⁸

²⁴ In 1925, the Silver Spring church got two loans totaling \$10,500 in addition to the \$4,600 it received from the Columbia Baptist Association. The 1925 mortgages were from the Silver Spring National Bank and the Potomac Savings Bank. In 1928 the church consolidated its loans under a single \$9,000 note held by George M. Byrne. Montgomery County Land Records (380/403; 393/288) and the records of the First Baptist Church of Silver Spring.

²⁵ The Silver Spring Armory was located on Georgia Avenue at the time. In 1927 a new armory building was completed and the old building was converted into a fire station. The building has been rehabilitated and since 2010 has been used as a bar and restaurant. M. Chandler Stith, "Footprints ... Chapter CXX: First Baptist Church, Silver Spring," *Capital Baptist*, 1961; "1925 Annual Meeting Minutes," 93-94.

²⁶ "1925 Annual Meeting Minutes," 17.

²⁷ Pastor Cunliffe's dismissal and the Association's actions were documented in the organization's Executive Committee Minutes from June 1926 through September 1926. District of Columbia Baptist Convention.

²⁸ "Minutes of the Forty-Ninth Annual Meeting of the Columbia Association of Baptist Churches," 1926, 12-13.

In exchange for all of the assistance and to protect the D.C. Association's investments, the Silver Spring church transferred the title to its property (lots 20, 21, and 22), comprising the parsonage site and the adjacent vacant lots, to the D.C. Association in October 1927. "The property of the Church has been deeded to the Association," noted the D.C. Association's 1926 annual report.²⁹ The original deed, stored in the church building, is actually dated October 15, 1927, and was executed by board of trustees president Claude W. Mitchell. Although the transaction was memorialized in the D.C. Association's records and the deed is preserved in the church's records, the instrument does not appear to have been recorded in Montgomery County's land records.

The 1927 contract (deed) between the Silver Spring church and the D.C. Association provides valuable insights into the business relationship the church had with its parent organization. According to the document, the Silver Spring church had "applied for and has received the status of a mission church under the Columbia Association of Baptist Churches." The deed added, "Whereas, by virtue of such status, the said Church is entitled to receive an annual appropriation from said Association in such amount as shall from time to time be available."³⁰

By the end of 1926, the Silver Spring congregation had reached forty-six members and space was badly needed. The work on the parsonage begun in 1926 was completed: "The parsonage is now a very attractive building, and in addition to providing housing facilities for a pastor, furnished fine accommodations for church services and Sunday School," the Association wrote in its 1927 annual report.³¹ Over the next three quarters of a century, additions and extensive alterations were made to the parsonage and new buildings were bought and built to accommodate the growing congregation.

Despite its early challenges, the Silver Spring church remained a viable and thriving congregation. Pastor Cunliffe was replaced by Pastor Wesley Loftis in 1927. Loftis was a Texas native who had come to Washington for school. He worked closely with the D.C. Association on the church's finances and on growing its physical plant. Between 1924 and 1931, the church's membership went from the original handful meeting in homes to more than one hundred members and 166 children attending Sunday school. Annual reports published by the D.C. Baptist Association recount the early jockeying for space in the new parsonage and in nearby Silver Spring buildings.

Sunday services were held in the new parsonage and prayer meetings and other gatherings during the week were conducted at the homes and businesses of church members. In a 1929 letter to the D.C. Association's executive committee, the Silver Spring church wrote,

It has been difficult to push the membership of the Church beyond one hundred due to the fact that no home is to be had in which a regular week-day and night

²⁹ Ibid., 13.

³⁰ Deed on file, First Baptist Church of Silver Spring.

³¹ "Minutes of the Fiftieth Annual Meeting of the Columbia Association of Baptist Churches," 1927, 13-14.

program can be carried on. The work between Sundays is carried on in the homes of the community but this is inadequate and very unsatisfactory.³²

One temporary solution the church found to accommodate the additional people attending Sunday services was to rent the newly built (1927) Seco Theatre for \$50 per month. "The church has recently rented the Silver Spring Theater for its Sunday services," reported the D.C. Association's executive board in March 1928. "And although the services in the parsonage have been well attended the attendance at the Theater is very much greater, and there is every indication that our Silver Spring Church is going to gratify the large hopes that we had in the beginning for our work there."³³ Inside the theater, the church had access to adequate space and even a pipe organ.

To expand within its three-lot land envelope, the Silver Spring church required capital. Already encumbered by mortgages on lot 22 because of the earlier need to finance construction of the parsonage, the church had little success finding a lender for its badly needed expansion. Church leaders recognized that the regular costs to operate the church, plus the added expenses to rent the theater and the debt service on its existing loans made it a poor lending candidate for "regular loan companies."³⁴

In 1929 and stretched to its limits, the Silver Spring church moved forward with plans for a new church. "The church has made tentative plans for a building and asks the aid of the Association in its construction," the D.C. Association wrote in its 1929 annual report.³⁵ The timing, however, could not have been worse. Only weeks before the U.S. stock market had crashed plunging the nation into the depths of Depression. The D.C. Association sought funding and technical assistance from the New York-based American Baptist Home Mission Society.

The correspondence between D.C. Association officials and the New York organization sheds considerable light on how the parent group viewed the initial investments made by the Silver Spring church and its selection of a church location. Executive secretary Millington recognized that Silver Spring was fertile territory for new Baptists but conceded the difficulties of attracting new members by holding meetings in members' houses and a theater. In an April 1930 letter, Millington wrote, "It is true that the Sunday services are held in a theater, but there is no meeting place for the church between Sundays, only as the people go to the parsonage or other homes." Millington added, "The property you mention is the parsonage which the Church built, (probably unwisely) in the beginning of their work."³⁶

In the summer of 1930, the D.C. Association and church leaders began working with American Baptist Home Mission Society architect George E. Merrill on designing a new church. After

³² Silver Spring Baptist Church to Executive Board of the Columbia Association of Baptist Churches, "Letter," October 23, 1929, First Baptist Church of Silver Spring file, District of Columbia Baptist Convention.

³³ D.C. Baptist Convention, Minutes of the Executive Board, March 15, 1928.

³⁴ Silver Spring Baptist Church to Executive Board of the Columbia Association of Baptist Churches, "October 23, 1929 letter."

³⁵ "Minutes of the Fifty-Second Annual Meeting of the Columbia Association of Baptist Churches," 1929, 15.

³⁶ Letter to C.E. Tingley, April 26, 1930. District of Columbia Baptist Convention, First Baptist Church of Silver Spring file.

visiting the site and hearing what the Silver Spring church wanted, Merrill bluntly offered his opinion of the property in a letter to Millington. "I find that I am still unconvinced that the Silver Spring Church property is the one upon which they should build," Merrill wrote. "I am far from convinced that it is not the proper place."³⁷

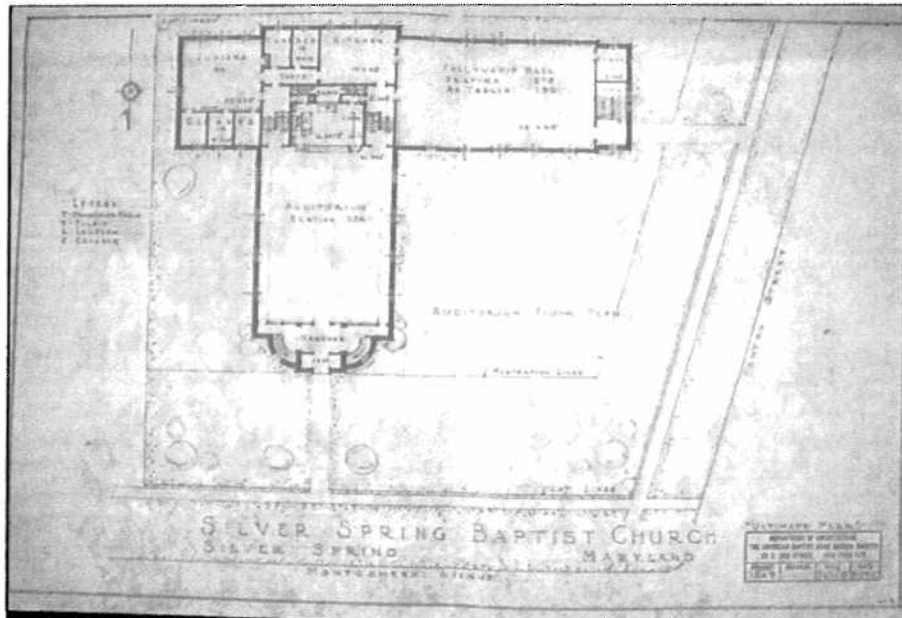


Figure 4. 1930 American Baptist Home Mission Society proposed new church plan. Drawing No. 1.

Merrill may have been concerned because of Silver Spring's still rural setting. In subsequent letters, Merrill described other poorly-sited churches that had struggled. Despite his reservations about building a new church at the Silver Spring site, Merrill produce drawings for a new building in the summer of 1930 (Figure 4-Figure 6). In a letter transmitting the drawings to the Silver Spring church's trustees, Merrill explained the philosophy guiding the design:

The usual approach to the problem of a main building for a comparatively small church in a growing community is to plan for the ultimate use of the available property, providing a plan which might be worked out during a period of ten or fifteen years, and to provide also for the building of a first unit sufficient for present requirements and to be built at a cost within reach of the congregation. You will note that this procedure has been followed in this case.

Referring to DRAWING #1: — You will note that we have provided an auditorium facing on Montgomery [Wayne] Avenue and at a sufficient distance

³⁷ George W. Merrill to Henry W.O. Millington, July 14, 1930. District of Columbia Baptist Convention, First Baptist Church of Silver Spring file. The revised MIHP form completed by the SSHS incorrectly attributes the design of the earlier parsonage and completed 1931 addition to Merrill. Using local newspaper articles published in 1930, the SSHS assumed that Merrill was involved with the project through to its completion. Marcie Stickle and George French, *Silver Spring Baptist Church*, Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form, November 24, 2010, Page 8-1 Revised February 2011.

from the Fenton Street corner to give the proper setting for a residential neighborhood.³⁸

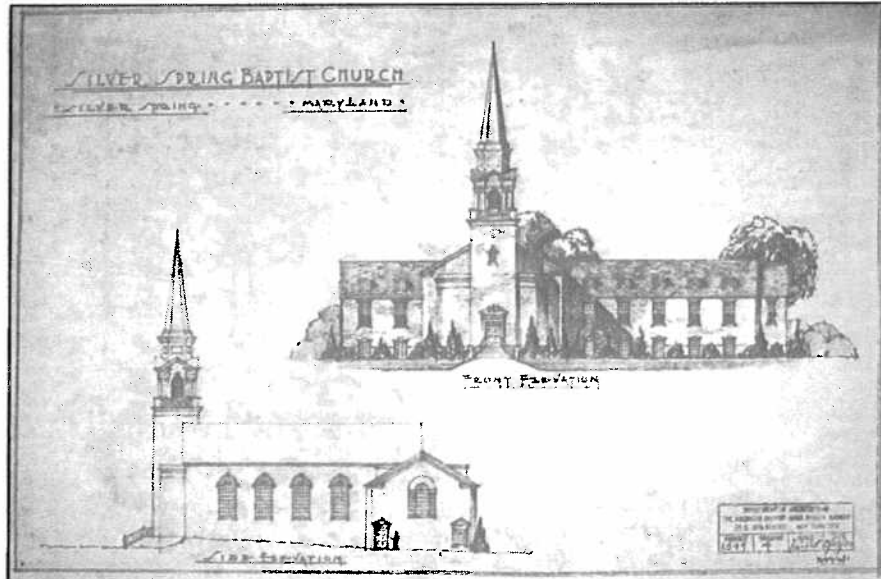


Figure 5. 1930 American Baptist Home Mission Society proposed new church elevation drawing.



Figure 6. 1930 American Baptist Home Mission Society revised new church elevation drawing.

The first alternatives Merrill presented to the Silver Spring congregation would have included an auditorium (sanctuary) with seating for 426 people and a fellowship hall that could accommodate 460 people. Merrill's drawings and letter illustrated how the Silver Spring church could expand

³⁸ George W. Merrill to Mrs. C.W. Mitchell, August 29, 1930. District of Columbia Baptist Convention, First Baptist Church of Silver Spring file.

incrementally on the site. His proposal for what he called the “first unit” called for building a temporary building in the southwest portion of the church property and he recommended acquiring additional parcels to allow for construction directly back (south) from the original Wayne Avenue lots. Merrill explained,

We believe, that this first unit is about the smallest amount of building which you could profitably undertake which would be in line with property future development such as shown in the ultimate scheme. We believe that the building shown for the ultimate scheme is as large a building as should be built on the present property excepting perhaps the possibility of adding a story to the east wing

We suggest that before taking definite action with regard to this scheme or similar scheme on the given property you should consider the advisability of purchasing additional property adjoining the present property on the rear.³⁹

With plans in hand, the Silver Spring church next faced the problem of paying for the expansion. Again, the New York mission society was approached for funding. After debating the proposed Silver Spring project, the American Baptist Home Mission Society’s board of managers passed a resolution placing a moratorium on funding new construction because of the deepening economic depression.⁴⁰ The Mission Society’s associate secretary notified Pastor Loftis of the decision in a November 21, 1930 letter: “I regret to tell you that it was not possible to grant this request at this time.”⁴¹

After losing the technical support and its hopes for funding from the New York organization dashed, the Silver Spring church turned to alternative sources for technical and financial assistance. One possible source of funds identified was the Annie L. McCullough Fund, a funding source created by McCullough’s estate that dedicated monies to projects located within the District of Columbia. Although the Silver Spring church was a unit of the D.C. Association, it was not located within the boundaries of the District of Columbia. The D.C. Association was able to circumvent the McCullough fund’s requirements and allocated \$10,000 from the fund to the proposed D.C. Highland’s Church and other monies originally targeted for the new D.C. church were diverted to fund construction in Silver Spring.⁴²

Although the New York society had withdrawn its direct support, it did suggest some ways for the Silver Spring church to move forward with some sort of expansion plans. Architect George Merrill recalled that architects Appleton P. Clark and Arthur Heaton had prepared drawings for various Baptist Church projects. He also mentioned Claughton West, an architect who had designed Catholic churches, as a potential replacement but noted that West did not make a favorable impression. Merrill noted in his November 22, 1930 letter to Millington: “It is of

³⁹ George W. Merrill to Mrs. C.W. Mitchell, August 29, 1930. District of Columbia Baptist Convention, First Baptist Church of Silver Spring file.

⁴⁰ Resolution copy. District of Columbia Baptist Convention, First Baptist Church of Silver Spring file.

⁴¹ Letter, Charles E. Tingley to J. Wesley Loftis, November 21, 1930. District of Columbia Baptist Convention, First Baptist Church of Silver Spring file.

⁴² D.C. Baptist Convention Executive Board Minutes.

course desirable that the architect chosen for Silver Spring shall have had experience in and be thoroughly competent to work in Colonial architecture.”⁴³

Clark was the New York society’s preferred architect and Merrill went so far as to begin negotiations with the Washington architect. “Mr. Clark writes us on December 1st that he will be very glad to take up a church building work of your size and will make the allowance of 1% for our services from the usual commission,” Merrill wrote to Claude Mitchell’s wife, chairman of the Silver Spring church’s steering committee.⁴⁴

It is unclear what happened after Merrill’s initial contact with Clark. The Silver Spring church proceeded with altering Merrill’s 1930 drawings with the assistance of a local contractor, not an architect (see below for a more complete discussion of this addition’s construction).⁴⁵ In a letter dated February 1931 commenting on the changes, Baptist Home Mission Society associate architect Walter Taylor wrote to Pastor Loftis:

We note that according to Dr. Millington’s letter the drawings have not been prepared by an architect and it is evidently your intention to proceed with the construction of the building without the services of an operating architect. This is generally not a safe or desirable procedure, but it is possible, with careful supervision by members of the church committee, and with a reliable contractor, to obtain satisfactory results.⁴⁶

On February 24, 1931, the D.C. Association’s executive board voted to authorize the Silver Spring church to let the contract for construction and released funds to not exceed \$15,000.⁴⁷ Construction on the greatly reduced building began soon after the vote and was completed by the end of that summer. Contemporary newspaper accounts reported that the 1931 construction totaled \$125,000; the actual amount, as church records show, was much less and the \$125,000 figure referred to the 1930 “ultimate scheme” proposed by the American Baptist Home Mission Society.⁴⁸ The new addition was formally dedicated with a weeklong celebration which began Sunday October 4, 1931.⁴⁹

The Columbia Association of Baptist Churches executive board reported on the completion of the new building in its November 31, 1931 meeting:

⁴³ Letter, George E. Merrill to H.W.O. Millington, November 22, 1930. District of Columbia Baptist Convention, First Baptist Church of Silver Spring file.

⁴⁴ Letter, George W. Merrill to Mrs. C.W. Mitchell, December 3, 1930. District of Columbia Baptist Convention, First Baptist Church of Silver Spring file.

⁴⁵ Mrs. C.W. Mitchell, “Description of the Silver Spring Baptist Church,” n.d., 1, First Baptist Church of Silver Spring file, District of Columbia Baptist Convention.

⁴⁶ Letter, Walter A. Taylor to J. Wesley Loftis, February 7, 1931. District of Columbia Baptist Convention, First Baptist Church of Silver Spring file.

⁴⁷ Executive Committee Meeting Minutes, February 24, 1931. District of Columbia Baptist Convention.

⁴⁸ The SSHS MIHP form incorrectly described the 1931 addition to the parsonage as a “\$125,000 brick sanctuary auditorium addition.” Silver Spring Historical Society, *Silver Spring Baptist Church*, page 8-1. The SSHS discussion of the locations of early First Baptist Church of Silver Spring services also is incorrect.

⁴⁹ Program, Formal Opening of the Silver Spring Baptist Church (First Unit). Inserted in Executive Board Meeting Minutes, District of Columbia Baptist Convention.

Reverend J. Wesley Loftis is the efficient pastor at Silver Spring. This church, only seven years old, has had a great year. The outstanding accomplishment is the erection of and furnishing of the first unit of a Church property. The building is a splendid combination of Church and Sunday School accommodations. It would be difficult to secure a more convenient arrangement for all purposes even by the expenditure of a much larger sum of money. The building is located on a corner of what is to be a public park, in which all the public buildings of the town are being erected, and a new High School property is to be erected on the same Avenue just east of the Church. Silver Spring is growing very rapidly, and our Church is located at its centre. The membership is constantly increasing⁵⁰

The Silver Spring church had already outgrown its new addition and older parsonage by the end of the decade. By 1939, the church had moved its pastor to a new house located on Philadelphia Avenue. The former domestic space was then cannibalized to make room for additional educational space: “[We] converted his former apartment into a complete intermediate department, with a new piano, new song books and all new chairs -- eight classes, well manned by officers and teachers.”⁵¹ One year later, in October 1940, the church bought an adjacent lot (Lot 23) and the two-story frame Colonial Revival building on it.⁵² Over the next few years, the church altered the building on lot 23 to accommodate new classes and offices. Changes to the building included enclosing porches and dividing interior space.

By 1943, the church again had outgrown its space. “More room and more room is the cry heard Sunday after Sunday, but world conditions prevent us from making any material changes, other than reorganizing classes, moving other classes from one room to another to fit their conditions,” the church wrote in its annual letter report to the D.C. Association.⁵³ The report also noted,

Already post-war plans are being made for a new Church and Sunday School Building. A Planning Committee has been appointed, a Building Fund established, and we are all praying for an early peace which may enable us to begin erecting a new Church that will be a credit to the community and something that the Convention will be proud of.⁵⁴

After the war ended, fundraising and implementation of the plans began. At the same time that the church was planning another expansion campaign, in 1948 it amended its corporate charter and changed its legal name to the “Trustees of the First Baptist Church of Silver Spring.” One church history suggests that the name was changed “in recognition of the fact that the community would soon have other Baptist churches.”⁵⁵

⁵⁰ Executive Board meeting minutes, November 31, 1931. District of Columbia Baptist Convention.

⁵¹ “Minutes of the Sixty-Second Annual Meeting of the Columbia Association of Baptist Churches,” 1939, 36.

⁵² Montgomery County Land Records, liber 800, folio 275. “Minutes of the Sixty-Third Annual Meeting of the Columbia Association of Baptist Churches,” 1940, 31.

⁵³ “Minutes of the Sixty-Sixth Annual Meeting of the Columbia Association of Baptist Churches,” 1943, 40.

⁵⁴ Ibid.

⁵⁵ Articles of Amendment, Maryland State Tax Commission. Original on file, First Baptist Church of Silver Spring. *First Baptist Church 25th Anniversary Directory* (Silver Spring, Maryland, 1949), 12.

By 1950 the church had drawings for a new sanctuary from the Washington firm McLeod & Ferrara. Construction was completed by the fall and space was again shuffled inside the older buildings as services and some of the educational plant were moved to the new building.⁵⁶

As Montgomery County's population exploded with the baby boom and massive influxes of federal workers, the Silver Spring church experienced familiar growing pains within three years of building its latest addition. In 1953, the D.C. Association's executive board reported, "This church is scarcely out of one building program until it is in another. With recently enlarged facilities, plans are now underway for further additions."⁵⁷

The expansion plan first outlined for the First Baptist Church of Silver Spring Baptist Church in 1930 by the Baptist Home Mission Society remained stalled for twenty-five years because of external factors. Although the church congregation continued to grow, its building plans were foiled first by the Depression and then by materials shortages during the Second World War. The planning for another larger sanctuary, based on the 1930 "ultimate scheme" was underway with the selection of architect Ronald S. Senseman to design the new building. Preliminary designs were completed in 1955 and construction contracts were let in 1955. The cornerstone for the new addition was laid in 1956 and the new sanctuary opened in 1957.

This report captures a small but significant amount of the First Baptist Church of Silver Spring's history. It is beyond the scope of this report to discuss major changes in the church's ministry, mission, and community outreach. Absent from this report, but important nonetheless, are many of the congregants and pastors who contributed to the church's history since its founding in 1924.

The church has had a series of interim and permanent pastors and the SSHS incorrectly and incompletely documented the church's early history. Although H.W.O. Millington played an integral role in the church's founding because of his position with the Columbia Association of Baptist Churches, he did not "organize" the church as the SSHS wrote in its MIHP form.⁵⁸ Absent from the SSHS history were the short-lived tenure of the church's first pastor, Stephen Cunliffe, and the subsequent pastors who played key roles in the church's history. These include Cunliffe's permanent replacement, J. Wesley Loftis, who served from 1927 until 1947 and Frank Brasington, whose 1948 to 1962 tenure included the construction of the church addition designed by architect Ronald Senseman.

First Baptist Church of Silver Spring: Land and Buildings

The First Baptist Church of Silver Spring currently owns eleven lots in downtown Silver Spring in the block bounded by Bonifant Street to the south, Wayne Avenue to the north and Fenton Avenue on the west (Figure 7). The church's original land acquisition was in 1925 with its

⁵⁶ "Minutes of the Seventy-Fourth Annual Meeting of the Columbia Baptist Convention," 1950, 22.

⁵⁷ Executive Board Minutes, October 12, 1953. District of Columbia Baptist Convention.

⁵⁸ Silver Spring Historical Society, *Silver Spring Baptist Church*, page 8-1.

purchase of three lots. An adjacent lot (lot 23) to the east was acquired in 1940 and another (lot 24) was added in 1957. By 1969, the church had also acquired six lots (14 through 19) fronting on Bonifant Street.⁵⁹

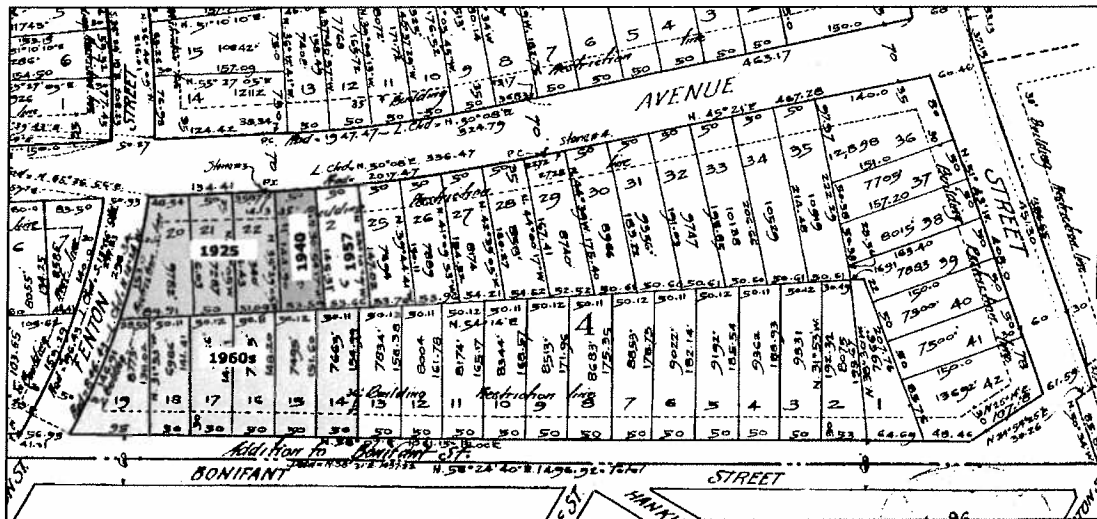


Figure 7. First Baptist Church of Silver Spring lots.

The buildings discussed below are limited to the church's lots fronting Wayne Avenue. They include the original parsonage built in 1926 and the 1931 first unit addition; the 1950 sanctuary addition; and, the 1956 sanctuary addition. The 1963 Sanborn Map Company fire insurance map illustrates the lots and building footprints prior to the demolition of the Colonial Revival building in lot 23 (Figure 8-Figure 9)

⁵⁹ The church's expansion plans were reported in issues of its newsletter, *The First Baptist Tie-Line* and in issues of the *Capital Baptist* magazine.

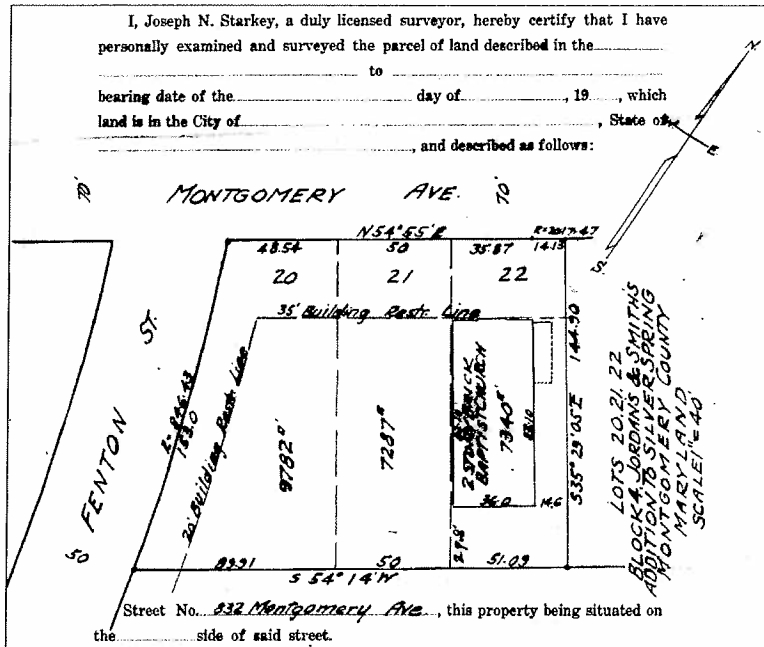


Figure 8. First Baptist Church of Silver Spring. 1940 plat showing existing building footprints. FBCSS files.

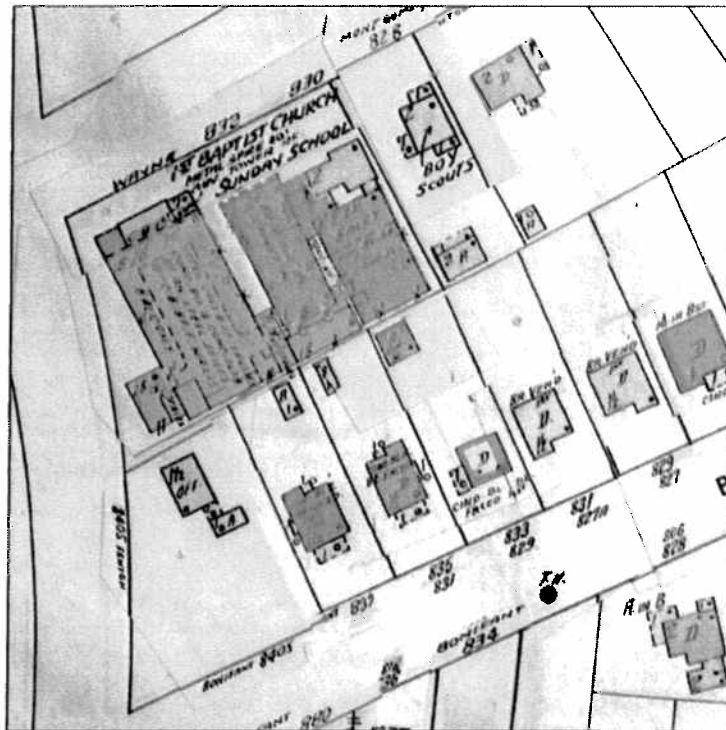


Figure 9. Sanborn Map Company fire insurance map (updated 1963) illustrating the First Baptist Church of Silver Spring building footprints.

Parsonage (1926)

Construction on the parsonage began in 1925 and was completed in 1926. “The parsonage is now a very attractive building,” reported the Association in 1927. “And in addition to providing housing facilities for a pastor, furnished fine accommodations for church services and Sunday School.”⁶⁰ According to DCBC records, much of the labor to build the eight-room brick building was donated by Silver Spring brick mason A.W. Cowell and local carpenters. The church bought building materials at cost from local suppliers, including the Silver Spring Building and Supply Company. The new parsonage had a basement Sunday school area with room for six classes and worship space on the first floor (Figure 10). The pastor and his family had quarters on the second floor and the new parsonage was outfitted with items donated by church members.⁶¹



Figure 10. First Baptist Church of Silver Spring parsonage and 1931 addition as shown in the Maryland News (1950).

Architecturally, the new parsonage was a square-plan building executed with Colonial Revival stylistic finishes. Mrs. C.W. Mitchell, wife of a founding trustee, wrote in an undated manuscript that the parsonage architecture recapitulated “the earliest traditions of the Baptist in New England but also the spirit and atmosphere of the State of Maryland.”⁶² No photos have been

⁶⁰ “1927 Annual Meeting Minutes,” 14.

⁶¹ The details on the parsonage’s construction come from the Columbia Baptist Association’s 1926 and 1927 annual reports and from materials in the First Baptist Church of Silver Spring file in the District of Columbia Baptist Convention records.

⁶² Mitchell, “Description of the Silver Spring Baptist Church,” 1.

recovered that show the parsonage built in 1926 but according to Mitchell's later, c. 1931, account of the subsequent addition planning and construction, substantial alterations were made to the parsonage to accommodate the 1931 addition. It is worth quoting Mitchell's report about remodeling the parsonage at length:

Consequently alterations were made, removing the porches, rearranging the stairways and partitions, building a public building front of white parallel panels extending from the ground to the roof, a double colonial doorway and changing all the windows from top to bottom to six panel sash design in order to carry out the early American theme of architecture. The roof line was changed in front and a large cupola surmounted by a weathervane was erected which gives the building now an appearance of a beautiful public school building for Christian Education.⁶³

Mitchell's detailed description of the alterations clearly show that little of the original parsonage built in 1926 survives in the current façades. The pilasters and high-style Colonial Revival details were added to embellish the enlarged church's principal façade to eliminate its earlier domestic appearance (Figure 11).



Figure 11. Parsonage, 2011.

⁶³ Ibid.

First Unit (1931)

The church abandoned the plans prepared by the American Baptist Home Mission Society for a temporary sanctuary to be built in the southwestern portion of the property with the center (lots 21 and 22) reserved for a new, larger building. What was built was a rectangular-plan addition to the rear of the parsonage. As the 1930-31 steering committee chairman, Mrs. C.W. Mitchell wrote, there were extensive alterations made to the original 1926 parsonage to accommodate the new addition and changing role of the original building. Again, it is worthwhile to turn to Mitchell's report on why the American Baptist Home Mission Society's plans were abandoned in favor of a scaled-down program designed and executed by a local contractor:

It was agreed that the first unit of the project should accommodate a membership of 200 and a Sunday School of 300 or more pupils. In keeping with this agreement Mr. Merrill later submitted a plan which would ultimately demolish the present pastor's home and using the entire property of the present site in a church building. The parsonage already represented an investment of \$15,000 and had on it an indebtedness of \$9,000 which the committee decided should not be sacrificed. At a meeting in which the future of the church was discussed, Mr. Merrill was asked to restudy the whole survey with a view of incorporating in the first unit the parsonage that already was on the lot and was a beautiful three story plain brick structure which would blend into the educational unit of any church if remodeled to some extent.⁶⁴

It is clear from the correspondence in the District of Columbia Baptist Convention's files that Merrill's plans for the addition were completely abandoned and instead of being built to the side (west) of the parsonage, the altered parsonage became the new addition's public façade. It appears that some of Merrill's design — like the arched sanctuary windows — ultimately may have been incorporated into what was built. The rectangular 1931 addition is mostly concealed by the larger 1950 and 1956 additions (Figure 12).

⁶⁴ Ibid.

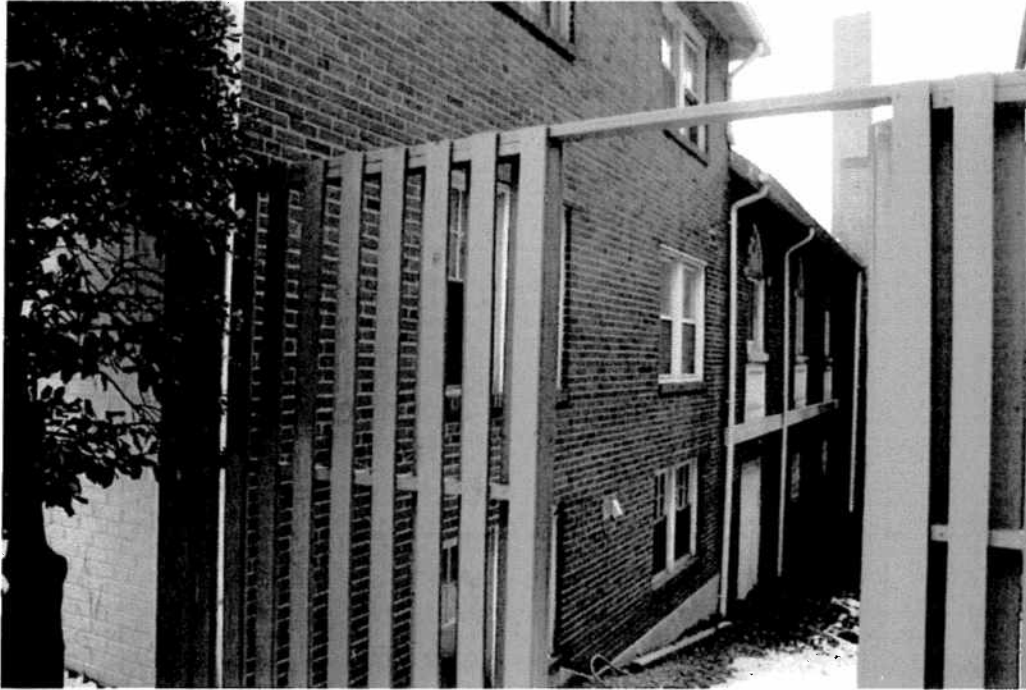


Figure 12. First Baptist Church of Silver Spring 1931 addition, 2011.

Education (1940)

This building was a two-story frame Colonial Revival house that the church bought in 1940 and into which it expanded its educational facilities. Located in lot number 23 of Jordan's and Smith's Addition to Silver Spring subdivision, the building remained in use until its demolition in 1976 (Figure 13).⁶⁵

⁶⁵ The demolition date for this building comes from architectural drawings prepared by Benjamin P. Elliott Associates, July 2, 1979. Drawings on file with the First Baptist Church of Silver Spring.



Figure 13. First Baptist Church of Silver Spring. Former education building (left) demolished in 1976.

Sanctuary (1950)

This addition to the parsonage and 1931 addition was designed by architects John McLeod and Anthony Ferrara. The rectangular building is constructed on a concrete slab foundation and is attached to the 1926 parsonage by a two-story brick hyphen. The current north façade of the 1950 addition originally was concealed behind the frame Colonial Revival building the church bought in 1940 (Figure 15-Figure 16). When the frame building was demolished it revealed a stark façade that lacks fenestration except for a louvered gable vent (Figure 17).

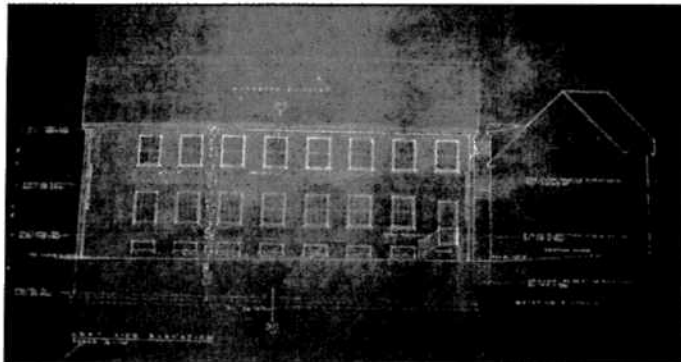


Figure 14. 1950 addition. Side elevation drawing by McLeod & Ferrara showing articulation with 1920s frame Colonial Revival.

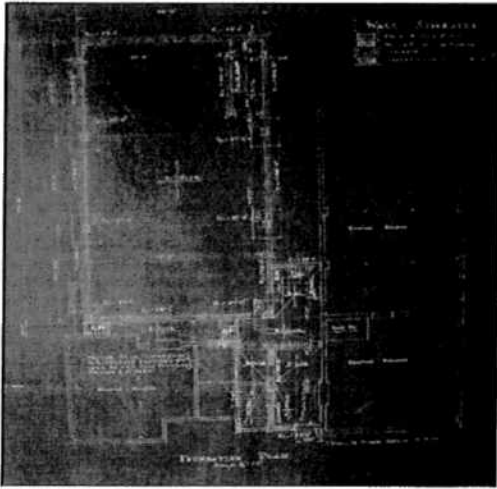


Figure 15. 1950 addition. Plan view, drawings by McLeod & Ferrara.

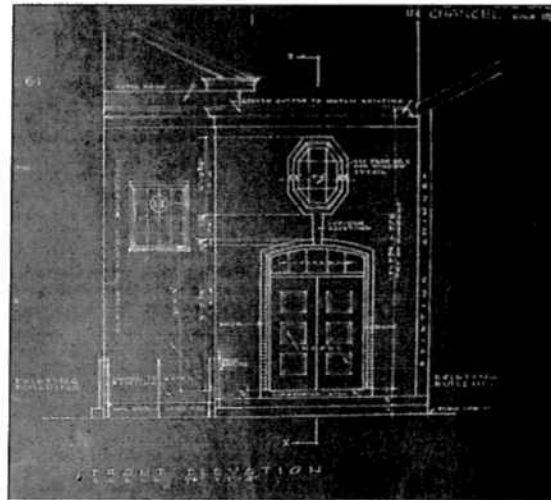


Figure 16. 1950 addition. Elevation view, drawings by McLeod & Ferrara.

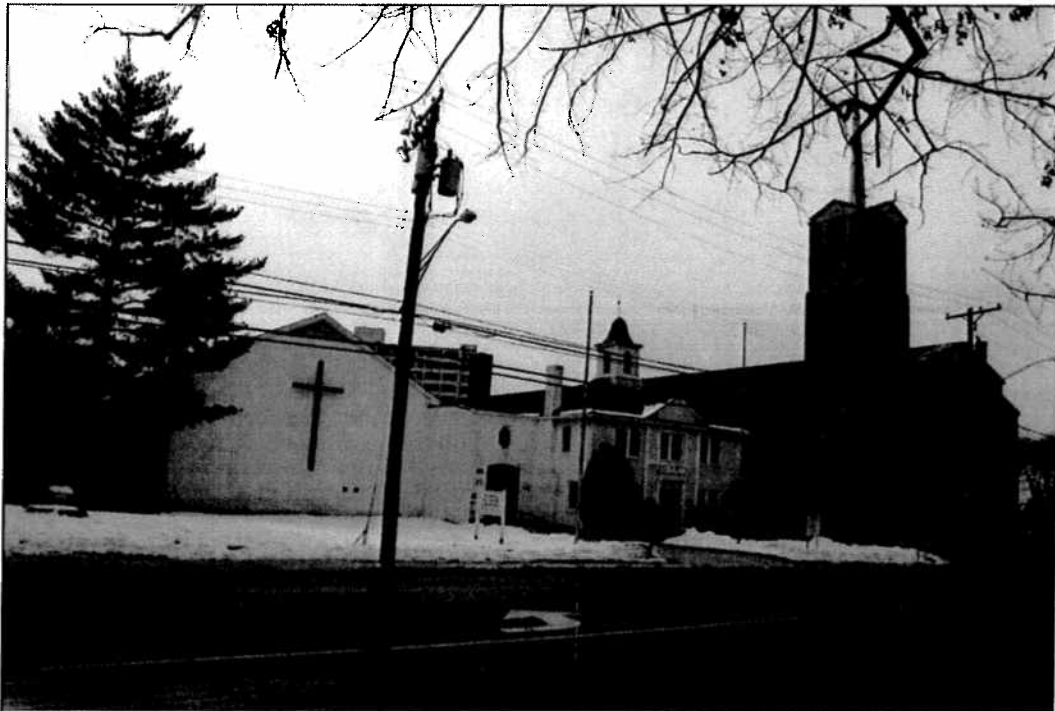


Figure 17. 1950 addition (left) showing void left by the demolition of the Colonial Revival house purchased by the church in 1940.

Sanctuary (1956)

The 1956 Senseman addition realized the church's plan for a large sanctuary while retaining the older buildings for use as community and educational buildings. Senseman's initial renderings for the project show a sanctuary with a more modernist façade and a new education wing to the east of the sanctuary (Figure 18-Figure 21). The addition that ultimately was built lacks the cohesiveness of Senseman's earlier designs and may reflect elements, e.g., Art Deco lettering, imposed upon Senseman by Pastor Frank Brasington (see discussion below). The 1956 addition, like its predecessors, failed to achieve the architect's vision of eliminating all of the older buildings from the site.

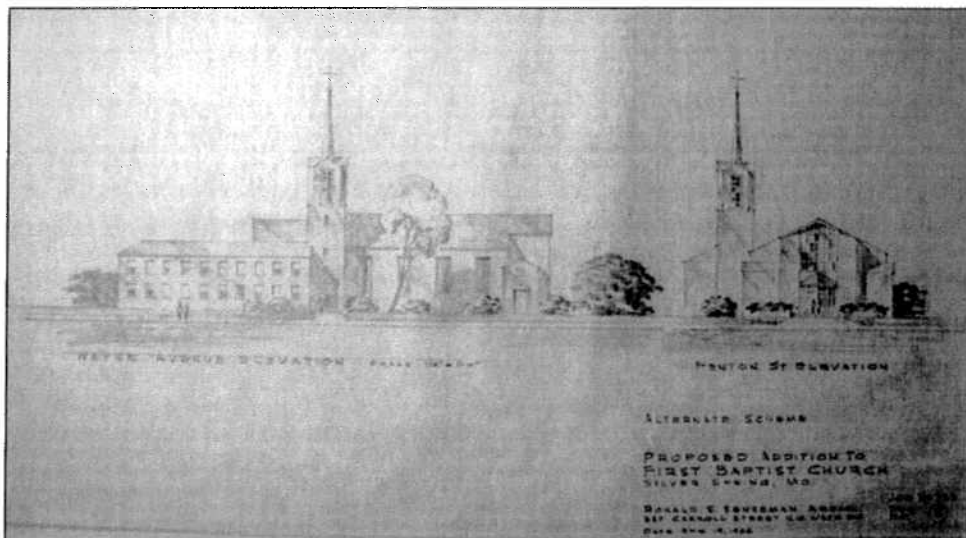


Figure 18. 1954 Senseman elevation drawing.

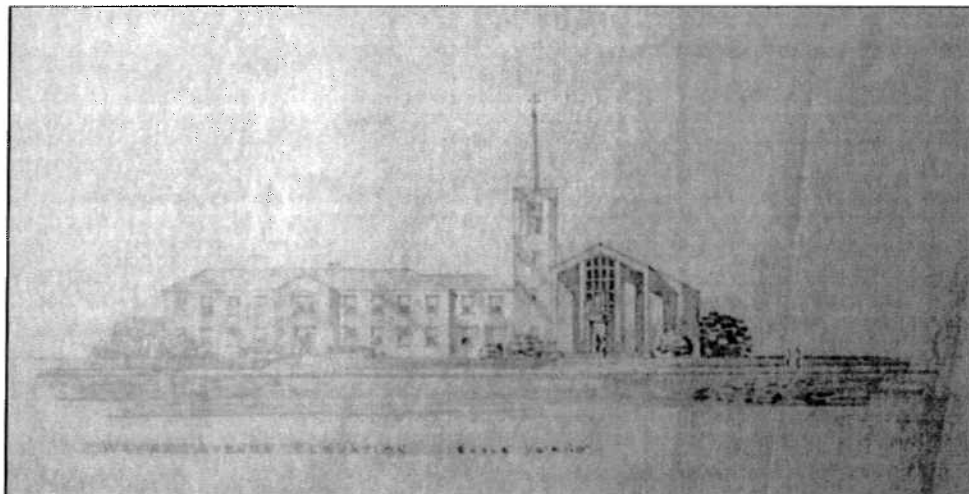


Figure 19. 1954 Senseman elevation drawing.

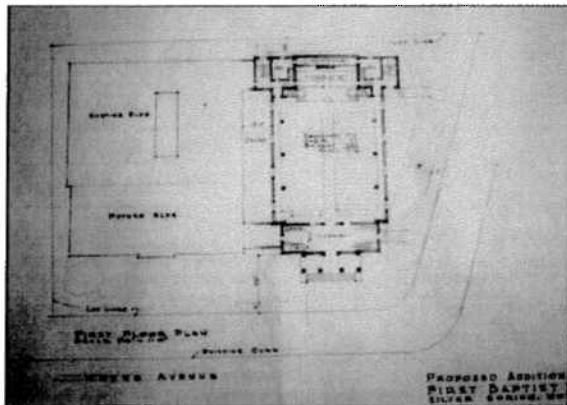


Figure 20. Proposed First Baptist Church of Silver Spring plan by Ronald Senseman.

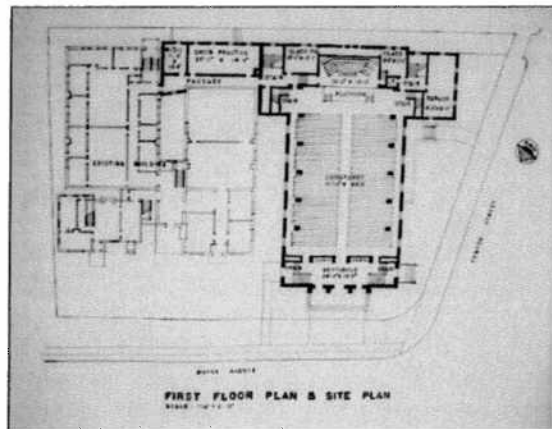


Figure 21. Proposed First Baptist Church of Silver Spring plan by Ronald Senseman.



Figure 22. "Let's Fill this Lot" photo included in undated fundraising brochure.

Planning and fundraising for the new addition began in the summer of 1953.⁶⁶ An undated document in the First Baptist Church of Silver Spring's file in the records of the District of Columbia Baptist Association notes that planning for a new sanctuary began immediately upon the retirement of the church's outstanding debt. The projected cost at that time was \$400,000 for a new building that would have 28 rooms and a sanctuary capable of seating 1,100 people. Fundraising efforts at the time included pictures of the original church buildings in the background and the grass lot at the corner of Wayne Avenue and Fenton Street with the caption: "Let's fill this lot" (Figure 22).

In late 1955 the construction contract was let and groundbreaking occurred in October. M. Chandler Stith, leader of the District of Columbia Baptist Convention was unable to attend the groundbreaking ceremony and instead sent a letter: "I regret that I have not yet found a way to be in two places at one time so that I might be with you in person today," he wrote. "Part of that regret is selfish for I am still looking forward to operating a steam shovel at such time as this. If not that we can still look forward to cornerstones and dedications."⁶⁷ The cornerstone laying ceremony took place October 14, 1956 and the new sanctuary was dedicated in February 1957 (Figure 23).

⁶⁶ ... *A Silhouette: The First Baptist Church, Silver Spring, Maryland*, n.d., 8, First Baptist Church of Silver Spring file, District of Columbia Baptist Convention.

⁶⁷ Letter, Sunday October 30, 1955. First Baptist Church of Silver Spring file. District of Columbia Baptist Convention.



Figure 23. Cornerstone laying ceremony, October 14, 1956.

Senseman's office gave the First Baptist Church of Silver Spring drawings prepared during the project. These include several alternatives that the church's pastor and nine-member building committee evaluated. Senseman's earliest drawings were drafted in 1954 and the designs were finalized the following year. Aside from Senseman's drawings, no records of the transactions between Senseman's firm and the church appear to have been retained.⁶⁸ The undated church history included a listing of the contractors involved in constructing the new addition (Figure 24).

These firms have built and equipped the new structure:

- Prime contractor: Hill & Kimmel, Silver Spring
- Stained glass windows: Russell Church Studios, Winston Salem, North Carolina.
- Church pews: Page Furniture Company, Albemarle, North Carolina.
- Carpeting: Keystone Rug Company, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania.
- Roofing and sheetmetal: H. T. Harrison & Sons, Silver Spring.
- Plastering: C. A. Coakley Company, Silver Spring.
- Tile and Terrazzo: Standard Art Marble & Tile Company, Washington, D. C.
- Painting: Eutaw Painting Company, Washington, D. C.
- Electrical installations: Hitt's Electrical Service, Rockville, Maryland.
- Plumbing and heating: G. Leonard Daymude & Company, Kensington, Maryland.
- Masonry: A. Myron Cowell, Silver Spring.

Figure 24. Contractors who worked on the 1956 addition.

One brief history published by the First Baptist Church of Silver Spring noted that prior to the inception of construction, the church had to request a change in zoning from Montgomery

⁶⁸ According to Pastor Duncan McIntosh, much of the First Baptist Church of Silver Spring's records were discarded prior to his tenure.

County. According to the undated history, public hearings were held in late 1954 and the property was rezoned by the Montgomery County Council that December.⁶⁹

Ronald S. Senseman

Ronald Sylvester Senseman (1912-2001) was a New Jersey native who was educated in Camden County schools prior to moving to the Washington, D.C., area. Senseman was the son of artist Raphael and Louise Senseman. In 1930 Senseman graduated from a Camden County vocational and technical school where he studied architectural drafting. The Sensemans were devout Seventh Day Adventists. Ronald was raised in the faith and continued his membership in the church. It is unclear from surviving biographical materials how much of a pull the church's national headquarters had on the young Senseman.

According to Senseman's biographies included in his American Institute of Architects file, he worked in the office of Camden architect Joseph Norman Hettel between 1930 and 1931. In 1931 Senseman moved to the Washington area and he began classes at Columbia Junior College (1931-1934). He later attended The Catholic University of America (1934-1936) but did not graduate.

Senseman's biography up to the 1960s is fully treated in his AIA application and the documents related to his nomination as an AIA Fellow. The SSHS documents present a general and celebratory outline of Senseman's career and a comprehensive biography of Senseman is beyond the scope of this project. Despite the detail of the SSHS report, however, there are omissions and errors in their discussion of Senseman and his career. Senseman was a prolific architect who was served his profession by participating in local and national organizations and who was active in local civic affairs.

The SSHS narrative recounting Senseman's life incorrectly characterized Senseman by embellishing details from the AIA file and from newspaper and magazine profiles published throughout the architect's career. Among the errors in the SSHS report are the assertion that Senseman was awarded the AIA fellowship for his design work and the suggestion that Senseman considered his design of the Montgomery County Office Building to be "monumental"; monumental was a category in the AIA form. These errors are discussed more fully below.

The SSHS mischaracterized the honorary doctorate Senseman received in 1999. A lifelong Adventist, Senseman had a close association with the church as a member and as an architectural professional. Many of the press citations included in the SSHS documentation come from digitized copies of church publications. Senseman's service to his church should not be minimized; however, the honorary doctorate he received from John Nevins Andrews University should be more fully explained. An avid collector of rare architectural books and drawings,

⁶⁹ *A Silhouette*, 8-9. A cursory search of the historical Washington Post database failed to recover information on a rezoning action involving the church during this period.

Senseman — who was retired and near the end of his life in 1999 — donated his collection to the only unit of the fifteen Adventist colleges that has an architecture school.⁷⁰

Notably missing from the SSHS treatment of Senseman's life and career are the details from his final decades in professional practice. Except for adjunct teaching positions and his stint with the Office of the Quartermaster General during World War II, Senseman spent the bulk of his career in private practice. Towards the end of his career he was struggling and according to his widow, Claire Senseman Church, he sought out a younger partner to win new contracts.⁷¹ "They actually formed a partnership," she recalled in a telephone interview. "And then when things didn't go well for them -- it happened to be a time, Ron was getting older, and you know he thought he would just leave it to this younger architect but they weren't getting some of the big work that they were trying to get."

Senseman's widow's account is supported by newspaper accounts of his final partnership's dissolution and the recollections of his last partner and his wife. Philip M. Vander Myde became Senseman's partner in the mid-1980s. Vander Myde's wife, Terry, explained her husband's partnership with Senseman:

He had asked Phil to be his partner and I think he thought what was going to happen was that Phil at that time was much younger, he was going to be the rainmaker and it just didn't happen. They just folded pretty quickly and my husband was very naive and went into this thinking that Ron was going to be the one with the name who was going to make everything wonderful.⁷²

Senseman and Vander Myde tried to win large federal contracts and their relationship soured. In 1987, the firm sold its assets, including the firm's name, to Vienna, Virginia's RCI Design, Inc. Senseman/Myde remained an interior design subsidiary for several years afterwards.⁷³ Senseman's widow recalled the transaction that essentially marked the end of her husband's long career. "They even bought the rights to say that they had been in practice for so many years," she explained. "Which was really back when Ron Senseman got his architectural license, you know. They just bought out his name and said that their firm went back to that early time, which it's just because of Mr. Senseman."⁷⁴

⁷⁰ "Adventist Courses| Adventist Academics and Majors - Adventist Colleges and Universities," n.d., <http://www.adventistcolleges.org/CMSPages.asp?PageID=11> (accessed February 4, 2011).

⁷¹ Claire Senseman Church, interview by David S. Rotenstein, January 26, 2011. Church was Senseman's second wife. His first wife, Lois, died in 1979.

⁷² Terry Vander Myde, interview by David S. Rotenstein, February 2, 2011.

⁷³ "Ameribanc Savings of Annandale Moving Into Virginia Beach Area," *The Washington Post (pre-1997 Fulltext)*, December 21, 1987; Vander Myde, interview.

⁷⁴ Church, interview.

Historic Preservation Activities

The First Baptist Church of Silver Spring property has not been evaluated for designation in the Montgomery County Master Plan for Historic Preservation nor has the property been evaluated for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. Although located within the Silver Spring CBD area surveyed in 2002 by a Montgomery County consultant, the property was not correctly inventoried nor was it accurately evaluated for its historical significance. The consultant identified a property at 832 Wayne Avenue and named it the “First Baptist Church Sunday School/Inglesia Bautista” property. The building was assigned survey number CBD-118 and the consultant determined that the property could not be evaluated under the National Register Criteria of Evaluation: “As a religious property, this building is not eligible for the National Register, as religious properties are not generally eligible.”⁷⁵ In addition to its erroneous application of the National Register Criteria for Evaluation and its failure to include the entire church property in its evaluation, the consultant did not evaluate the property under Chapter 24A of the Montgomery County Code because that task was beyond its scope of work.

In 2005, reacting to church plans for redevelopment of the property that would have included demolition of existing church buildings and the construction of new mixed-use buildings, the Silver Spring Historical Society began distributing emails to preservation organizations, community groups, and Montgomery County government officials. Information disseminated by SSHS at the time included narratives on the church’s history and biographical information on architect Ronald S. Senseman.

A community meeting was held in November 2005 at which church representatives and a developer working with the church presented plans for the redevelopment. At the time, the author of this report was serving on the Montgomery County Historic Preservation Commission and I attended the November meeting. According to an email from SSHS to the Montgomery County Historic Preservation Section, other attendees included SSHS representatives, a representative from Montgomery Preservation, Inc., and an architect who was informally advising SSHS on rehabilitation potential for the church buildings.⁷⁶ The development plans did not proceed and no efforts to pursue designating the property historic were made.

In February 2010, new plans for redevelopment of the church property were announced.⁷⁷ Two months later, the Montgomery County Historic Preservation Section and SSHS representatives held a meeting to discuss the project. Prior to the meeting, Montgomery County historic preservation staff had completed a draft Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties form and a hearing before the Montgomery County Historic Preservation Commission had been scheduled for April 28, 1020. According to historic preservation supervisor Scott Whipple, the First Baptist Church of Silver Spring hearing was removed from the agenda to allow his staff to do additional

⁷⁵ Potomac-Hudson Engineering, Inc., *First Baptist Church Sunday School/Inglesia Bautista (CBD-118)*, Maryland Historical Trust Determination of Eligibility Form, 2002.

⁷⁶ Marcie Stickle to Lisa Mroszczyk, “Clarification: Silver Spring Baptist Church,” April 19, 2010.

⁷⁷ “DCmud - The Urban Real Estate Digest of Washington DC: Silver Spring Church Goes Residential,” February 2, 2010, <http://dcmud.blogspot.com/2010/02/silver-spring-church-goes-residential.html> (accessed February 3, 2011).

“research, investigate site constraints and talk with the church and development team about alternatives.”⁷⁸

The Montgomery County Historic Preservation Section took no further action on designating the property after April 2010. In November 2010, the SSHS submitted its first documentation package to the Montgomery County HPC requesting evaluation for designation in the Master Plan for Historic Preservation.⁷⁹ The package submitted by the SSHS included a completed MIHP form. The SSHS form was provided to the First Baptist Church of Silver Spring and research to prepare this report was begun.

In February 2011, the SSHS, along with representatives from Montgomery Preservation Inc., met with Montgomery County Planning Department staff and representatives from the church to discuss the proposed designation. A brief presentation was made outlining the research conducted on behalf of the church and the findings presented in this report were disclosed, i.e., that the First Baptist Church of Silver Spring property does not appear to meet any of the Montgomery County Code’s designation criteria.

The church offered to provide the preservation advocates with copies of primary documents used to prepare this research as well as access to the church’s private business files to enable the SSHS to enhance its understanding of the church’s history in the community. The church’s plans to salvage key architectural elements from the 1956 sanctuary — stained glass, carved limestone, etc. — also were presented with the request that the SSHS withdraw its nomination to designate the church property in the Master Plan for Historic Preservation. The SSHS declined and informed the parties present at the meeting that a revised MIHP form would be submitted.

Instead of correcting mistakes contained in its earlier MIHP form, the new SSHS MIHP form includes new footnotes citing the early 2010 draft MIHP form completed by Montgomery County Planning Department staff. In its earlier version, the SSHS did not attempt to distinguish between its work and the narrative written by Montgomery County Planning Department staff. New footnotes in the SSHS form attribute many of the facts presented to information contained in the early 2010 draft form.⁸⁰ Aside from these editorial changes, the SSHS forms completed in late 2010 and in early 2011 appear to contain the same information the SSHS wants the HPC to use as the basis for recommending that the First Baptist Church of Silver Spring property be designated in the Montgomery County Master Plan for Historic Preservation.

⁷⁸ Scott Whipple to David S. Rotenstein, “RE: First Baptist Church of Silver Spring,” February 4, 2011.

⁷⁹ Marcie Stickle and George French to Scott Whipple and Clare Lise Kelly, “Inventory No. M: 36-61,” November 24, 2010.

⁸⁰ Revised MIHP form submitted to the Montgomery County Department of Planning, Historic Preservation Section. Clare Lise Kelly to David S. Rotenstein, “Silver Spring Baptist Church (First Baptist Church of Silver Spring),” February 10, 2011.

Historic Preservation Criteria

The Silver Spring Historical Society's evaluation of the First Baptist Church of Silver Spring's property was based on incorrect and incomplete information. A more complete and accurate history of the church organization and its buildings has been presented in this report in the sections above. This section applies the criteria for designation (four historical and cultural criteria, five architectural criteria) in the Montgomery County Master Plan for Historic Preservation based on the information developed in this report. Each criterion is discussed below. This study finds that the First Baptist Church of Silver Spring meets none of the nine criteria defined in Chapter 24A of the Montgomery County Code.⁸¹

Cultural and Historical Criteria

1. *Has character, interest or value as part of the development, heritage or cultural characteristics of the county, state or nation.*

The First Baptist Church of Silver Spring is an ordinary complex of twentieth century church buildings constructed and altered to accommodate a growing local church congregation. The SSHS historic context is fundamentally flawed by errors of fact and errors in interpretation. The recommendations for designation based on historical and cultural criteria made by the SSHS are not credible.

The historic context presented in this report is derived from primary documentary sources and it corrects the many errors and omissions in the SSHS report. The standard requested by the SSHS to designate this property is not tenable. It would require designation of all buildings constructed during Silver Spring's discrete growth phases because they appeared during important periods of suburban expansion and all buildings that were the first of their type without regard to specific historical circumstances. Silver Spring as a community has character, interest, and value in the historic context of metropolitan Washington's suburban development. If there were an intact historic district within which the First Baptist Church of Silver Spring could be interpreted within its physical and chronological contexts, then this criterion may be applicable. Instead, the First Baptist Church of Silver Spring is isolated from its historical setting (which no longer exists) and the property fails to convey information about its significance in its historic context and the people who once worked, lived, and worshiped there.⁸²

2. *Is the site of a significant historic event.*

There is no evidence in the historical record that any significant historical events occurred at the First Baptist Church of Silver Spring property. The First Baptist Church

⁸¹ A property must only meet one of the criteria to be designated in the Montgomery County Master Plan for Historic Preservation.

⁸² Stephanie Aylworth, "A Multifaceted Approach to Historic District Interpretation in Georgia," *The Public Historian* 32, no. 4 (2010): 44-45.

of Silver Spring was not recommended for designation under this criterion and this research supports not recommending designation under this criterion.

3. ***Is identified with a person or a group of persons who influenced society.***

There is no evidence that the property was associated with significant individuals and played a key role in their activities. The First Baptist Church of Silver Spring was not recommended for designation under this criterion and this research supports not recommending designation under this criterion.

4. ***Exemplifies the cultural economic, social, political or historic heritage of the county and its communities.***

Individually, the First Baptist Church of Silver Spring does not convey information about the cultural, economic, social, or political heritage of Montgomery County. When the church was founded in 1924 and its first buildings constructed between 1925 and 1931, Silver Spring was a diffusely settled suburban community. Large open spaces that were once farm fields yielded to residential subdivisions, commercial strips, and institutional buildings to provide educational, religious, and governmental services to the growing community.

The First Baptist Church of Silver Spring property does not convey information about the county's history in a coherent and cohesive message. Like all buildings in Montgomery County, the buildings that comprise the church complex were built within larger patterns of growth and development by particular people at particular points in time. The processes to understand the church's history, development, and relationships to the surrounding community and county would be connotative not denotative, i.e., understanding of the property and its context would not be possible without considerable external interpretive assistance.

Architectural Criteria

1. ***Embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period or method of construction.***

The First Baptist Church of Silver Spring is a complex of three buildings: The original 1925-26 parsonage and its 1931 addition; the 1950 addition; and, the 1956 addition. A building bought by the church in 1940 and which once was connected to the earlier buildings was demolished in 1976.

Each of the property's surviving buildings retains architectural elements popular at the times they were constructed and individually and corporately they are not remarkable nor are they distinctive. The church's dynamic building, rebuilding, and demolition programs since the 1920s have greatly altered the surviving buildings and their setting. The original parsonage and its surviving additions, plus the 1956 addition, as a whole or in their component parts are not representative "of a particular type, period, or method of

construction.”⁸³ When issues of integrity are taken into account, i.e., alterations to original building fabric, landscape changes, etc., the property clearly does not meet this criterion for designation.

2. ***Represents the work of a master.***

The three surviving buildings all were designed and built by different individuals. The original parsonage was designed and built by a local contractor. Despite plans drawn up by the American Baptist Home Mission Society, the Silver Spring Church conceded to the economic realities of trying to build a new church building at the outset of the Depression. The church declined designs for a new building drafted in 1930 and went with an addition to the parsonage designed and built by a local contractor. Neither the parsonage nor its 1931 addition were designed by a master.

The 1950 addition was designed by John W. McLeod (1908-1997) and Anthony Ferrara (1903-1993), principals in the Washington, D.C., firm McLeod & Ferrara. Specialists in institutional architecture, the firm’s work was detailed extensively in McLeod’s 1959 AIA Fellowship application. McLeod, who worked on designing the Pentagon and who won several national design awards, was made an AIA Fellow in 1960 for his “achievements in design and service to the Institute.”⁸⁴ Although McLeod was recognized by his peers as a master in design, the 1950 addition to the First Baptist Church of Silver Spring does not qualify it as the work of a master.

Not all buildings designed by recognized master architects qualify for historic designation under federal and other historic preservation statutes. Although the Montgomery County historic preservation ordinance does not expand upon its master architect criterion, the county’s law is based on the federal National Register of Historic Places program established under the 1966 National Historic Preservation Act and it has been implemented and interpreted using guidance created by the National Register of Historic Place’s parent agency, the National Park Service. The National Park Service has issued clear guidance on evaluating historic properties under the NHPA’s architectural criterion (Criterion C):

A master is a figure of generally recognized greatness in a field, a known craftsman of consummate skill, or an anonymous craftsman whose work is distinguishable from others by its characteristic style and quality. The property must express a particular phase in the development of the master's career, an aspect of his or her work, or a particular idea or theme in his or her craft.

A property is not eligible as the work of a master, however, simply because it was designed by a prominent architect. For example, not every

⁸³ *How to Apply the National Register Criteria for Evaluation*, National Register Bulletin 15 (Washington, D.C.: United States. National Park Service, 1997), 18, <http://www.nps.gov/nr/publications/bulletins/nrb15/INDEX.htm>.

⁸⁴ “John Wishart McLeod Nomination for Fellowship,” 1959, John Wishart McLeod file, American Institute of Architects.

building designed by Frank Lloyd Wright is eligible under this portion of Criterion C, although it might meet other portions of the Criterion, for instance as a representative of the Prairie style.⁸⁵

The 1950 McLeod & Ferrara addition relied heavily on the 1920s frame Colonial Revival house to provide a main façade for the brick addition constructed in the rear. That 1950 addition was an ordinary plain brick 2.5-story rectangular building that was connected to the earlier 1926 and 1931 buildings as well as the frame building (later demolished). No evidence has been recovered that suggests that the McLeod & Ferrara firm considered the addition to be significant work and it was one of many institutional design projects undertaken by the firm.

The addition constructed in 1956 was designed by architect Ronald S. Senseman's firm. Although Senseman was a prolific architect who for many years specialized in designing institutional buildings (churches, schools, government buildings, and hospitals) and some of his buildings may be considered masterpieces, none currently are listed in the National Register of Historic Places and Internet searches of communities where Senseman's buildings were/are located has failed to identify any that have been individually designated historic under state or local historic preservation.⁸⁶

One district listed in the National Register of Historic Places, the West Riverdale Historic District located in Prince George's County, Maryland, has one building designed by Senseman within its boundaries.⁸⁷ Built c. 1942, the Eugene Leland Memorial Hospital is a contributing element to the historic district. The building twice was individually reviewed for under the National Register of Historic Places Criteria for Evaluation by the Maryland Historical Trust (MHT). In 1995, the MHT found that the property only met National Register Criterion A for its historical associations and in 1998 a reviewer — apparently unaware of the earlier evaluation — wrote that the property met none of the National Register criteria.⁸⁸

Senseman was a competent and prolific architect. He was recognized for his design and business skills by his peers by being named a Fellow of the American Institute of Architects in 1966 and a 1967 architecture school alumni award from The Catholic

⁸⁵ *How to Apply the National Register Criteria for Evaluation*, 20.

⁸⁶ Keyword search: "Senseman". "National Register of Historic Places Database," *National Register of Historic Places*, n.d., <http://nrhp.focus.nps.gov/natreghome.do?searchtype=natreghome> (accessed February 3, 2011). Bing and Google searches using permutations of Senseman's name plus keyterms "historic preservation," "landmark," and "historic." Howard Berger to David S. Rotenstein, "designated properties by architect Ronald Senseman," February 3, 2011; Timothy Dennee to David S. Rotenstein, "Buildings by Ronald Senseman in DC," February 3, 2011.

⁸⁷ Laura V. Trieschmann and A. L. McDonald, *West Riverdale Historic District*, National Register of Historic Places Registration Form, August 2001, http://www.mdihp.net/dsp_text.cfm?search=text&id=24881&viewer=true&requestTimeout=6000&page=2 (accessed February 3, 2011).

⁸⁸ *Eugene Leland Memorial Hospital*, Maryland Historical Trust NR-Eligibility Review Form, n.d., http://www.msa.md.gov/megafile/msa/stagsere/se1/se5/024000/024800/024880/pdf/msa_se5_24880.pdf (accessed February 2, 2011). The complete National Register review history is captured in the digitized file copy at the MHT Website.

University of America.⁸⁹ Despite these career honors, however, Senseman –designed buildings received few architecture awards for their design merits. In 1949, one of Senseman’s Takoma Park, Maryland, buildings — the Oak View Elementary School — did receive an award by the Washington Board of Trade.⁹⁰ Two years later, another Senseman-designed school — Takoma Park’s Rolling Terrace School — won another Board of Trade award for its economical design.⁹¹

In his 1966 application for the AIA fellowship he subsequently won, Senseman noted that in addition to the Washington Board of Trade awards for the two schools previously mentioned, he also won a design award from the group for another school, the Oak-View Elementary School, in 1950. One year earlier, the Washington Chapter of the AIA recognized that project. Other awards Senseman received were from the Maryland and Potomac chapters of the AIA.⁹² The awards Senseman received all appear to have been clustered in one period of his practice: 1949-1958.⁹³

In the MIHP form completed for the First Baptist Church of Silver Spring, the SSHS wrote that Senseman was awarded his AIA fellowship for service to the profession *and* for his design work. The SSHS statement is not accurate. Senseman was awarded the fellowship in 1966 specifically for his service to the profession, public service, and the science of construction. Design was one category available to the nominators and Senseman’s “Nomination for Fellowship” form has the word “design” struck from the achievement line in the questionnaire completed in 1963 and revised in 1965 (Figure 25-Figure 26). The revised and approved nomination form stated that Senseman received the honor “because of his achievement in Service to the Profession, Public Service, and Science of Construction.”⁹⁴

Senseman in retrospect may be considered a master by some historic preservationists. Neither his contemporaries nor later architects and preservationists have demonstrated that Senseman was anything but a skilled professional with an active practice and diverse portfolio of institutional and commercial buildings. Even if his career catalog were to qualify him as a master architect, Senseman acknowledged in his 1966 AIA Fellowship application that he did not design the entire First Baptist Church of Silver Spring project.

⁸⁹ “Silver Spring Architect Gets Professional Award,” *Columbia Union Visitor*, June 2, 1966; “Architect Receives Award,” *Columbia Union Visitor*, November 30, 1967.

⁹⁰ Conrad Harness, “Board of Trade Honors Owners, Architects And Builders of Eye-Appealing Structures,” *Washington Post*, March 17, 1949.

⁹¹ Robert J. Lewis, “Strict Building Economies Are Emphasized in Two Schools Winning Washington Board of Trade Architectural Awards,” *The Evening Star* (Washington D.C., April 14, 1951).

⁹² “Biography, Ronald Sylvester Senseman, A.I.A.,” n.d., 7, Ronald S. Senseman file, American Institute of Architects.

⁹³ Senseman’s membership and activities in various professional organizations created to regulate the architecture profession, i.e., the AIA and its local chapters, should not be misconstrued, as the SSHS has done, to imply he was distinguished as a master in his field. Thomas Ulen, “Cartels and Regulation: Late Nineteenth Century Railroad Collusion and the Creation of the Interstate Commerce Commission” (Stanford University, 1979), 24-30.

⁹⁴ “American Institute of Architects Nomination for Fellowship by Chapter,” 1965, Ronald S. Senseman file, American Institute of Architects; “Nomination for Fellowship by Chapter,” 1966, Ronald S. Senseman file, American Institute of Architects.

In his AIA declaration of authorship, Senseman noted that he was not “solely responsible for the design” of the First Baptist Church of Silver Spring; rather, he acknowledged that he was “largely responsible for the design.”⁹⁵ Because the AIA application and fellowship documents are so complete and they represent Senseman’s own assessment of his corpus of professional work, it is important to note that the architect did not include the First Baptist Church of Silver Spring among the properties he used to support the nomination..

⁹⁵ “Declaration of Authorship,” n.d , Ronald S. Senseman file, American Institute of Architects.



THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS
JURY OF FELLOWS

No. NF 1036

Received Oct. 1 1963

Voted On April 9 1964

Voted On April 1965

Voted On April 1966

Granted April 1966

No. M 1036

NOMINATION FOR FELLOWSHIP

CASE RECORD

1. Name of Nominee Senseman, Ronald Sylvester Date of Nomination August 7 1963
2. Address of Nominee 7705 Georgia Ave., NW - Washington 12, D. C.
3. Nominee's firm Ronald S. Senseman, AIA
4. Nominee's principal place of business same as #2 above
5. Nominee's Chapter Potomac Valley Chapter, AIA
6. Nominee's State Organization none
7. Nominee admitted to Institute August 15, 1944
8. Nominee has been in good standing in Institute from 8 19 44 to Jan. 1 1964
9. Nominee's age 51 Birthplace Collingswood, New Jersey
10. Nominators: Executive Committee, Potomac Valley Chapter
- (1) Theodore R. Cormar, Jr.
 - (2) Dennis W. Madden
 - (3) John W. Lawrence
 - (4) Jack C. Cohen
 - (5) John E. Moore
 - (6) Andrew MacIntire
 - (7) Harold L. Esten

11. Achievement SERVICE TO INSTITUTE - DESIGN


Science of Const (66)
Public Service (66)

(a)

Figure 25. Ronald Senseman's AIA Fellowship nomination. Highlighted portion shows areas of achievement. Note the word "design" has been struck in the original. American Institute for Architects archives.

AIA FORM NO. H503 Nomination No.

CONFIDENTIAL



THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS

Nomination for Fellowship by Chapter

revised

The Jury of Fellows, AIA
The American Institute of Architects
1735 New York Avenue, Northwest
Washington, D. C.

Date September 26, 1963
Revised October 22, 1965

The Executive Committee of this Chapter, at a duly called meeting on August 7, 1963
(DATE OF MEETING)

nominated RONALD SYLVESTER SENSEMAN
(NAME OF NOMINEE), corporate member of this Chapter, for
fellowship in the Institute. We enclose evidence of the qualifications of the nominee for the fellowship on which
the nomination was based and certify the resolution is as follows:



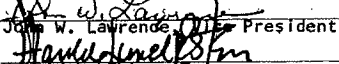
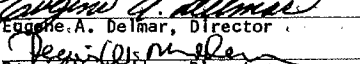
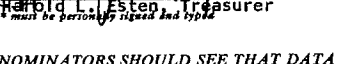

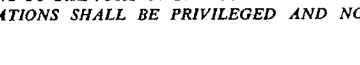
"Whereas, this Executive Committee believes Ronald Sylvester Senseman
(NAME OF NOMINEE)
a member of this Chapter, has made so notable a contribution to the advancement to the profession
because of his achievement in Service to the Profession, Public Service,
and Science of Construction
(NAME OF CATEGORY(S) FOR WHICH NOMINATION IS MADE—I.E. DESIGN, SCIENCE OF CONSTRUCTION,
LITERATURE, EDUCATION, SERVICE TO THE PROFESSION, PUBLIC SERVICE)

"Whereas, said member has been in good standing in this Chapter for ten years prior to this
date; therefore be it
(NUMBER OF YEARS)

"Resolved, That The Potomac Valley Chapter of Maryland Chapter, AIA
(NAME OF CHAPTER)

does hereby nominate RONALD SYLVESTER SENSEMAN
(NAME OF NOMINEE) for fellowship in The
Institute, and the President and Secretary be and hereby are authorized and directed to prepare the
nomination papers and forward them to The Jury of Fellows of the Institute and to do all things proper
to forward said nomination."

* Signatures of Members of Executive Committee

 John E. Moore, President	 Edwin F. Ball, Director
 John W. Lawrence, President	 Eugene A. Delmar, Director
 Harold L. Esten, Treasurer <small>* must be personally signed and typed</small>	 Dennis W. Hadden, Director
	 Phillip W. Mason, Secretary

THE NOMINATORS SHOULD SEE THAT DATA IS SENT TO THE JURY OF FELLOWS IN SUPPORT
OF THIS NOMINATION. ALL SUCH COMMUNICATIONS SHALL BE PRIVILEGED AND NO
COPIES SHOULD BE GIVEN TO OTHERS.

1

Figure 26. Ronald Senseman's AIA Fellowship nomination (final). Highlighted portion shows areas of achievement.
American Institute for Architects archives.

3. *Possesses high artistic values.*

Multiple buildings comprise the First Baptist Church: the original parsonage; the 1950 addition; and the 1956 addition. Each of these components reflect the architectural vocabularies popular at the time of their design and construction. Neither the parsonage nor its additions, the 1950 addition nor the 1946 addition rises to the standard articulated by the National Register of Historic Places guidance that Montgomery County relies upon to interpret its designation criteria. According to the National Park Service, “A property is eligible [for the National Register] for its high artistic values if it so fully articulates a particular concept of design that it expresses an aesthetic ideal.”⁹⁶

None of the surviving church buildings expresses an aesthetic ideal; rather, the individual church buildings are modest examples of religious architecture common in the 1920s and the 1950s. Neither the earlier church buildings nor the 1956 Senseman-designed addition are classic expressions of the Colonial Revival style nor are they classic and representative examples of the Art Deco or Modernist movements. In fact, University of Maryland architecture professor Isabelle Gournay described the 1956 Senseman addition as “transitional” and the SSHS MIHP form asserts that the 1956 addition is an “architectural representation of the transition between the traditional and the highly modern.”⁹⁷



Dr. Frank K. Brasington

Figure 27. Pastor Brasington.

Senseman’s addition went through several design changes between 1954 and 1957 when the project was completed. Alternative elevation drawings Senseman prepared show a bolder, more firmly modernist building that the addition that ultimately was completed at the site. Few records survive from the transactions between Senseman and the First Baptist Church of Silver Spring’s trustees and pastor at the time, Dr. Frank Brasington (Figure 27). According to trustee Dwight Sapp, a church member since 1931, Brasington and Senseman had conflicting views about the addition’s design and architectural expressions. In an early 1960s history of the First Baptist Church of Silver Spring, M. Chandler Stith wrote that Brasington was an “aggressive pastor.”⁹⁸

Sapp (b. 1926) recalled rising tensions between Brasington and Senseman as the project progressed. “There was an argument between – I shouldn’t say argument -- pressure being placed on Ronald Senseman, the architect, by Frank Brasington,” Sapp recalled.

Frank was a very strong, independent kind of individual. He was something of a nit-picker. But he considered the new church as monument

⁹⁶ *How to Apply the National Register Criteria for Evaluation*, 20.

⁹⁷ Isabelle Gournay, February 3, 2011; Silver Spring Historical Society, *Silver Spring Baptist Church*, Page 8-1.

⁹⁸ M. Chandler Stith, “Footprints ... Chapter CXXI: First Baptist Church, Silver Spring,” *Capital Baptist*, 1961, 6.

to himself, although he didn't call it that. It was quite obvious that that's what it was becoming.

Apparently Senseman became upset because of the nit-picking, if I can use that term, of Frank Brasington. Of becoming more involved than a pastor should be in the construction of the building. And that was the end of it. I didn't know any of the outcome other than I know that Senseman became somewhat uninvolved in the completion of building. Although he served his purpose well, it wasn't – I would characterize it as not a friendly association.⁹⁹

4. ***Represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction.***

This criterion is not applicable. It is used in the evaluation of historic districts.

5. ***Represents an established and familiar visual feature of the neighborhood, community or county due to its singular physical characteristic or landscape.***

The SSHS wrote in the MIHP form it completed for the First Baptist Church of Silver Spring that the property is eligible for designation in the Master Plan for Historic Preservation under five criteria, including §24A-3(b)(2)(e): “Represents an established and familiar visual feature of the neighborhood, community or county due to its singular physical characteristic or landscape.” Despite asserting this in the property’s significance summary, the SSHS failed to support its recommendation for designation under this criterion.

The corner of Wayne Avenue and Fenton Street is a well-traveled part of Silver Spring that has had a dynamic, and recently, fast-changing cultural landscape. Historical maps and aerial photographs published after 1920 show the location’s change through time from open fields; to diffuse residential and commercial development; to sprawling parking lots associated with the Hecht’s department store; and, the 21st century revitalization efforts that have brought retail (Wayne Avenue Shopping Center; Marriott; and farther north, the Ellsworth Avenue developments) and are bringing new institutional buildings such as the Silver Spring library building under construction across Fenton Avenue from the church (Figure 28).

These diachronic developments have isolated the church property from its historic landscape. The current church property, with its multiple additions and void where an addition once was located, has changed significantly since 1925 when the first construction activities were undertaken. The various church buildings that once broke the horizon at the corner are now being absorbed by mixed-use commercial development. The open corridors through which the church may have been visible at the corner of Wayne and Fenton are now crowded with multi-story commercial buildings, multi-family dwellings, and parking structures (Figure 29-Figure 30).

⁹⁹ Dwight Sapp, interview by David S. Rotenstein, February 3, 2011.

Setting aside, for a moment, the external changes in downtown Silver Spring's cultural landscape, the church property itself has failed to achieve the singular recognition through time as an important element in the cultural landscape. Except for church publications that featured its buildings at various points in time and the Silver Spring Historical Society's most recent picture book documenting downtown buildings, the church appears to have been omitted from many graphic representations of Silver Spring.¹⁰⁰ The property even failed to capture the attention (or mention) of the cultural resource management firm Montgomery County hired to document the Central Business District.

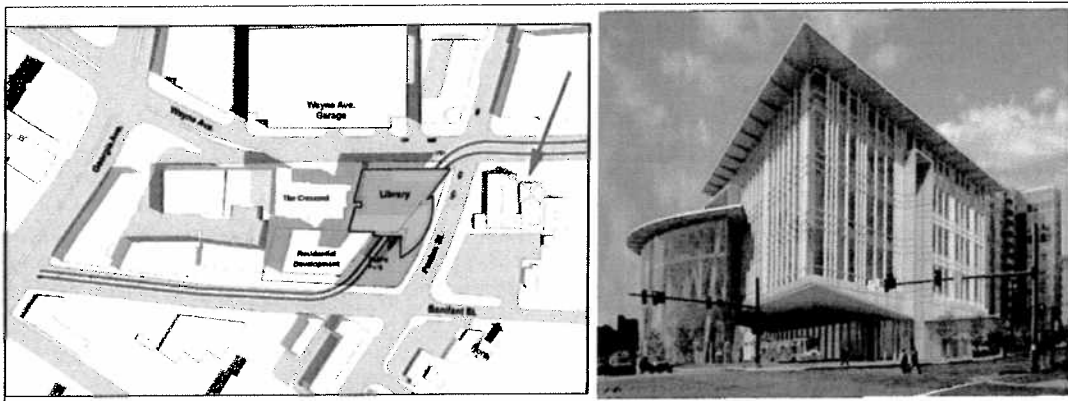


Figure 28. Proposed Silver Spring Library and Purple Line Station. Plan (left, with church property indicated) and elevation drawing (right).



Figure 29. Panoramic view of Wayne Avenue streetscape as seen from the Church's front entrance. February 2011.



Figure 30. Panoramic view of the church's rear facade and recent encroachment. February 2011.

¹⁰⁰ McCoy and Silver Spring Historical Society (Silver Spring, Md.), *Downtown Silver Spring*, 94.

Changes to the 1956 addition, the most visible elements within the church complex, have altered the property's place within Silver Spring's cultural landscape. The 1956 addition's bell tower was built with voids that allowed the limestone crosses in the four façades to be highly visible during the day and night. Historical photographs show the tower and the crosses. The church itself found the visual effect stunning enough to feature it in church publications (Figure 31). Since the tower has been enclosed, that effect no longer distinguishes the church.

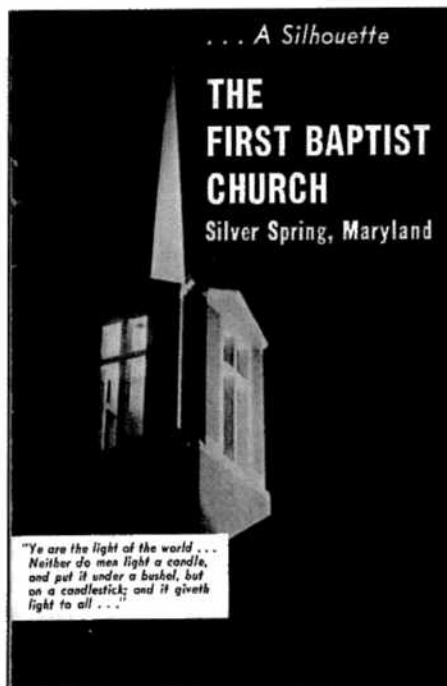


Figure 31. Undated history of the First Baptist Church of Silver Spring highlighting unaltered bell tower.

Being present and visible at a well-traveled intersection for more than seventy-five years is not a sufficient basis for identifying something as a significant visual landmark. The SSHS provided no basis for identifying the First Baptist Church of Silver Spring as an established visual feature “due to its singular physical characteristic or landscape.” Eminent landscape architects, cultural geographers, and historians caution planners and preservationists to not allow sentimentalism or nostalgia for a real or perceived past interfere with objective readings of the historic landscape. Although the “established visual feature” criterion is not fully defined in the Montgomery County Code, the criterion appears to address the concept of landscape legibility: how people interact with landscapes via memory and the organization of knowledge.¹⁰¹ The historical record does

¹⁰¹ John A Jakle, *The Visual Elements of Landscape* (Amherst: University of Massachusetts Press, 1987); Kevin Lynch, *The Image of the City* (Cambridge [Mass.]: Technology Press, 1960).

not support the identification of the First Baptist Church of Silver Spring as a landmark: a community “point of reference” reinforced by memory and repetition.¹⁰²

Architectural Integrity

The SSHS wrote in its MIHP form that the parsonage, 1931 addition, and 1956 Senseman addition “retain a high level of architectural and material integrity.”¹⁰³ According to the National Park Service, integrity (as a historic preservation term) refers to “the ability of a property to convey its significance.”¹⁰⁴ There are seven aspects of integrity: Location, Design, Setting, Materials, Workmanship, Feeling, and Association.

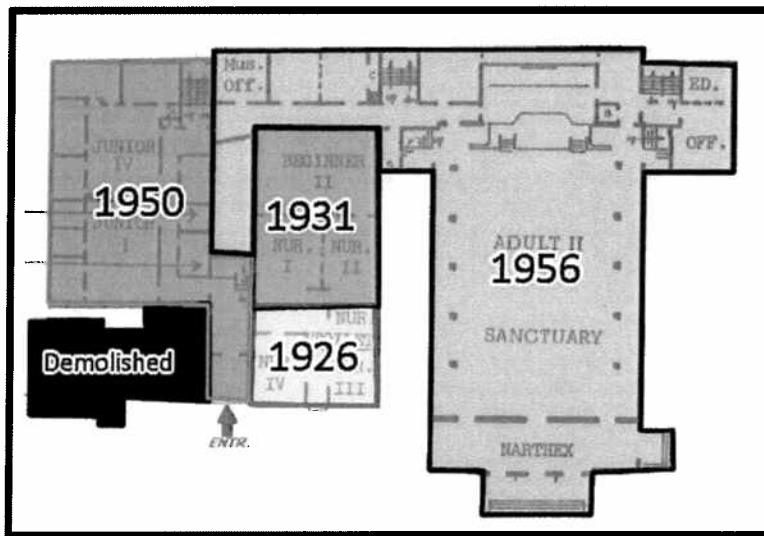


Figure 32. First Baptist Church of Silver Spring: Building and demolition sequence.
Adapted from a 1963 educational facilities plan.

As discussed above, the First Baptist Church of Silver Spring property has had a dynamic history of building, rebuilding, and demolition (Figure 32). Many of the architectural decisions made by the church throughout its history have involved compromises that involved altering and repurposing existing space to accommodate new uses by greater numbers of people. These changes to the property’s architectural fabric include extensive alterations to the parsonage completed in 1926 (windows, pilasters, cupola, etc.); demolition in 1976 of the building that formed the Wayne Avenue façade for the 1950 addition; and, significantly, the isolation of the property from its historic setting by new development that has altered key views of the church as well as key views from the church to the surrounding community (Figure 33-Figure 35).

¹⁰² Jakle, *The Visual Elements of Landscape*, 137; Lynch, *The Image of the City*, 82-83.

¹⁰³ Silver Spring Historical Society, *Silver Spring Baptist Church*, Section 7.

¹⁰⁴ *How to Apply the National Register Criteria for Evaluation*, 44.

The alterations to the church property through time do not allow the surviving buildings to legibly and coherently convey information about the property's history and its significance. The inability of the church buildings' to convey information about their significance is perhaps most evident in the incorrect reading of those buildings by the SSHS and articulated in the designation documentation submitted to the Montgomery County Historic Preservation Commission.



Figure 33. View towards First Baptist Church of Silver Spring from mid-block north on Fenton. February 2011.



Figure 34. View towards First Baptist Church of Silver Spring from one block north on Fenton (arrow indicates church). February 2011.



Figure 35. View towards First Baptist Church of Silver Spring from the Georgia Avenue and Wayne Avenue intersection, one block to the west (Arrow indicates church building). February 2011.

Conclusions and Recommendations

This report was prepared on behalf of the First Baptist Church of Silver Spring. Tasks performed on behalf of the church included a review of 2010 Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties forms completed by the Montgomery County Planning Department's historic preservation staff and the Silver Spring Historical Society. I concluded based on these reviews that the documentation used by the SSHS to recommend designating the First Baptist Church of Silver Spring as a historic property to be listed in the Montgomery County Master Plan for Historic Preservation was fatally flawed and based on incomplete and inaccurate secondary information sources. The SSHS narrative on the church's history and the development of its buildings deviates significantly from the historical record. The Silver Spring Historical Society's disregard for primary documentary sources and failure to understand the First Baptist Church of Silver Spring as an organization (mission church) within a larger religious institution (District of Columbia Baptist Convention) led the SSHS to produce a study that lacks credibility.

The SSHS compounded the errors contained in its November 2010 documentation by adding details about architect George E. Merrill's involvement with the 1930-31 expansion project to the revised MIHP form submitted in February 2011. Missing from the SSHS revised form are the facts that Merrill's designs were rejected by the Silver Spring church and that Merrill had wanted to demolish the earlier parsonage. The 1930 newspaper coverage cited by the SSHS, like much of the press coverage of the church's construction projects, was incomplete and inaccurate. The SSHS documentation should be discarded and should not be used for decision making in historic preservation designation proceedings before the Montgomery County Historic Preservation Commission and other governmental bodies.

The material in this report is based on extensive primary documentary research in the First Baptist Church of Silver Spring's business records and in the records of its parent organization, the District of Columbia Baptist Convention (formerly the Columbia Association of Baptist Churches). This report documents the reasons why the District of Columbia organization in 1924 targeted Silver Spring as a location for a new congregation and the context within which those decisions were made. Using meeting minutes, board of directors' reports, correspondence, and legal instruments, this report documents the church's acquisition of real estate and its many construction projects between 1925 and 1970.

This report also demonstrates that the pre-1956 buildings have been significantly altered through time to accommodate a growing congregation with large debts and few resources to build a facility suitable to meet its ministerial and educational missions. The original parsonage was altered to meet new internal challenges and to shift its exterior message from one of domesticity to that of an educational institution. The 1931 parsonage addition was built because the church could not afford a costly and ambitious "ultimate scheme" proposed by American Baptist Home Mission architects. This 1931 addition, shown prominently in photographs taken in the 1940s and 1950s, was concealed by the construction of large additions in 1950 and 1956. And, a 1920s Colonial Revival house that the church bought and which was integral to the 1950 addition was demolished in the 1960s.

The SSHS documentation incorrectly interpreted the architectural expressions embodied in the 1956 addition designed by architect Ronald S. Senseman as significant transitional architecture bridging traditional “historical styles” and modernism. The series of architectural drawings produced by Senseman between 1954 and 1956, combined with the recollections of a church trustee and church member since 1931, show that the 1956 addition has much in common with the 1931 addition. The addition that ultimately was built in 1956 and opened in 1957 was the product of negotiations between the architect and the congregation. Like the 1931 addition, the 1956 addition deviated significantly from the original vision presented by the architects involved. Changes to Senseman’s more modernist church design with a new education building fronting on Wayne Avenue may have been driven by cost concerns and were most certainly influenced by the strong intervention by the church’s pastor. The relationship between client and architect soured and there is little evidence in the historical record that either party considered their one-time association significant.

In addition to its factual errors and omissions regarding the church’s history, the SSHS also failed to accurately portray architect Ronald S. Senseman’s career and achievements. Contrary to assertions made by the SSHS, Senseman was not considered a master designer by his peers or by later researchers. Senseman was a prolific and garrulous professional who served his community, profession, and faith well and he was rewarded for that service by recognition from the membership organizations to which he belonged. The SSHS incorrectly wrote that Senseman was made a fellow of the American Institute of Architects for his design contributions. The SSHS also embellished other elements of Senseman’s biography to make the architect appear more significant than he actually was. This is not to minimize Senseman’s long and accomplished career in any way; rather, this report suggests that the SSHS narrative is celebratory and not entirely accurate. Senseman was a competent and skilled architect, but the 1956 church addition that he designed in collaboration with unnamed individuals is not the work of a master as that term is defined in professional historic preservation practice.

This report finds that the First Baptist Church of Silver Spring meets none of the criteria for designation in the Montgomery County Master Plan for Historic Preservation. The church does not meet the criteria for historical and cultural significance nor does it meet the architectural and design criteria. Furthermore, as this report shows, the earlier buildings do not retain integrity of design, materials, workmanship, and feeling. Because of recent revitalization efforts in downtown Silver Spring, the church property has been isolated from its historic setting by the complete alteration of the landscape as seen from the church property as well as views of the church buildings from public areas along Wayne Avenue and Fenton Street. Additional development, including the completion of the new Silver Spring library and Purple Line station, will further isolate the church property and interrupt views of its buildings from public rights of way.

The First Baptist Church of Silver Spring has proposed an ambitious redevelopment plan that would complement downtown Silver Spring's revitalization efforts while maintaining the church's important and historical association with the community. The church has proposed salvaging key architectural elements from the existing church building, i.e., carved limestone and stained glass windows, and it plans to incorporate those elements into the new church building to be constructed at the property. The research presented in this report finds that the church's proposed plans should not be altered based on historic preservation concerns.

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Appendices

April 2010 Draft MIHP (Historic Preservation
Office)

Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. 36-61

1. Name of Property

historic Silver Spring Baptist Church
other First Baptist Church of Silver Spring

2. Location

street and number 830-832 Wayne Avenue not for publication
city, town Silver Spring, MD 20910 vicinity
county Montgomery

3. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Silver Spring Baptist Church
street and number 8415 Fenton Street telephone
city, town Silver Spring state MD zip code 20910

4. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Montgomery County Courthouse liber 382/800 folio 87/275
city, town Rockville, MD tax map JN33 tax parcel tax ID number 01046281/ 01046292

5. Primary Location of Additional Data

- Contributing Resource in National Register District
 Contributing Resource in Local Historic District
 Determined Eligible for the National Register/Maryland Register
 Determined Ineligible for the National Register/Maryland Register
 Recorded by HABS/HAER
 Historic Structure Report or Research Report at MHT
 Other: _____

6. Classification

Category	Ownership	Current Function	Resource Count
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	Contributing
<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce/trade	Noncontributing
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> defense	<u>2</u> buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> site		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> religion	_____ sites
<input type="checkbox"/> object		<input type="checkbox"/> domestic	_____ structures
		<input type="checkbox"/> education	_____ objects
		<input type="checkbox"/> funerary	<u>2</u> Total
		<input type="checkbox"/> government	
		<input type="checkbox"/> health care	
		<input type="checkbox"/> industry	
		<input type="checkbox"/> landscape	
		<input type="checkbox"/> recreation/culture	
		<input type="checkbox"/> social	
		<input type="checkbox"/> transportation	
		<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	
		<input type="checkbox"/> unknown	
		<input type="checkbox"/> vacant/not in use	
		<input type="checkbox"/> other:	

Number of Contributing Resources previously listed in the Inventory _____

7. Description

Inventory No. 36-61

Condition

excellent deteriorated
 good ruins
 fair altered

Prepare both a one paragraph summary and a comprehensive description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

The Silver Spring Baptist Church sanctuary, built in 1956 of brick and limestone, is the primary structure on the property. It is a landmark that commands a prominent location at the top of a rise at the corner of Wayne Avenue and Fenton Street, two key streets in Silver Spring's downtown. Its traditional front gable church form is modernized with Art Deco influences and strong modernist geometric interpretations of formal design elements. Most notable are its monumental pillars and cornice of limestone, forming an abstraction of a traditional portico, and its slender metal spire, piercing the sky atop a four story tower belfry. The brick Colonial Revival parsonage was constructed in 1925 and has a hip roofed cubical form and features an elegant, oversize cupola, a central pavilion and a broken-scroll pedimented entrance. It has two additions, one dating from the 1930s and another from 1950. Both the church and parsonage retain a high level of architectural and material integrity.

The 1956 church is a front gabled brick building measuring approximately 62 feet by 120 feet with a four story square tower at the northwest corner. The church faces north on Wayne Avenue. Monumental limestone pillars divide the front façade into three bays and are capped with a limestone cornice forming an austere geometric interpretation of a traditional portico. The sterility of the unadorned monolithic pillars is tempered by the inscription of "First Baptist Church" in a curvilinear stylized Art Deco lettering with a diamond pattern on each side. The center bay has a double door, and outer bays have single doors. Doors are wood with a square cross shaped window with Art Deco style angular fan-like details in the corners centered in the upper half of each door. On the front façade, these windows have etched glass and the doors have transoms. Stained glass windows in shades of blue and purple rise above the doorways with non-figurative symbols of the Baptist Church centered within each window. A date stone set in the northwest corner of the tower is inscribed with the 1956 construction date again in stylized Art Deco lettering. The tower has a first floor entrance in the east wall and a stained glass window with a limestone surround on the second floor. Above the eave of the main building the tower has inset corners leading up to a cross gable roof with a simple, narrow pyramidal metal spire. The upper section of the tower is demarcated with limestone coursing. Within each gable of the tower there is a cut out stone cross. Brick is laid in a Flemish stretcher bond and the building has a composition roof.

The west elevation, which faces Fenton Street, is nine bays wide. The elevation is enlivened with multi-story stained glass windows in the five bays next to the entrance bay. The windows have limestone surrounds and spandrel glass with framed images of a Bible with "Be ye doers of the Lord" inscribed on its open pages. A secondary entrance is located on the northern end of this elevation with a window above. This entrance has a limestone surround with "First Baptist Church" inscribed above the door in a stylized Art Deco lettering. The decorative paired doors match those on the front façade. Projecting from the southern three bays is a gabled rear wing. The three story addition, constructed of matching brick, has a gable roof set below the eave height of the main building. Windows are metal double hung sashes with limestone surrounds except on the rear in the stairway section. The existing grade descends from north to south along the length of the building giving way to a raised basement with steel frame awning windows. There is a basement entrance into the wing addition on the north and south sides.

The south elevation of the main building is symmetrical in design and features a multi-story window mirroring the gable roof form and framed with stone in the center of the wall. The window is divided into twelve sections with metal frames and translucent etched glass. The lowest row contains awning windows. Below the windows there is a brick panel laid in a stack bond with a pin-mounted sign reading "First Baptist Church." The building wraps around and connects to the rear of the parsonage with an intermediary section. This two story section has a basement with a stairwell leading into a one story section with a basement. Decorative details are simplified or omitted on the rear of the building. This includes elimination of the window surrounds and plain square windows in the doors.

Maryland Historical Trust

Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. 36-61

Name Silver Spring Baptist Church
Continuation Sheet

Number 7 Page 1

The parsonage, constructed between 1925 and 1931, is a Colonial Revival style building. The two story brick structure, being three bays wide and two bays deep, has a hip roofed cubical form. An oversize cupola sitting at the roof peak features round arched windows, pilasters and a bell roof topped with a cross. On the front (north) façade, a center bay projecting pavilion is flanked with wood pilasters and surmounted by a front gable pediment with German lap siding. A second set of pilasters flank the second story windows in the central pavilion. The center bay is further differentiated by flat casing framing the second floor windows and dividing the first and second floors. The door surround is composed of Ionic pilasters with a denticulated entablature and a broken-scroll pediment. Windows are paired 6/6 double hung windows with rowlock sills. The main entrance doors have been replaced with a fixed window and wood panel although the five light transom remains in place and the opening appears otherwise unaltered. The north wall and visible portions of the east wall have been painted. The hip roof, now covered in asphalt shingles, has exposed rafter tails. There is a single chimney on the west wall.

An auditorium addition extending from the rear (south) of the parsonage building was constructed between 1931 and 1941. It is one and a half stories with a raised basement and a gable roof. The addition is four bays deep with tall arched windows on the sides with limestone panels below tied together by a band of stone at floor height.

A second addition, constructed in 1950 as a temporary sanctuary, stands on the northeast side of the parsonage and auditorium. The bulk of the addition has a footprint of approximately 45 feet by 71 feet and is a two story brick front gable structure set towards the rear of the lot. The front (north) façade is solid and unornamented except for a large wooden cross and a simple wooden box cornice. This part of the addition was originally located behind a two story frame residential building that was constructed on this lot prior to the church's ownership in 1940 and which has since been demolished. The narrow two story section connects the parsonage to the addition. In this portion of the addition, a concrete ramp leads up to a pair of double doors with an elliptical transom with five lights. A vertically oriented octagonal window is center above the door at the second floor.

8. Significance

Inventory No. 36-61

Period	Areas of Significance	Check and justify below		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> health/medicine	<input type="checkbox"/> performing arts
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> invention	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-1999	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment/ recreation	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 2000-	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> ethnic heritage	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/ settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> social history
	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning		<input type="checkbox"/> maritime history	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation		<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other: _____

Specific dates 1925-1956 **Architect/Builder** Church; Ronald S. Senseman

Construction dates c. 1925-1931 (parsonage), c. 1931-1941 (auditorium), 1950 (temporary sanctuary), 1956 (new sanctuary)

Evaluation for:

National Register

Maryland Register

not evaluated

Prepare a one-paragraph summary statement of significance addressing applicable criteria, followed by a narrative discussion of the history of the resource and its context. (For compliance projects, complete evaluation on a DOE Form – see manual.)

SUMMARY

The 1956 Silver Spring Baptist Church with Art Deco and modernist influences illustrates the shift away from historical styles and toward an increasingly technological culture. It is important as an architectural representation of the transition between the traditional and the highly modern. It represents an era of postwar suburban expansion and its prominent corner location marks an important Silver Spring civic node. The building is also significant as the work of prominent Silver Spring architect Ronald S. Senseman, an expert in the design of religious and educational buildings. The 1920s Colonial Revival style parsonage represents the first phase of suburbanization in Montgomery County. Its historically-influenced design provides a point of reference for the changing cultural and social values exhibited in the church's next phase of development. The Silver Spring Baptist Church complex as a whole represents the development of the church from its founding in 1924 through the second half of the twentieth century.

SILVER SPRING BAPTIST CHURCH

The Silver Spring Baptist Church was organized in 1924 by Reverend H.W. O. Millington under the Columbia Baptist Association. Its services were originally held in the Silver Spring Armory, located on the northwest corner of Fenton Avenue and Montgomery Avenue (now Wayne Avenue) on Sundays with prayer meetings held at a member's residence.¹ On August 10, 1925, the church purchased lots 20, 21 and 22 at the southeast corner of Fenton Street and Wayne Avenue. This property was part of "Jordan and Smith's Addition to Silver Spring Park" platted in June of that same year.² Between 1925 and 1931, the congregation constructed a small two story Colonial Revival brick parsonage on lot 22 which would establish the congregation's physical presence on an important corner and serve as a marker for future development.³

In 1940, the church purchased a fourth lot (lot 23) adjacent to their corner properties that contained a small two story frame structure which was demolished sometime after 1963. By 1941, a brick auditorium addition was constructed to the rear of the original building that more than doubled its size.⁴ In order to serve a growing congregation, a temporary sanctuary was constructed in 1950 on the east side of the parsonage until the permanent sanctuary could be built on the prominent corner location.⁵ The new building was designed by architect Ronald S. Senseman and accommodated more

¹ "New Pastor Comes to Silver Spring," *Washington Post*, May 2, 1925, p. 8.

² Montgomery County Land Records, l. 382, f. 87, August 10, 1925 and "Jordan's and Smith's Addition to Silver Spring Park," Plat 301, June 1, 1925.

³ 1931 F.M.H. Klingé Atlas of Real Estate in Montgomery County Maryland.

⁴ 1941 F.M.H. Klingé Atlas of Real Estate in Montgomery County Maryland and "History and Future," First Baptist Church of Silver Spring, <http://fbcss.org/history.html> [last accessed March 8, 2010]

⁵ First Baptist Church of Silver Spring and 1948 F.M.H. Klingé Atlas of Real Estate in Montgomery County Maryland updated in 1953. See also the date stone in the northeast corner of the building.

Maryland Historical Trust

Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. 36-61

Name Silver Spring Baptist Church
Continuation Sheet

Number 8 Page 1

than 1,200 people. The building cost \$400,000 to construct, opened for services in February 1957 and was dedicated on March 10, 1957.⁶

SILVER SPRING CONTEXT

The first phase of suburban development in Montgomery County began in the late nineteenth century with the development of railroads and streetcar lines. There were six trolley lines in Montgomery County. The Forest Glen Trolley line was completed in 1897 and traveled through Silver Spring along Georgia Avenue. Clusters of suburban communities expanded to the north contributing to an increased population in the 1920s. Suburban development continued with the rise of the automobile and an increase in government workers during the New Deal Era of the 1930s.⁷ The parsonage represents the beginnings of Silver Spring's development into the commercial and civic center of Montgomery County and its Colonial Revival style provided a comforting connection to the past during this period of rapid technological and cultural change. Other buildings of this period included the Silver Spring Armory constructed in 1927 across from the Silver Spring Baptist Church site at the northwest corner of Fenton Street and Wayne Avenue, the Silver Spring Post Office, at 8412 Georgia Avenue, constructed in 1936-1937 within a block's distance of the church and the Silver Spring Masonic Temple, also constructed in 1927, at the corner of Georgia and Wayne Avenue. The area's first shopping center, the Silver Theatre and Shopping Center, was constructed in 1938.

After World War II, Montgomery County, along with rest of the country, entered a period of tremendous growth and prosperity. An influx of new government workers made Montgomery County their home.⁸ Suburban life was becoming more desirable and even greater access to the automobile made it practical for many. The rapid increase in population required quick and economical housing to be constructed and increased access to goods and community services. By the late 1950s, Silver Spring had become the commercial center of Montgomery County and the largest business district in the state only after Baltimore.⁹ The first suburban branch of the Hecht's Department Store opened in Silver Spring in 1947, followed by a J.C. Penney in 1950.¹⁰ Other smaller commercial buildings lined Georgia Avenue. The site of the Silver Spring Baptist Church marks an important civic center and the transition between the commercial core and the residential neighborhoods to the east.

POST WAR RELIGION AND CHURCH DESIGN

Nationwide, and locally, church attendance increased after World War II. In the two decades immediately following the war, thousands of new churches and synagogues were built quickly and economically, in an effort to meet the growing demand. There were several reasons for the growth of church-going. There was a strong response among the Christian community to the fear of spread of Communism and an increasingly secular lifestyle.¹¹ Having a faith and a family were

⁶ "First Service to Be Held in Silver Spring Church," *Washington Post*, February 16, 1957, p. A6.

⁷ Clare Lise Cavicchi [Kelly], *Places from the Past: The Tradition of Gardez Bien in Montgomery County, Maryland* (Silver Spring: Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission, 2001): 40-41 and Richard C. Jaffeson, *Silver Spring Success: An Interactive History of Silver Spring Maryland* (1997): 53-55.

⁸ Richard K. MacMaster and Ray Eldon Hiebert, *A Grateful Remembrance: The Story of Montgomery County, Maryland* (Rockville, Maryland: Montgomery County Government and the Montgomery County Historical Society, 1976): 330.

⁹ Cavicchi, 48-49.

¹⁰ Michael F. Dwyer, "Old Silver Spring Commercial Area," Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission, MIHP Form #36/7, June 2, 1975

¹¹ Patrick Allitt, *Religion in America Since 1945: A History* (New York: Columbia University Press, 2003): 22-24, 31, 33.

Maryland Historical Trust

Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. 36-61

Name Silver Spring Baptist Church
Continuation Sheet

Number 8 Page 2

seen as part of being an American and important in defying the threatening forces affecting everyday life.¹² At a 1955 Seventh-day Adventist convention, churches were encouraged to sell Christianity despite the secularism that was invading American life in the form of degrading motion pictures and demoralizing literature and entertainment.¹³ Another reason for a rise in church-going was the increase in population and suburbanization. Montgomery County's population had doubled by 1950 and more than doubled in the following decade.¹⁴ As young families moved to the suburbs churches provided support networks and a means for connecting with others in the community.¹⁵ Churches began offering more programs, such as Sunday schools, and required more space. Overcrowded churches offering multiple services was cited as one reason why church attendance did not increase as much in the greater Washington, D.C. area as in the country as a whole.¹⁶

With the postwar church building boom, there was a new focus on church design and planning and a call for reform in existing practices. The Department of Worship and the Arts and the Department of Church Building and Architecture, both part of the National Council of Churches, and the Church Architectural Guild of America were established.¹⁷ There was an increase in church planning consulting firms which provided advice on how to create building and finance committees, how to allocate space, choose architects, buy land and meet code requirements.¹⁸ Moving away from historical styles, the focus was now on modern architecture as the most appropriate for the mid-century church. A 1950 publication of *Liturgical Arts* wrote, "The church edifice today is intended for the people of our time. Hence it must be fashioned in such a way that the people of our times may recognize and feel that it is addressed to them."¹⁹ The mid-century proponents of architectural reform for churches also tied modernism to an expression of the Protestant religion itself, "its honest use of materials and construction techniques, its adaptability to new shapes and forms, its freedom from ornamentation and symbolic context, its simplicity and unpretentiousness."²⁰ A 1957 exhibit of modern church architecture at the Washington Cathedral demonstrates the rising interest in modern church architecture.²¹

RONALD SENSEMAN AND MID-CENTURY MODERNISM

Ronald Senseman was born in 1912 in Collingswood, NJ. He received degrees from both Washington Missionary College (now Columbia Union College) and Catholic University. Prior to establishing his own firm in 1934, Senseman worked as a draftsman for Joseph N. Hettel, Architect in Camden, New Jersey, and for the mill at Washington Missionary College and designed small residences privately. According to AIA records, his office was located at 327 Carroll Avenue, NW, Washington, D.C. in 1946 until 1953. In 1954, Senseman relocated his office to the top floor of a new office

¹² Robert Bruegmann, ed., *Modernism at Mid-Century: The Architecture of the United States Air Force Academy* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1994): 94 and Robert S. Ellwood, *1950, Crossroads of American Religious Life* (Louisville: Westminster John Knox Press, 2000): 104.

¹³ "Hard-selling Approach to Christianity Urged," *Washington Post and Times Herald* September 2, 1955: 2.

¹⁴ MacMaster, 329.

¹⁵ Ellwood, 104.

¹⁶ "Capital an Irreligious City, Figures Indicate," *Washington Post* April 28, 1951: 10.

¹⁷ Anne C. Loveland, *From Meetinghouse to Megachurch: A Material and Cultural History* (Columbia: University of Missouri Press, 2003): 108.

¹⁸ Allitt, 33.

¹⁹ Albert Christ-Janier and Mary Mix Foley, *Modern Church Architecture: a guide to the form a spirit of 20th century religious buildings* (New York: McGraw-Hill, 1962): 2 quoting "Directives for the Building of a Church (by the Liturgical Commission for the Catholic Bishops of Germany)," *Liturgical Arts*, February 1950.

²⁰ Loveland, 110-111.

²¹ "Cathedral Opens Architecture Show," *Washington Post and Times Herald* August 3, 1957: C9.

Maryland Historical Trust

Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. 36-61

Name Silver Spring Baptist Church
Continuation Sheet

Number 8 Page 3

building he designed at 7705 Georgia Avenue, NW, Washington, D.C.²² He lived in Burnt Mills Hills in Silver Spring and 1981 designed his own residence there. By the time he designed the Silver Spring Baptist Church, Senseman was already well-known for his work on educational buildings, such as the award-winning Oak View Elementary School in Takoma Park, Maryland in 1951, hospitals including the Washington Sanitarium and Hospital in Takoma Park, MD in 1951, and government buildings such as the Department of the Army Biologic Products Research Lab at Walter Reed Medical Center and the Montgomery County Office Building in Rockville, MD in 1953. He had also designed several churches such as the Seventh-Day Adventist Church in Takoma Park, MD in 1952 and the Christ Congregational Church in Silver Spring in 1954. Senseman died in 2001.²³

One of Ronald Senseman's earliest church buildings was the Gothic Revival Hyattsville Seventh-Day Adventist Church constructed in 1938.²⁴ This building was constructed towards the end of a period in which historical revival styles were giving way to more non-traditional styles. Senseman designed another Gothic Revival building for the Silver Spring Seventh-day Adventist Church, 8900 Colesville Road, which opened in 1950 just a few blocks from the future site of the Silver Spring Baptist Church.²⁵ Both the Hyattsville and the Silver Spring Adventist churches were featured in a series of articles written in 1952 by Senseman for *The Advent Review and Sabbath Herald*, a publication of the Seventh-day Adventists, adding to the growing literature and field of church planning and design. In his first article, "Building a Church," Senseman explains the importance of careful design and planning of church buildings and describes the general move away from more traditional designs,

There is no doubt that churches today, especially the nonliturgical churches, are taking liberties with these historic types. This is brought about many times because the limited means of the congregation may require that all nonessentials be removed. This stylizing of traditional types alone does not make a truly contemporary church, as the modernist knows it, because the general plan in all probability would remain traditional, the change being in the façade.²⁶

It is clear from this publication that by the time Senseman designed the Silver Spring Baptist Church he was immersed in the on-going discourse on the place of modernism in religious architecture. He cautioned, "Regardless of the style of architecture of our churches, they must be, first, a house of God; they should be distinctive and readily recognized as a place of worship. The facade should, even to the casual observer, reflect the purpose for which it was intended. It should not look like an auditorium or a place of amusement or a post office," a reiteration of a statement made by Martin Anderson in his 1949 publication *Planning and Financing the New Church*, one of the many church planning advice books published in the 1940s and 1950s.²⁷

²² Questionnaire for Architects' Roster and/or Register of Architects for Federal Public Works, Ronald S. Senseman (firm), American Institute of Architects, September 27, 1946 and March 5, 1953, AIA Historical Directory of American Architects. <http://www.aia.org/about/history/aiab082017> [last accessed March 17, 2010] and "A New Building for Georgia Ave," *Washington Post and Times Herald* October 10, 1954: R13.

²³ AIA Historical Directory of American Architects and "Hospital, School Architect, Ronald Senseman." *Washington Post* February 6, 2001: B.07.

²⁴ "Adventists Worship in New Church," *Washington Post* January 8, 1939: 12.

²⁵ "Adventists Plan New Church in Silver Spring," *Washington Post* July 31, 1945: p. 8.

²⁶ Ronald S. Senseman, "Building a Church," *Adventist Review and Sabbath Herald* January 3, 1952: 3.

²⁷ Allitt, 15.

Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. 36-61

Name Silver Spring Baptist Church
Continuation Sheet

Number 8 Page 4

Senseman was a prolific architect designing over 2000 projects in his lifetime and is especially known for his schools, churches and hospitals in the greater Washington, D.C metropolitan area and received much recognition for his work.²⁸ Senseman helped to establish the Potomac Valley Chapter of the American Institute of Architects in 1955, acting as its first president, and was awarded fellowship status in 1966.²⁹

The Silver Spring Baptist Church maintains many traditional forms and features of historical designs such as the linear plan, front gable, the tower, steeple, use of brick and stone and stained glass windows but is imbued with aspects of modernism distinctive of the immediate postwar period, such as in the austere simplicity of the steeple and its sharp needle spire, the strong vertical emphasis of the pillars and abstracted form of the portico, as well as Art Deco influences in the geometric and streamline details and in the lettering and doors. While not one of the most revolutionary church designs of its time, the Silver Spring Baptist Church is illustrative of a period of transition between the traditional, embodied in the Colonial Revival parsonage, and the highly modern. The proximity and association of the two buildings enhances the distinction and together, reflect significant periods in Montgomery County's growth and development.

²⁸ "Hospital, School Architect, Ronald Senseman." Washington Post February 6, 2001; B.07 and American Architects Directory, 1955, 1962 and 1970.

²⁹ "The State of Real Estate," Washington Post and Times Herald June 12, 1955; G3 and "Four Architects Advanced," Washington Post, Times Herald May 21, 1966: F18.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Inventory No. 36-61

See attached.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of surveyed property .73 acres
Acreage of historical setting .73 acres
Quadrangle name _____

Quadrangle scale: _____

Verbal boundary description and justification

The property is bounded by Fenton Avenue to the west and Wayne Avenue to the north and consists of lots 20, 21, 22 and 23 on block 4 as shown at Jordan's and Smith's Addition to Silver Spring Park (plat 301) dated 06/01/1925.

11. Form Prepared by

name/title	Lisa Mroszczyk and Clare Lise Kelly		
organization	M-NCPPC/Montgomery County Planning Department	date	April 16, 2010
street & number	8787 Georgia Avenue	telephone	301-563-3400
city or town	Silver Spring	state	MD

The Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust
DHCD/DHCP
100 Community Place
Crownsville, MD 21032-2023
410-514-7600

Maryland Historical Trust

Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. 36-61

Name Silver Spring Baptist Church
Continuation Sheet

Number 9 Page 1

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- _____. "The Building Committee." Advent Review and Sabbath Herald. Volume 129, No. 2 (1952): 4-5.
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Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. 36-61

Name Silver Spring Baptist Church
Continuation Sheet

Number 9 Page 2

Major Bibliographical References (continued)

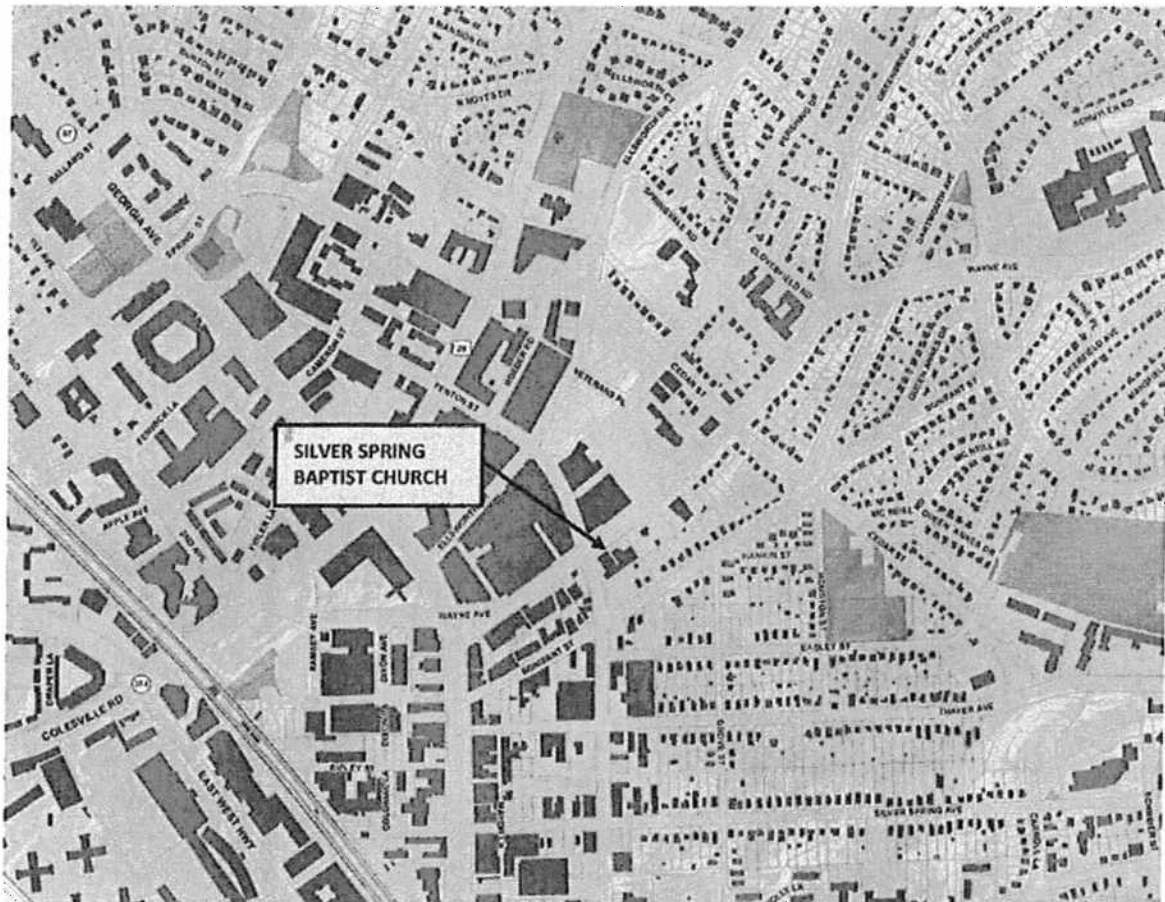
- "Hard-Selling Approach to Christianity Urged." Washington Post and Times Herald. September 2, 1955: 28.
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- "Adventists Worship in New Church." Washington Post January 8, 1939: 12.
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- "Capital an Irreligious City, Figures Indicate." Washington Post. April 28, 1951: 10.
- "Hospital, School Architect, Ronald Senseman." Washington Post February 6, 2001: B.07
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Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. 36-61

Name Silver Spring Baptist Church
Continuation Sheet

Number 9 Page 3



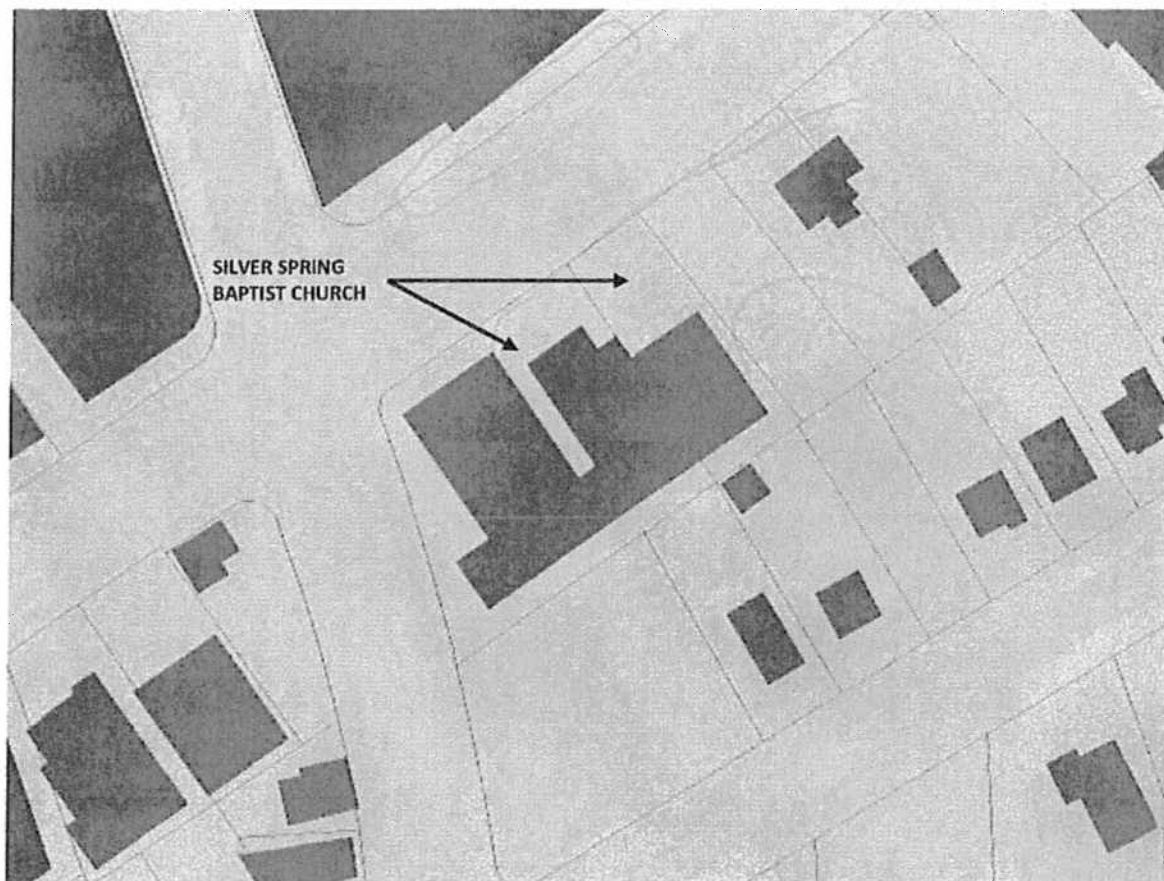
Location Map, Silver Spring Baptist Church, located at 830-832 Wayne Avenue, Silver Spring, MD (Source: M-NCCPC GIS 03.09.2010)

Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. 36-61

Name Silver Spring Baptist Church
Continuation Sheet

Number 9 Page 4



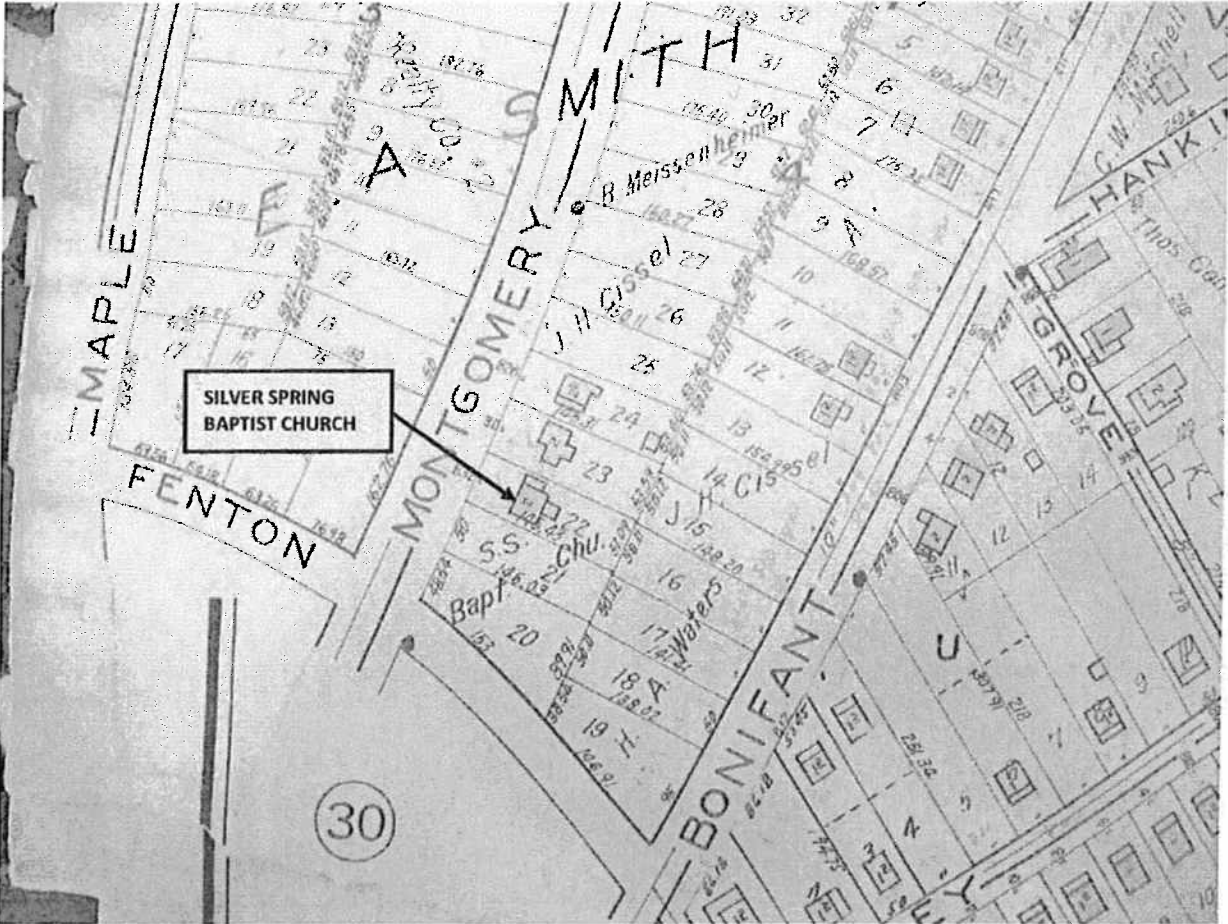
Site Map, Silver Spring Baptist Church, located at 830-832 Wayne Avenue, Silver Spring, MD (Source: M-NCCPC GIS 03.09.2010)

Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. 36-61

Name Silver Spring Baptist Church
Continuation Sheet

Number 9 Page 5



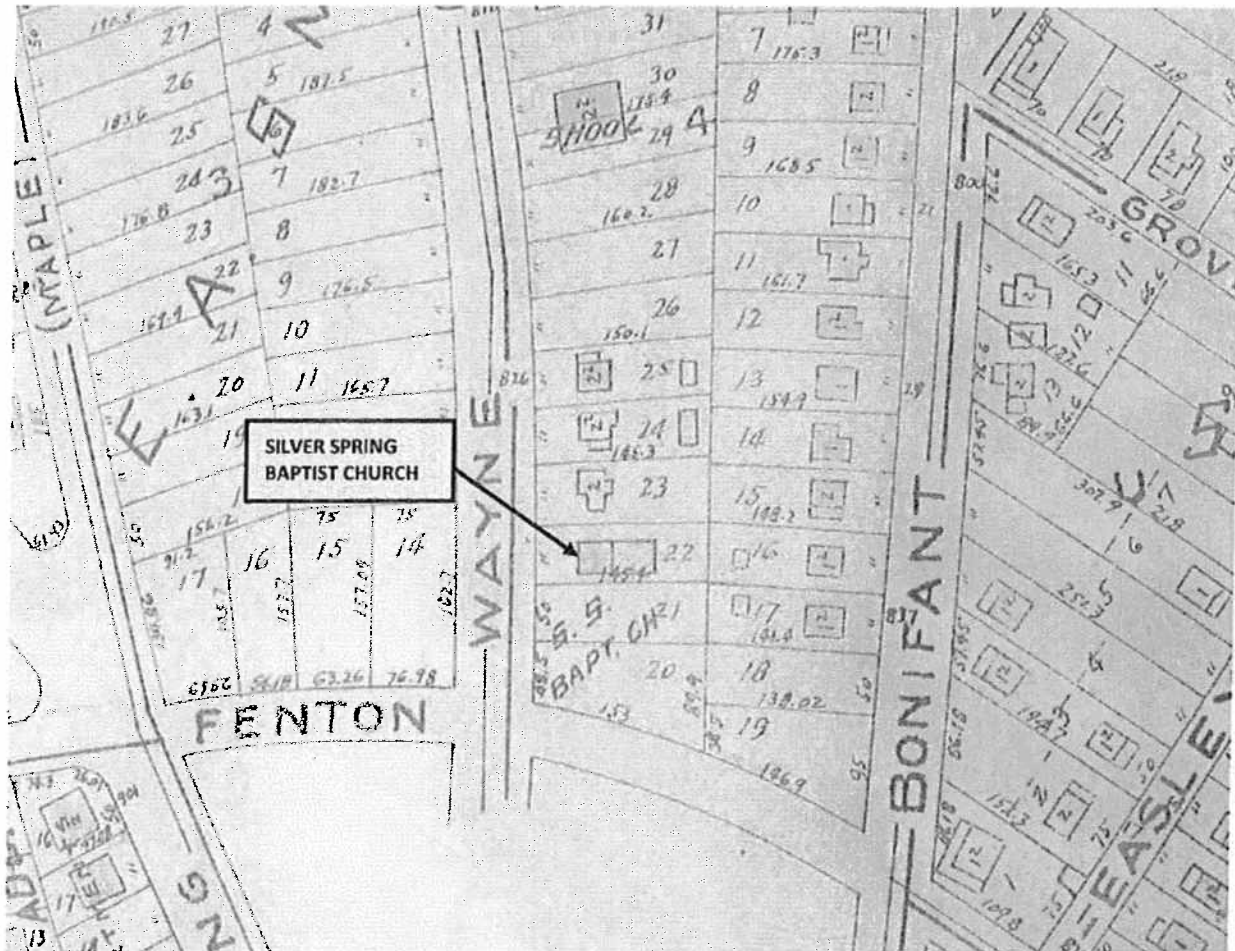
Excerpt 1931 F.M.H. Klingé Atlas of Real Estate in Montgomery County Maryland.

Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. 36-61

Name Silver Spring Baptist Church
Continuation Sheet

Number 9 Page 6



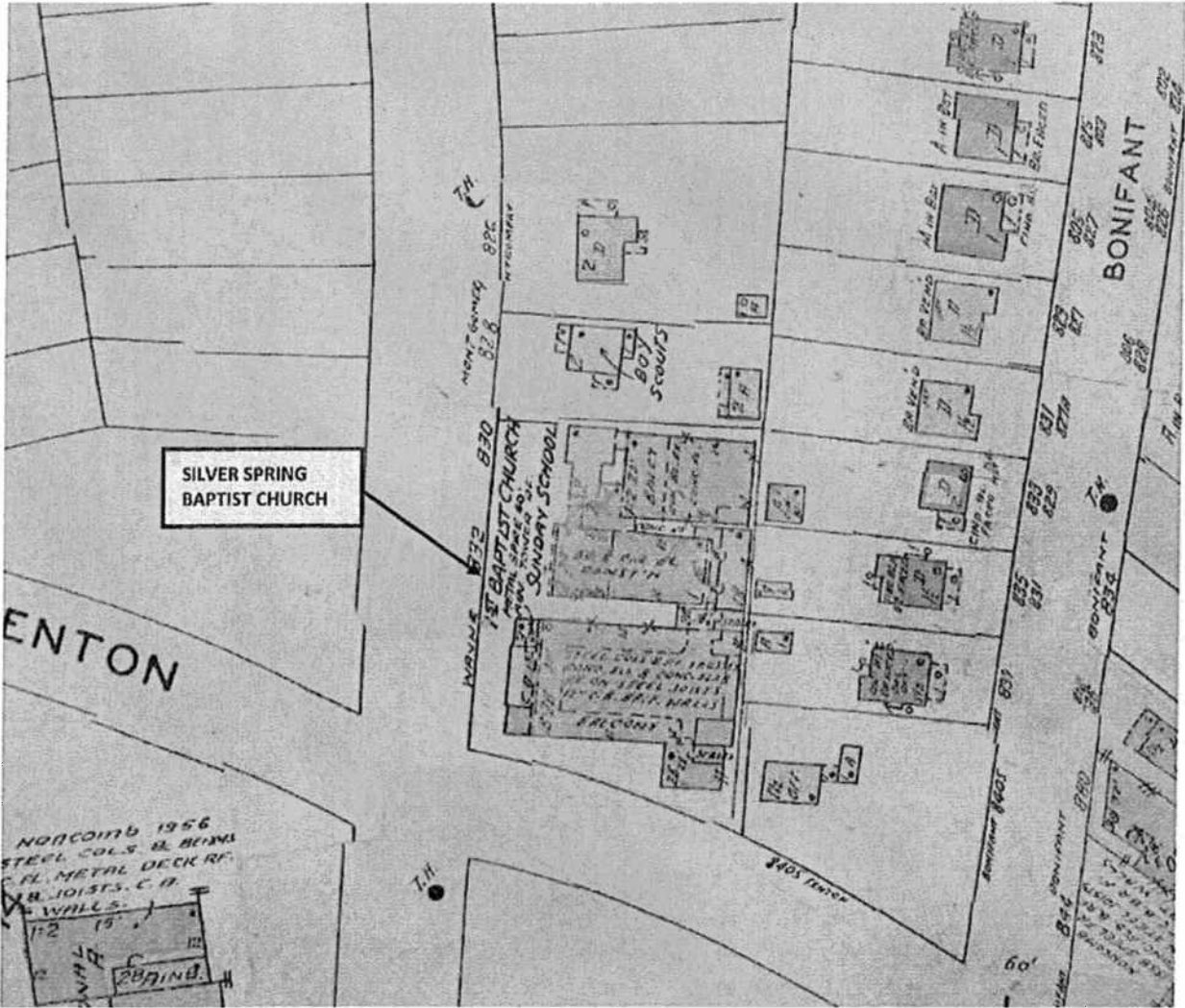
Excerpt 1941 F.M.H. Klingé Atlas of Real Estate in Montgomery County Maryland.

Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. 36-61

Name Silver Spring Baptist Church
Continuation Sheet

Number 9 Page 7



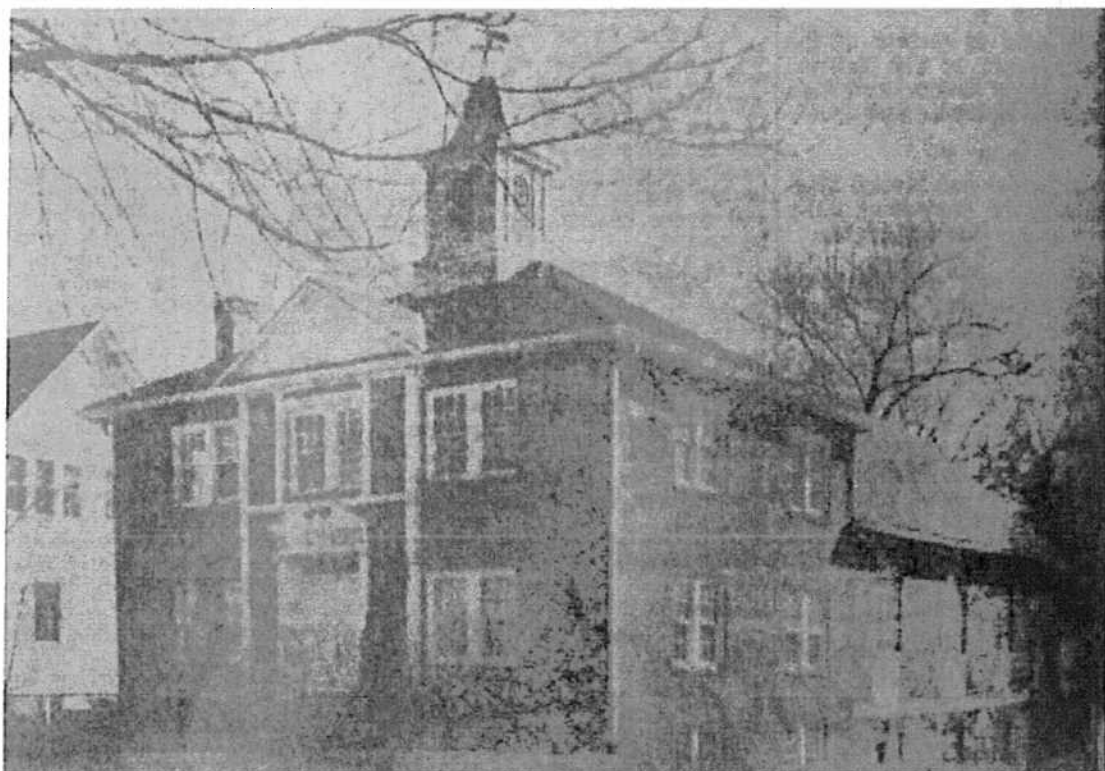
Excerpt 1927 Sanborn Fire Insurance Map, updated 1963

**Maryland Historical Trust
Maryland Inventory of
Historic Properties Form**

Inventory No. 36-61

Name Silver Spring Baptist Church
Continuation Sheet

Number 9 Page 8



First Baptist Church of Silver Spring from "Silver Spring Church Week," Maryland News, February 10, 1950, p. C4.

Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. 36-61

Name Silver Spring Baptist Church
Continuation Sheet

Number 9 Page 9



Silver Spring Baptist Church,
parsonage, north (front) façade
and partial west (side) façade,
Clare Lisc Kelly, 02.19.2010



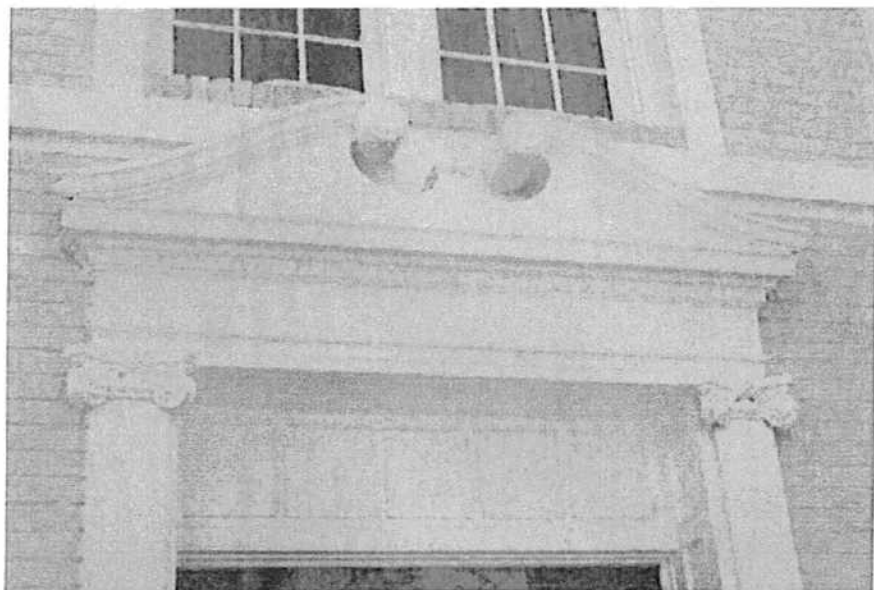
Silver Spring, Baptist Church
parsonage and addition, north
(front) facade and partial east
(side) façade, Lisa Mroszczyk,
03.10.10

Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

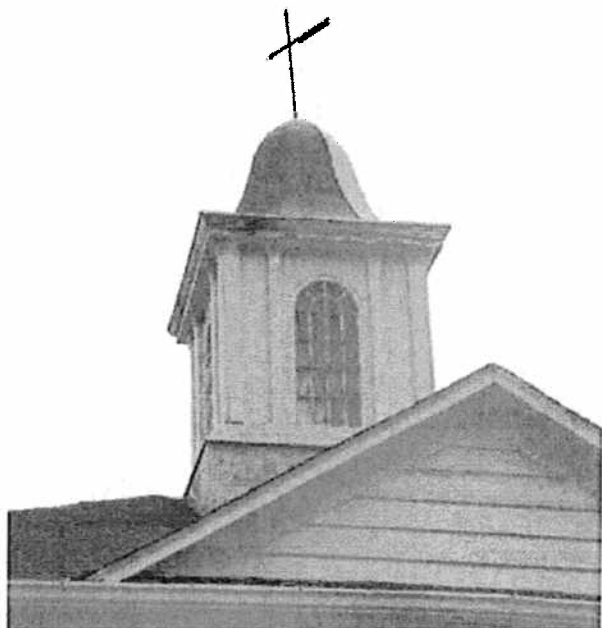
Inventory No. 36-61

Name Silver Spring Baptist Church
Continuation Sheet

Number 9 Page 10



Silver Spring Baptist Church,
parsonage, door surround detail,
Clare Lise Kelly, 02.19.10



Silver Spring Baptist Church,
parsonage, cupola detail, Lisa
Mroszczyk, 03.10.10

Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

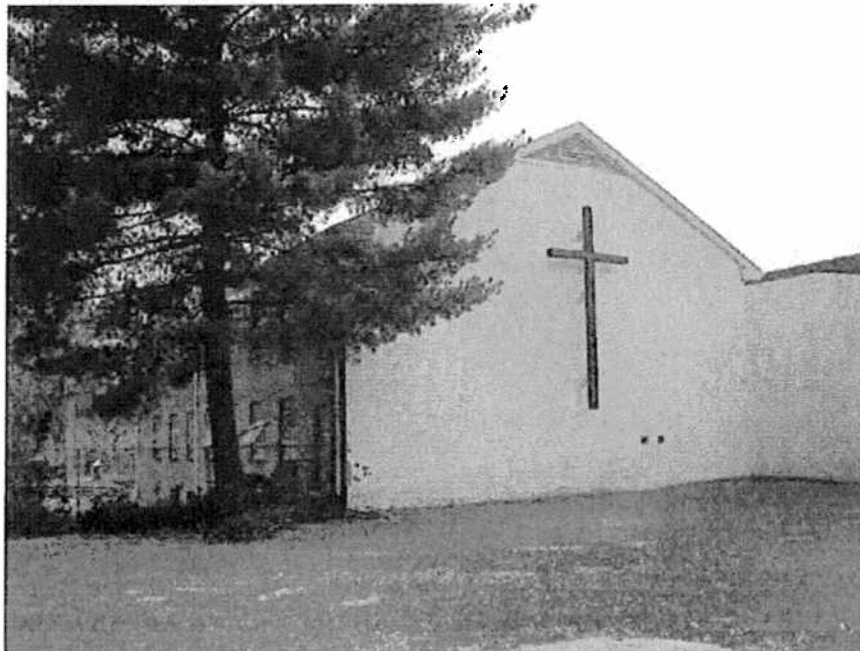
Inventory No. 36-61

Name Silver Spring Baptist Church
Continuation Sheet

Number 9 Page 11



Silver Spring Baptist Church,
parsonage and addition, north
façade (front), Lisa Mroszczyk,
03.10.10



Silver Spring Baptist Church,
temporary sanctuary, north
façade (front) and east (side)
facade, Lisa Mroszczyk, 03.10.10

Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. 36-61

Name Silver Spring Baptist Church
Continuation Sheet

Number 9 Page 12



Silver Spring Baptist Church,
view looking east, Lisa
Mroszczyk, 03.10.10



Silver Spring Baptist Church,
view looking south, Lisa
Mroszczyk, 03.10.10

Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. 36-61

Name Silver Spring Baptist Church
Continuation Sheet

Number 9 Page 13



Silver Spring Baptist Church,
doors/front façade, Lisa
Mroszczyk, 03.10.10



Silver Spring Baptist Church,
door detail, Clare Lise Kelly,
02.19.10

Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

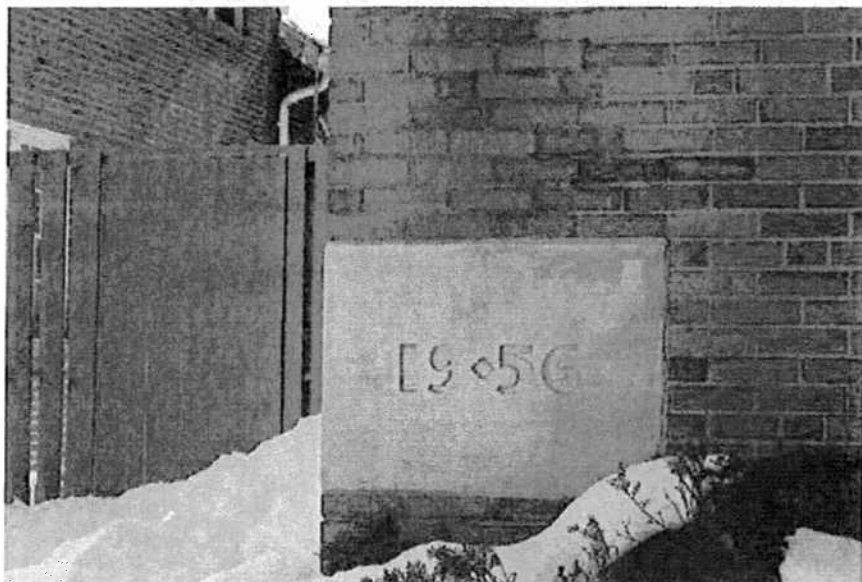
Inventory No. 36-61

Name Silver Spring Baptist Church
Continuation Sheet

Number 9 Page 14



Silver Spring Baptist Church,
north (front) façade detail, Clare
Lise Kelly, 02.19.10



Silver Spring Baptist Church,
date stone, northeast corner,
Clare Lise Kelly, 02.19.10

Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

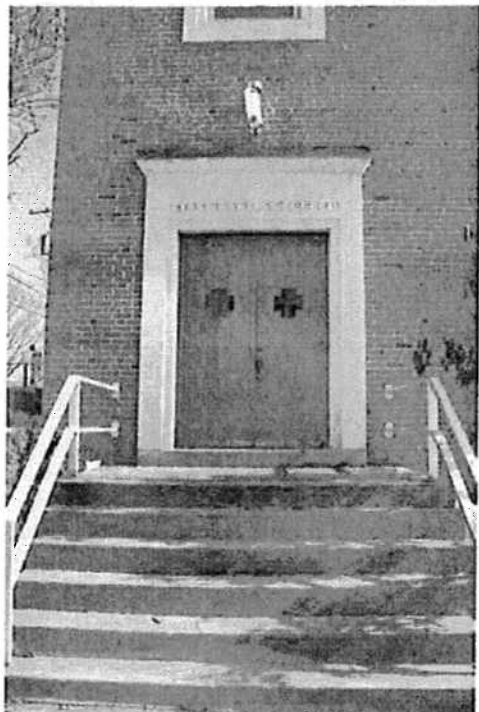
Inventory No. 36-61

Name Silver Spring Baptist Church
Continuation Sheet

Number 9 Page 15



Silver Spring Baptist Church,
west (Fenton Street) façade, Lisa
Mroszczyk, 03.10.10



Silver Spring Baptist Church,
secondary entrance, west facade,
Clare Lise Kelly, 02.19.10

Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. 36-61

Name Silver Spring Baptist Church
Continuation Sheet

Number 9 Page 16



Silver Spring Baptist Church,
west (side) façade detail, Clare
Lise Kelly, 02.19. 10



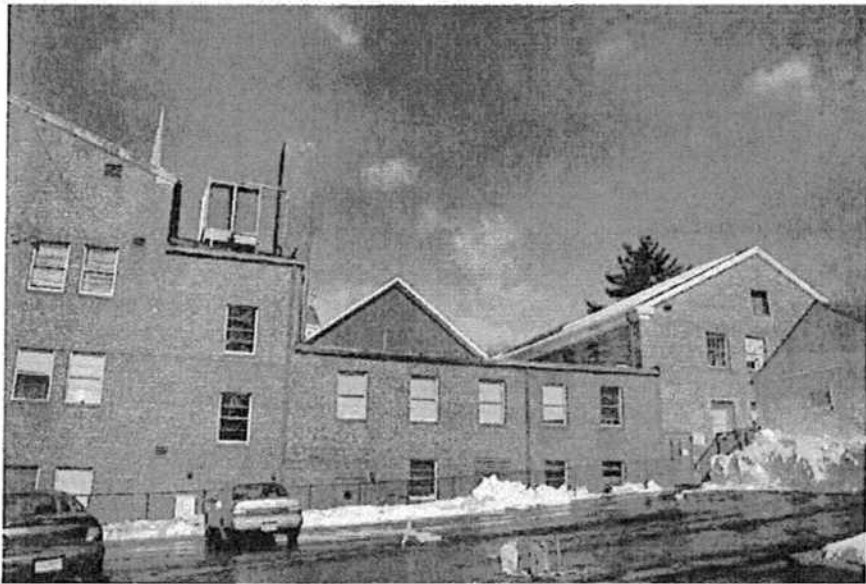
Silver Spring Baptist Church,
south (rear) façade and partial
west (side) façade, Clare Lise
Kelly, 02.19.10

Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. 36-61

Name Silver Spring Baptist Church
Continuation Sheet

Number 9 Page 17



Silver Spring Baptist Church,
partial south (rear) façade, Clare
Lise Kelly, 02.19.10



Silver Spring Baptist Church,
south (rear) façade detail, Clare
Lise Kelly, 02.19.10

November 2010 SSHS MIHP Form



Marcia Stickle & George French
Silver Spring Historical Society
PO Box 1160
Silver Spring, Maryland 20910-1160
301-585-3817

11-24-2010

Scott Whipple, Supervisor &
Clare Lise Kelly, Research & Designation Coordinator
Historic Preservation Section, Montgomery County Planning Department
Maryland-National Capital Park & Planning Commission
8787 Georgia Avenue
Silver Spring, MD 20910

Re: Inventory No. M: 36-61

Dear Mr. Whipple and Ms. Kelly:

The Silver Spring Historical Society proudly nominates the Silver Spring Baptist Church Property to the Master Plan for Historic Preservation and/or Locational Atlas of Historic Properties.

The Historic Preservation Commission Staff set the designation process in motion, provided an Inventory research number (M: 36-61) and nearly completed the MHT Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form. The HPC staff had scheduled the Silver Spring Baptist Church for evaluation before the HPC for Master Plan Historic Preservation and/or Locational Atlas designation on April 28, 2010; in a "Public Hearing and Worksession to formulate recommendations to the Planning Board for designation." Budgetary constraints temporarily halted the process.

We are writing to formally request that the Silver Spring Baptist Church Property located at 830-832 Wayne Ave. and 8415 Fenton Street, Silver Spring, Montgomery County, Maryland, be evaluated for designation on the Montgomery County Master Plan for Historic Preservation and/or Locational Atlas of Historic Properties. Based on the research by HPC Staff and Silver Spring Historical Society members, it is clear the Baptist Church Property meets Criteria 1a, 1d, 2a, 2b, and 2e. The nomination has many supporters, including preservation organizations, community leaders and individuals. We appreciate your efforts on behalf of preservation in Montgomery County and thank you for your consideration of this important historic site. We are submitting the following materials:

- (1) MHT Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form
- (2) Compact Disc containing digital files of the same

Thank you very much. Sincerely,

Marcie Stickle and George French, Silver Spring Historical Society, 301-585-3817, MarciPro@aol.com

Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. M: 36 - 61

1. Name of Property

Silver Spring Baptist Church

historic Silver Spring Baptist Church
other First Baptist Church of Silver Spring

2. Location

street and number 830-832 Wayne Avenue and 8415 Fenton Street not for publication
city, town Silver Spring, Maryland 20910 vicinity
county Montgomery

3. Owner of Property

(give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Silver Spring Baptist Church
street and number 8415 Fenton Street telephone 301-589-3943
city, town Silver Spring state MD zip code 20910

4. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Montgomery County Courthouse liber/folio: 382/87, and 800/275
city, town Rockville, MD tax map JN33 tax parcel tax ID number 01046281/01046292

5. Primary Location of Additional Data

- Contributing Resource in National Register District
 Contributing Resource in Local Historic District
 Determined Eligible for the National Register/Maryland Register
 Determined Ineligible for the National Register/Maryland Register
 Recorded by HABS/HAER
 Historic Structure Report or Research Report at MHT
 Other: Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission/ Silver Spring Historical Society

6. Classification

Category	Ownership	Current Function		Resource Count	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape	Contributing	Noncontributing
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce/trade	<input type="checkbox"/> recreation/culture	2	<input type="checkbox"/> buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> defense	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> religion		<input type="checkbox"/> sites
<input type="checkbox"/> site		<input type="checkbox"/> domestic	<input type="checkbox"/> social		<input type="checkbox"/> structures
<input type="checkbox"/> object		<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation		<input type="checkbox"/> objects
		<input type="checkbox"/> funerary	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	2	<input type="checkbox"/> Total
		<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> unknown		
		<input type="checkbox"/> health care	<input type="checkbox"/> vacant/not in use		
		<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> other:		
				Number of Contributing Resources previously listed in the Inventory	

7. Description

Inventory No. M: 36 - 61

Condition

excellent deteriorated
 good ruins
 fair altered

Prepare both a one paragraph summary and a comprehensive description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

SUMMARY

The Silver Spring Baptist Church sanctuary, built in 1956 of brick and limestone, is the primary structure on the property. It is a landmark that commands a prominent location at the top of a rise at the corner of Wayne Avenue and Fenton Street, two key roads in Silver Spring's downtown. Its traditional front gable church form is modernized with Art Deco influences and strong modernist geometric interpretations of formal design elements. Most notable are its monumental pillars and cornice of limestone, forming an abstraction of a traditional portico, and its slender limestone spire, piercing the sky atop a four story tower belfry. The brick Colonial Revival parsonage was constructed in 1925 and has a hip roofed cubical form and features an elegant, oversize cupola, a central pavilion and a broken-scroll pedimented entrance. It has two additions, one dating from 1931, and another from 1950. Both the church and parsonage with its 1931 sanctuary/auditorium addition retain a high level of architectural and material integrity.

DESCRIPTION

The 1956 church is a front gabled brick building measuring approximately 62 feet by 120 feet with a four story square tower at the northeast corner. The church is elevated six steps up from Wayne Avenue and faces north. Monumental limestone pillars divide the front façade into three bays and are capped with a limestone cornice forming an austere geometric interpretation of a traditional portico. The sterility of the unadorned monolithic pillars is tempered by the inscription of "First Baptist Church" in a curvilinear stylized Art Deco lettering with a diamond pattern on each side. The center bay has a double door, and outer bays have single doors. Doors are wood with a square cross shaped window with Art Deco style angular fan-like details in the corners centered in the upper half of each door. On the front façade, these windows have etched glass and the doors have transoms. Stained glass windows in shades of blue and purple rise above the doorways with non-figurative symbols of the Baptist Church centered within each window. A limestone block set in the northeast corner of the tower is inscribed with the 1956 construction date in stylized Art Deco lettering. The tower has a first floor entrance in the east wall and a stained glass window with a limestone surround on the second floor. Above the eave of the main building the tower has inset corners leading up to a cross gable roof with a simple, narrow pyramidal limestone spire. The upper section of the tower is demarcated with limestone coursing. Within each gable of the tower there is a cut out stone cross. Brick is laid in a Flemish stretcher bond and the building has a composition roof.

The west elevation, which faces Fenton Street, is nine bays wide. The elevation is enlivened with multi-story stained glass windows in the five bays next to the entrance bay. The windows have limestone surrounds and burgundy color architectural glass spandrels (Vitrolite) with framed images of a Bible in cast aluminum with "Be ye doers of the Word" inscribed on its open pages. A secondary entrance is located on the northern end of this elevation with a window above. This entrance has a limestone surround with "First Baptist Church" inscribed above the door in a stylized Art Deco lettering. The decorative paired doors match those on the front façade. Projecting from the southern three bays is a gabled rear wing. The three story wing, constructed of matching brick, has a gable roof set below the eave height of the main building. The obtuse angle of the existing lot formed by Wayne Avenue and Fenton Street allows the church entrance to square with Wayne Avenue right at the corner, and also accommodate the western transept ell at the rear. Windows are metal double hung sashes with limestone surrounds except on the rear in the stairway section. The existing grade descends from north to south along the length of the building giving way to a raised basement with steel frame awning windows. There is a basement entrance into the ell on the north and south sides.

The south elevation of the main building is symmetrical in design and features a multi-story window mirroring the gable roof form and framed with stone in the center of the wall. The window is divided into twelve sections with metal

Maryland Historical Trust

Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. M: 36-61

Name Silver Spring Baptist Church
Continuation Sheet

Number 7 Page 1

frames and translucent etched glass. The lowest row contains awning windows. Below the windows there is a brick panel laid in a stack bond with a pin-mounted sign reading "First Baptist Church." The building wraps around and connects to the parsonage sanctuary/auditorium with an intermediary section. This two story section has a basement with a stairwell leading into a one story section with a basement. Decorative details are simplified or omitted on the rear of the building. This includes elimination of the window surrounds and plain square windows in the doors.

The east elevation facing the parsonage and its sanctuary/auditorium is finished in the same smooth red and orange brick and matching bond. This Flemish stretcher bond also matches the older parsonage construction and the brick color is similar, including the occasional dark brick woven in. The windows have been shortened on this side and rise one story above the interior balcony and are made of stained-glass, framed with limestone surrounds. This side is connected, below the second story to the parsonage sanctuary/auditorium at the rear of both buildings. The 1956 church is virtually freestanding and finished on all four sides.

The parsonage, constructed between 1925 and 1926, is a Colonial Revival style building. The two story brick structure, three bays wide and two bays deep, has a hip roofed cubical form. An oversize cupola sitting at the roof peak features round arched windows, pilasters and a bell roof topped with a cross. On the front (north) façade, a center bay projecting pavilion is flanked with wood pilasters and surmounted by a front gable pediment with German lap siding. A second set of pilasters flank the second story windows in the central pavilion. The center bay is further differentiated by flat casing framing the second floor windows and dividing the first and second floors. The door surround is composed of Ionic pilasters with a denticulated entablature and a broken-scroll pediment. Windows are paired 6/6 double hung with rowlock sills. The main entrance doors have been replaced with a fixed window and wood panel although the five light transom remains in place and the opening appears otherwise unaltered. The north wall and visible portions of the east wall have been painted white. The hip roof, now covered in asphalt shingles, has exposed rafter tails. There is a single brick chimney with corbeled cap on the west wall.

A sanctuary/auditorium addition extending from the rear (south) of the parsonage building was constructed in 1931. It is one and a half stories with a raised basement and a gable roof. The addition is four bays deep with tall arched windows on the sides with limestone panels below tied together by a band of stone at floor height.

A second addition, constructed in 1950 as a temporary sanctuary, stands on the northeast side of the parsonage and sanctuary/auditorium. The bulk of the addition has a footprint of approximately 45 feet by 71 feet and is a two story brick front gable structure set towards the rear of the lot. The front (north) façade is solid and unornamented except for a large wooden cross and a simple wooden box cornice. This part of the addition was originally located behind a two story frame residential building that was constructed on this lot prior to the church's ownership in 1940 and which has since been demolished. The narrow two story section connects the parsonage to this addition. In this portion of the addition, a concrete ramp leads up to a pair of double doors with an elliptical transom with five lights. A vertically oriented octagonal window is centered above the doors at the second floor.

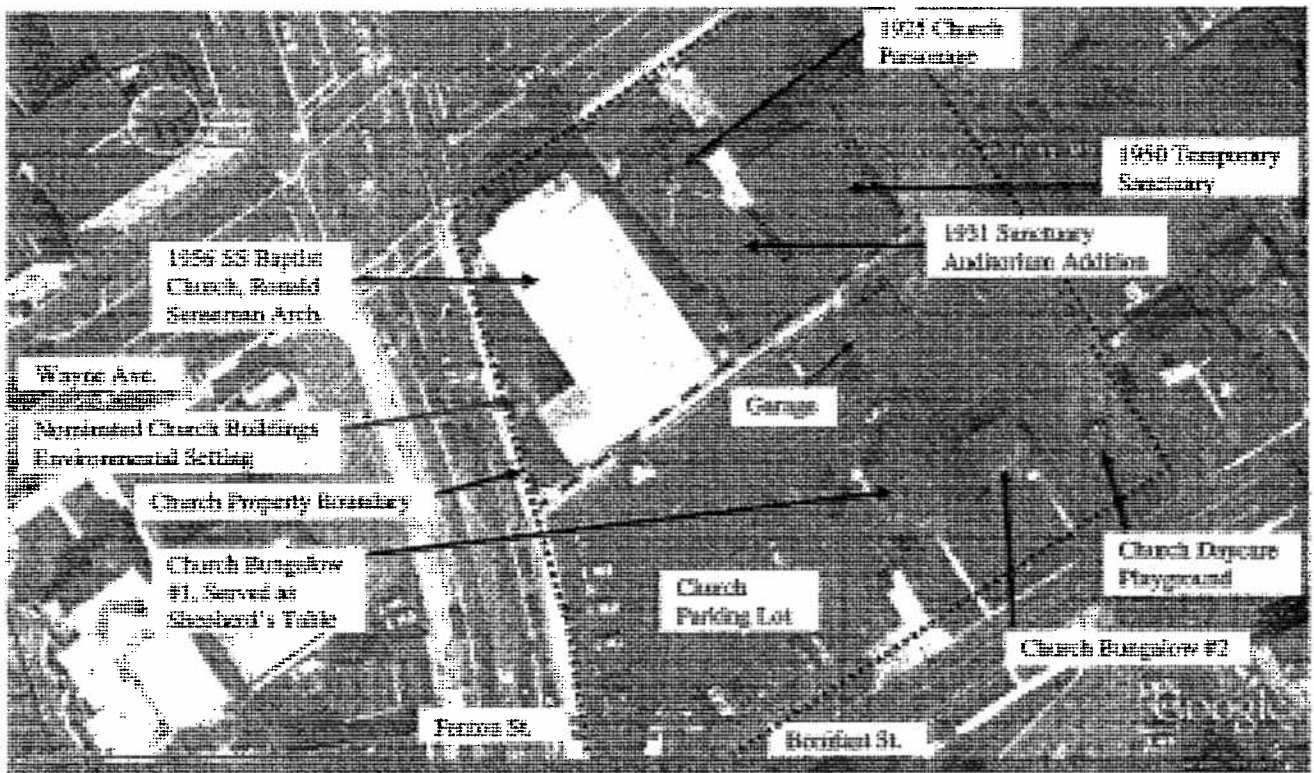
Two 1930s brick bungalows facing Bonifant Street adjacent to the residential neighborhood (one with detached garage), a Child Development Center playground and a parking lot round out the Baptist property, but are not included in this nomination, nor are they part of the environmental setting.

Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. M: 36-61

Name Silver Spring Baptist Church
Continuation Sheet

Number 7 Page 2



Silver Spring Baptist Church Property Locator Map (Image Date Feb 1, 2008).

Nominated Structures: Silver Spring Baptist Church 1925 Parsonage and its 1931 Sanctuary Auditorium, and its 1950 Temporary Sanctuary, and 1956 Senseman Silver Spring Baptist Church.

8. Significance

Inventory No. M: 36-61

Period	Areas of Significance	Check and justify below		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> health/medicine	<input type="checkbox"/> performing arts
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> invention	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-1999	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment/ recreation	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 2000-	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> ethnic heritage	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/ settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> social history
	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning		<input type="checkbox"/> maritime history	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation		<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other: _____

Specific dates 1925-1956 **Architect** 1956 Church: Ronald S. Senseman

Construction dates 1925-1926 (parsonage), 1931 (auditorium), 1950 (temporary sanctuary), 1956 (new sanctuary)

Evaluation for:

National Register

Maryland Register

not evaluated

Prepare a one-paragraph summary statement of significance addressing applicable criteria, followed by a narrative discussion of the history of the resource and its context. (For compliance projects, complete evaluation on a DOE Form – see manual.)

SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANCE

The 1956 Silver Spring Baptist Church with Art Deco and modernist influences illustrates the shift away from historical styles and toward an increasingly technological culture. It is important as an architectural representation of the transition between the traditional and the highly modern. It represents an era of postwar suburban expansion and its prominent corner location marks an important Silver Spring civic node. The building is also significant as the work of prominent architect Ronald S. Senseman, FAIA, a Silver Spring resident, an expert in the design of religious and educational buildings. The 1920s Colonial Revival style parsonage represents the first phase of suburbanization in Montgomery County. Its historically-influenced design provides a point of reference for the changing cultural and social values exhibited in the church's next phase of development. The Silver Spring Baptist Church complex as a whole represents the development of the church from its founding in 1924 through the second half of the twentieth century, and beyond.

Both churches are exceptional resources for Silver Spring and Montgomery County. The 1926 brick and wood trim Parsonage and its 1931 Sanctuary addition is the oldest extant church building in the Silver Spring CBD. It is virtually unchanged, except for the restorable front doors, exhibiting a very high degree of integrity. The 1956 church is completely unaltered, is the first modernist church in Silver Spring's CBD, and one of, if not the first, post war modernist churches built in Montgomery County.

The Silver Spring Baptist Church complex meets several of the Criteria of the Montgomery County Historic Preservation Ordinance, Chapter 24A3.

Criteria 1a. The historic resource has character, interest or value as part of the development, heritage or cultural characteristics of the County, State or Nation.

1d. Exemplifies the cultural, economic, social, political, or historic heritage of the County and its communities.

2a. Embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction.

2b. The historic resource represents the work of a master.

2e. The historic resource represents an established and familiar visual feature of the neighborhood, community or county due to its singular physical characteristic or landscape.

Maryland Historical Trust

Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. M: 36-61

Name Silver Spring Baptist Church
Continuation Sheet

Number 8 Page 1

SILVER SPRING BAPTIST CHURCH

The Silver Spring Baptist Church was organized in 1924 by Reverend H.W. O. Millington under the Columbia Baptist Association. Services were originally held Sundays in the 1914 Silver Spring National Guard Armory, and Fire Station (1918) located on the southeast corner of Georgia and Silver Spring Avenues, with prayer meetings held at a member's residence.¹ Founding members totaled 14 congregants² On August 10, 1925, the church purchased lots 20, 21 and 22 at the southeast corner of Fenton Street and Montgomery (now Wayne) Avenue. This property was part of "Jordan and Smith's Addition to Silver Spring Park" platted in June of that year.³ Frank L. Hewitt, Silver Spring realtor and World War I hero, brokered the real estate transaction.⁴ Between 1925 and 1926, the congregation constructed a two story Colonial Revival brick parsonage on lot 22 which would establish the congregation's physical presence on an important corner and serve as a marker for future development.⁵ The parsonage also served other church functions such as meetings, dinners, and at least one wedding.⁶

In 1931 a \$125,000 brick sanctuary auditorium addition was constructed to the rear of the original building that more than doubled its size,⁷ and by June 1931 was used for church services and Sunday school.⁸ Up until this time services had also been held in the new 1927 SECO Theater and the top floor of the newly relocated 1910 Silver Spring National Bank (1925).⁹ In 1940, the church purchased a fourth lot (lot 23) adjacent to its corner properties that contained a small two-story frame structure which was demolished sometime after 1963. In order to serve a growing congregation, a temporary sanctuary was constructed in 1950 on the east side of the parsonage until the "...permanent sanctuary..." could be built on the prominent corner location "... reserved for it."¹⁰

"Man long has understood that a beautiful and inspiring architectural setting encourages faith and dignity and promotes high aspirations.... A church should be the outstanding and most beautiful building in the community.... Beauty is not always a matter of price but of good proportion in design...." Ronald S. Senseman¹¹

¹ "New Pastor Comes to Silver Spring," *Washington Post*, May 2, 1925, p. 8.

² First Baptist Church of Silver Spring Website 2010, <http://fbcss.org/history.html>

³ Montgomery County Land Records, l. 382, f. 87, August 10, 1925 and "Jordan's and Smith's Addition to Silver Spring Park," Plat 301, June 1, 1925.

⁴ "Suburban," *Washington Post*, 6/16/1925, p.8.

⁵ 1931 F.M.H. Klingé Atlas of Real Estate in Montgomery County Maryland, and "The Parsonage of the Baptist Church is Nearing Completion," *Washington Post* 1/31/1926, p. 11.

⁶ "By Rockville Bureau," *Washington Post*, 7/14/1926, p. 2.

⁷ 1941 F.M.H. Klingé Atlas of Real Estate in Montgomery County, Md., and "History and Future," First Baptist Church of Silver Spring, <http://fbcss.org/history.html> [last accessed March 8, 2010].

⁸ "News of the Suburbs, 'Silver Spring'" *Washington Post*, 6/28/1931, p. M 12, "...building has been under construction for 3 months." *Washington Post*, 8/30/1931, p. M 24. & *Washington Post*, 10/4/1931, p. M 5.

⁹ "News of the Suburbs," *Washington Post*, 3/18/1928, p.10, & "Silver Spring Baptist Church Services held at the SECO Theater,"

"News Notes of Interest in Suburban Society Circles," *Washington Post* 10/19/1930, p. M 24. & "Silver Spring Baptist Church, Silver Spring Church Week," Photo of Parsonage & Sanctuary Auditorium, *Maryland News*, 2/10/1950, pp. C 4-5.

¹⁰ First Baptist Church of Silver Spring website 2010, and 1948 F.M.H. Klingé Atlas of Real Estate in Montgomery County Maryland updated in 1953. See also the 1950 date stone to the east of the entry doors.

¹¹ Ronald S. Senseman, "Building a Church," 1/3/1952, "*Review & Herald*" pp. 3-4.

Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. M: 36-61

Name Silver Spring Baptist Church
Continuation Sheet

Number 8 Page 2

The 1956 church was designed by architect Ronald S. Senseman.¹² The building cost \$400,000 to \$425,000 to construct, and opened for services in February 1957.¹³ At the time of dedication on March 10, 1957, the congregation exceeded 1,200 members. The sanctuary was designed to seat 1,059 persons, with a wrap-around balcony on three sides. This new air conditioned structure also contained a social hall seating 450 people, six classrooms, choir room, kitchen, two church offices and a pastor study to accommodate the expanding church community.¹⁴

Senseman's Silver Spring Baptist Church maintains many traditional forms and features of historical designs such as the linear plan, front gable, the tower and steeple (modified Romanesque¹⁵), use of brick and stone and stained glass windows, and is imbued with aspects of modernism distinctive of the immediate postwar period, such as in the austere simplicity of the steeple and its sharp needle spire, the strong vertical emphasis of the pillars and abstracted form of the portico, as well as Art Deco influences in the geometric and streamline details and in the lettering and doors. An evolutionary church design of its time, the Silver Spring Baptist Church is illustrative of a period of peaceful transition between the traditional, embodied in the Colonial Revival parsonage/sanctuary, and the highly modern.¹⁶ The proximity and association of the two buildings enhances the distinction, and together, reflect significant periods in Montgomery County's growth and development.

SILVER SPRING CONTEXT

The first phase of suburban development in Montgomery County began in the late nineteenth century with the development of the B&O Railroad and streetcar lines. Silver Spring's first railroad station located at Georgia and Sligo Avenues was designed by E Francis Baldwin and constructed in 1878.¹⁷ One of six trolley lines in Montgomery County, the Forest Glen line was completed in 1897 and traveled through Silver Spring along Georgia Avenue. Clusters of suburban communities expanded to the north and east contributing to an increased population in the 1920s. Georgia Avenue developed into a commercial Main Street both north and south of the train station and along

¹² The 9/9/1964 AIA Fellowship Nominating Committee's reaffirmation of Senseman's 9/26/1963 FAIA Nomination application contains the AIA "Declaration of Authorship," signed by the Nominee, R. S. Senseman, and categories were provided to the nominee. "First Baptist Church of Silver Spring" is listed by Senseman as Category "A": "The nominee was largely responsible for the design," and, "B": "The nominee's firm executed the design." Senseman includes likewise 8 other of his structures as Category "A" and "B." See also *Evening Star*, 3/9/1957, P. A-8. "Baptists Slate Dedication in Silver Spring Tomorrow." 2nd paragraph: "Ronald S. Senseman of Washington is the architect."

¹³ "First Service to Be Held in Silver Spring Church," *Washington Post*, February 16, 1957, p. A6; "Baptists Slate Dedication in Silver Spring Tomorrow," *Evening Star*, 3/9/1957, p. A-8.

¹⁴ "Baptists Slate Dedication in Silver Spring Tomorrow," *Evening Star*, 3/9/1957, p. A-8; Don Fuggitt photo of 1956 cornerstone laying ceremony in SSSH archives.

¹⁵ Senseman, Ronald S. "Building a Church-Exterior Design of the Church," *Advent Review and Sabbath Herald*, Volume 129, No. 8 (1952): 6.

¹⁶ One other building of this rare type of blending the traditional and modern appears in the Silver Spring CBD; the geometric modernist aesthetic Perpetual Building Association Building (1958) at 8700 Georgia Avenue proposed for removal by owner. Emily Eig, Traceries, nomination for historic designation of the Perpetual Building Association Building, Silver Spring, Md., 2009, 2010.

¹⁷ McCoy, Jerry A. and the Silver Spring Historical Society, *Historic Silver Spring*, 2005, p. 12

Maryland Historical Trust

Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. M: 36-61

Name Silver Spring Baptist Church
Continuation Sheet

Number 8 Page 3

the trolley line.¹⁸ Suburban development continued with the rise of the automobile and an increase in government workers during the New Deal Era of the 1930s.¹⁹

The parsonage represents the beginnings of Silver Spring's development into the commercial and civic center of 20th Century Montgomery County, and its Colonial Revival style provided a comforting connection to the past during this period of rapid technological and cultural change. Other buildings of this period include the Silver Spring Armory constructed in 1927 diagonally across from the Silver Spring Baptist Church site at the northwest corner of Fenton Street and Wayne Avenue, the Silver Spring Post Office, at 8412 Georgia Avenue, constructed in 1936-1937 within a block's distance of the church and the Silver Spring Masonic Temple, constructed in 1927, at the corner of Georgia and Wayne Avenues. The 1925 Silver Spring National Bank (founded 1910) and SECO Theater (1927) were only two blocks away. North of the railroad station were E. Brooke Lee's 1922 North Washington Realty Co. and James Herbert Cissel's Silver Spring Building Supply Co. South of the station were several significant businesses and buildings including *The Maryland News* (1927), National Association of Dyers and Cleaners (1927), the second North Washington Realty Co. Building (c. 1929), and American Instrument Company (1935 to 1943).²⁰ The area's first shopping center, the Silver Theatre and Shopping Center, was constructed in 1938. To the west just beyond the railroad, garden apartments were springing up, including the "New Deal" Falkland Apartments (1936-38), and Spring Garden Apartments (1941).²¹ Other apartments were located in close proximity to the Baptist Church, including the Bonifant Court Apartments (c. 1938), the 937-943 Bonifant Street Rowhouses (c. 1938), Montgomery Arms (Garden) Apartments (c. 1941), and the St. Charles (Garden) Apartments (c. 1950).

After World War II, Montgomery County entered a period of tremendous growth and prosperity. An influx of new government workers made Montgomery County their home.²² Suburban life was becoming more desirable and greater access to the automobile made it practical for many. The rapid increase in population required quick and economical housing to be constructed and increased access to goods and community services. By the late 1950s, Silver Spring had become the commercial center of Montgomery County and the largest business district in the state only after Baltimore.²³ The first suburban branch of The Hecht Co. Department Store opened in Silver Spring in 1947, followed by J.C. Penney in 1950.²⁴ Hundreds of smaller commercial and institutional buildings lined Georgia Avenue and Colesville Road, and along the important adjacent streets of the commercial district. In 2010, the Silver Spring Baptist Churches mark and anchor an important civic center, and the transition between the commercial core and the residential neighborhoods to the east, and between the commercial core and the independent ethnic businesses

¹⁸ McCoy, Ibid. 2005, pp.9-20

¹⁹ Clare Lise Cavicchi [Kelly], *Places from the Past: The Tradition of Gardez Bien in Montgomery County, Maryland* (Silver Spring: Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission, 2001): pp.40-41 & Richard C. Jaffeson, *Silver Spring Success: An Interactive History of Silver Spring Maryland*(1997): pp.53-55

²⁰ McCoy, Ibid. 2005 pp.20, 60, 65, 68, 90, 93.

²¹ McCoy, Ibid. pp.49,114

²² Richard K. MacMaster and Ray Eldon Hiebert, *A Grateful Remembrance: The Story of Montgomery County, Maryland* (Rockville, Maryland: Montgomery County Government and the Montgomery County Historical Society, 1976) p.330.

²³ Cavicchi, pp.48-49.

²⁴ Michael F. Dwyer, "Old Silver Spring Commercial Area," Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission, MIHP Form #36/7, June 2, 1975.

Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. M: 36-61

Name Silver Spring Baptist Church
Continuation Sheet

Number 8 Page 4

within the low-rise buildings of Fenton Village.

The Silver Spring Baptist Church has always been easily accessible, centrally located near the intersections of major Silver Spring thoroughfares, with plentiful parking lots, and later, garages catering to the automobile. Silver Spring's civic center, Armory Place, diagonally across from the Church remained until 1998. It served as a terminal, beginning in 1960 for the extensive local metropolitan bus system that crisscrossed the region, later relocated to the new Silver Spring Metro Station two blocks to the west in 1978.²⁵ Today, in 2010, eight bus routes pass in front of the Baptist Churches and property and numerous others are only blocks away.

Several churches were founded in Silver Spring before and during the period of significance. Not only did suburban residents desire local access to goods and services, but also to neighborhood religious, civic, social, and fraternal organizations. Only the Woodside Methodist congregation precedes the establishment of the Baptists and their religious presence in downtown Silver Spring. Organized as Sligo Village Methodist Church in 1872, when there were 50 people in the area, their church was located near the northeast corner of Georgia and Colesville.²⁶ Their current 1966 Colonial Revival church is located 1 1/2 blocks north of this spot outside of the CBD at 8900 Georgia Ave.

St. Michael's Church was established in 1930 as an offshoot of the Catholic, St. John the Evangelist Parish, of Forest Glen, Md.²⁷ In 1931, St. Michaels purchased and modified to resemble a church the 1927 Knights of Columbus Hall, one quarter block north of Montgomery Ave. at Georgia Ave. and Harden St. now Wayne Ave. In 1952, they moved into their present Colonial Revival structure across Wayne Avenue, a half block northeast from the Baptist property.²⁸

Grace Episcopal Church, organized in 1855, built its present 1956 Gothic Revival church several blocks north of the CBD at Georgia Avenue and Grace Church Rd. St. Luke's Lutheran Church organized in 1940, moved into its modified Gothic Revival church located east on Colesville Rd. at Dale Drive in 1945 or 1946. Church of the Ascension (Episcopal) at 633 Sligo Avenue, further into the East Silver Spring (Park) neighborhood is Gothic Revival, built 1930.²⁹ Congregations erecting new churches or expanding facilities during the 1950s in Silver Spring and adjacent to its CBD were still building in the Classical Revival styles; primarily Colonial Revival and modified Gothic.³⁰ The Silver Spring Baptist Church was a significant departure from those familiar and heavily utilized forms.³¹

In 1983, the Silver Spring Baptist Church, along with 32 other local religious congregations, founded Shepherd's

²⁵ "Transit to Extend Bus Lines Into Silver Spring," *Washington Post and Times Herald*, Sep 4, 1960. p.B1, By Jack Eisen Staff Reporter,

²⁶ Woodside United Methodist Church Website. (last accessed 2010) In 1897 a team of horses moved the church north to the west side of the 8800 block of Georgia Avenue (now 8700 block) when the Forest Glen Railway trolley threatened parishioners' safety. <http://www.woodsideumc.org/about-us/our-history.html>

²⁷ Richard C. Jaffeson, AICP, *Silver Spring Success*, 1996. p. 37. The Forest Glen Parish was founded in 1774 by John Carroll, the first Roman Catholic Bishop and Archbishop in the United States, and founder of Georgetown University.

²⁸ *Saint Michael the Archangel Parrish: 1930-2000, Silver Spring, Maryland*, Olan Church Directories June 2001, pp 5-6.

²⁹ From the cornerstone.

³⁰ From an SSHS windshield and churches' website survey 2010.

³¹ A survey of 120 Montgomery County churches revealed 26 built in the 1950s. Fourteen are Gothic or Colonial Revival. Eight are modernist built after 1956, and four have modernist elements built about the same time as the Baptist Church. (See #30 above.)

Maryland Historical Trust

Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. M: 36-61

Name Silver Spring Baptist Church.
Continuation Sheet

Number 8 Page 5

Table, the County's first community-supported soup kitchen. These religious organizations realized that homelessness was a growing suburban challenge. The Baptists assumed a leading role in this project, providing on their church property, in the church's 1933 Cape Cod Bungalow facing Bonifant Street, a facility that would not only serve as the soup kitchen, but also laundry, clothes distribution, showering, counseling and medical center.³²

POST WAR RELIGION AND CHURCH DESIGN

Nationwide, and locally, church attendance increased after World War II. In the two decades immediately following the war, thousands of new churches and synagogues were built quickly and economically, in an effort to meet the growing demand. There were several reasons for the growth of church-going. There was a strong response among the Christian community to the fear of the spread of Communism and an increasingly secular lifestyle.³³ Having a faith and a family were seen as part of being an American, and important in defying the threatening forces affecting everyday life.³⁴

At a 1955 Seventh-day Adventist convention, churches were encouraged to sell Christianity despite the secularism that was invading American life in the form of degrading motion pictures and demoralizing literature and entertainment.³⁵ Another reason for a rise in church-going was the increase in population and suburbanization. Montgomery County's population had doubled by 1950 and more than doubled in the following decade.³⁶ As young families moved to the suburbs churches provided support networks and a means for connecting with others in the community.³⁷ Churches began offering more programs, such as Sunday schools, and required more space. Overcrowded churches offering multiple services was cited as one reason why church attendance did not increase as much in the greater Washington, D.C. area as in the country as a whole.³⁸

With the postwar church building boom, there was a new focus on church design and planning and a call for reform in existing practices. The Department of Worship and the Arts and the Department of Church Building and Architecture, both part of the National Council of Churches, and the Church Architectural Guild of America were established.³⁹ There was an increase in church planning consulting firms which provided advice on how to create building and finance committees, how to allocate space, choose architects, buy land and meet code requirements.⁴⁰

³² For 13 years, from its house behind the Baptist Churches, many volunteers administered to the health and welfare of an expanding homeless and needy population. In 1996 this endeavor moved to Progress Place, in the nearby Ripley District, and became partners with the County in this program to help the homeless. The Shepherd's Table has not missed serving a hot dinner meal every day for nearly 28 years. First Baptist Church & Shepherd's Table Websites: <http://fbcss.org/history.html>, & <http://www.shepherdstable.org/>

³³ Patrick Allitt, *Religion in America Since 1945: A History* (New York: Columbia University Press, 2003): 22-24, 31, 33.

³⁴ Robert Brueggemann, ed., *Modernism at Mid-Century: The Architecture of the United States Air Force Academy* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1994): 94 and Robert S. Ellwood, *1950, Crossroads of American Religious Life* (Louisville: Westminster John Knox Press, 2000): p. 104.

³⁵ "Hard-selling Approach to Christianity Urged," *Washington Post and Times Herald* September 2, 1955: p.2.

³⁶ MacMaster, p.329.

³⁷ Ellwood, p.104.

³⁸ "Capital an Irreligious City, Figures Indicate," *Washington Post* April 28, 1951: p. 10.

³⁹ Anne C. Loveland, *From Meetinghouse to Megachurch: A Material and Cultural History* (Columbia: University of Missouri Press, 2003): p. 108.

⁴⁰ Allitt, 33.

Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. M: 36-61

Name Silver Spring Baptist Church
Continuation Sheet

Number 8 Page 6

Moving away from historical styles, the focus was now on modern architecture as the most appropriate for the mid-century church. A 1950 publication of *Liturgical Arts* wrote, "The church edifice today is intended for the people of our time. Hence it must be fashioned in such a way that the people of our times may recognize and feel that it is addressed to them."⁴¹ The mid-century proponents of architectural reform for churches also tied modernism to an expression of the Protestant religion itself, "its honest use of materials and construction techniques, its adaptability to new shapes and forms, its freedom from ornamentation and symbolic context, its simplicity and unpretentiousness."⁴² A 1957 exhibit of modern church architecture at the Washington Cathedral demonstrates the rising interest in modern church architecture.⁴³

RONALD SENSEMAN AND MID-CENTURY MODERNISM, LIFE, CAREER, AND ACCOLADES

Ronald S. Senseman was a prolific architect and a master of versatility, designing more than 2,000 projects in his lifetime:⁴⁴ including churches (50), schools and educational structures (150), university and college buildings, governmental and other office buildings, hospitals, senior living facilities, motels, hotels, military facilities, private homes, and apartments.⁴⁵ A Silver Spring resident, Senseman was especially known for his schools, churches, and hospitals in the greater Washington, D.C., metropolitan area, elsewhere in the country, and abroad. He received much recognition for his work during his lifetime.⁴⁶

Ronald Senseman was born in 1912 in Collingswood, New Jersey, and graduated 1930 in architectural drawing at Camden County Vocational and Technical School, Pennsauken, NJ.⁴⁷ Prior to establishing his own firm in 1934 (at the age of 22), Senseman worked in 1930 to 1931 as a draftsman for Joseph N. Hettel, Architect in Camden, N.J., and in 1931 for the College Mill,⁴⁸ a student employed woodworking enterprise, at the Seventh Day Adventist Washington Missionary College,⁴⁹ Takoma Park, Md., and designed small residences privately. At the age of 19, newly enrolled in WMC, he designed his first commercial building in Takoma Junction on Carroll Ave. in Takoma Park, Md.⁵⁰ He was a student of architecture at Catholic University (1934-1936), and received its Outstanding Achievement Award in

⁴¹ Albert Christ-Janier and Mary Mix Foley, Modern Church Architecture: a guide to the form and spirit of 20th century religious buildings (New York: McGraw-Hill, 1962): 2 quoting "Directives for the Building of a Church (by the Liturgical Commission for the Catholic Bishops of Germany)," Liturgical Arts, February 1950.

⁴² Loveland, pp. 110-111.

⁴³ "Cathedral Opens Architecture Show," Washington Post and Times Herald, August 3, 1957: C9.

⁴⁴ "Hospital, School Architect, Ronald Senseman." Washington Post, February 6, 2001: B.07.

⁴⁵ American Architects Directory, 1955, 1962 and 1970. The American Institute of Architects (AIA) bibliographies list Senseman executing structures in 14 of 18 categories of construction.

⁴⁶ "Hospital, School Architect, Ronald Senseman." Washington Post, February 6, 2001: B.07. and American Architects Directory, 1955, 1962 and 1970.

⁴⁷ Camden County Technical and Vocational School "Vocationlite." Graduation Photo, 6/1930, p. 6.

⁴⁸ His work experience at the College Mill of the Washington Missionary College in Takoma Park, Maryland, was running millwork, detailing and alteration work for the College, AIA Archives, Architects' Questionnaire, 1953.

⁴⁹ WMC, Later Potomac University, then Columbia Union College, now Washington Adventist University, Website 2010, http://www.wau.edu/index.php?option=com_content&view=category&layout=blog&id=172&Itemid=169.

⁵⁰ "Mr. Senseman, a student of Washington Missionary College, draws Piggly Wiggly Plans . . . for the Piggly Wiggly Store which is being constructed on Carroll Avenue" Sligonian, 12/23/1931, P. 3. (To serve next as Barcelona Nuts headquarters, and opening 2009 as Historic Takoma Inc's headquarters.)

Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. M: 36-61

Name Silver Spring Baptist Church
Continuation Sheet

Number 8 Page 7

Architecture from the Alumni Association.⁵¹

Senseman's 1936-1942 Greek and Colonial Revival Eugene Leland Memorial Hospital (now Crescent Cities Health and Rehabilitation Center) is the central and "most high style" structure in the West Riverdale National Register Historic District, and Prince George's County's first hospital.⁵² During World War II he was employed by the Office of Quartermaster General as an expert consultant, inventor, and wood technologist doing research and development work on Army equipment.⁵³

Senseman designed numerous churches in traditional styles. His 1947 Roanoke, Va., Catawba Mountain Stone Gothic church, engendered this praise: "This building is the realization of a dream long cherished by the Roanoke constituency . . . Ronald Senseman of Takoma Park, planned a house of worship of unusual character and design which will always be a credit to his genius and ability as an architect"⁵⁴ His 1952 Gothic Revival Takoma Park Seventh-Day Adventist and SDA's Worldwide Headquarters Church, at Carroll, Laurel, and Willow Avenues in the center of Takoma Park's CBD is "... perhaps the finest pearl in the chain of Adventist churches across the country,"⁵⁵ President Dwight Eisenhower sent a congratulatory telegram to its highly celebrated opening.⁵⁶ It resides as an "outstanding resource" within the Takoma Park, Md., Historic District.⁵⁷

His early modernist proclivity is featured in his 1939 Seventh-Day Adventist Theological Seminary, Worldwide SDA Headquarters for the General Conference of 7th Day Adventists, 6830 Laurel Ave., Takoma, D.C.; designed when he was 27 years old.⁵⁸ His Seminary building graced the cover of the October 1956 *The Ministry for World Evangelism, Seminary Special*.⁵⁹ "It is modern in design; [three stories] constructed of buff brick trimmed in Indiana limestone, and has metal door and window frames. The architect was Ronald Senseman."⁶⁰

⁵¹ Awarded in 1967, "Hospital, School Architect Ronald Senseman," Obituary, *Washington Post*, 2/6/2001, B7; & "Celebrating the Life of Ronald S. Senseman, Oct. 19, 1912, to Feb. 3, 2001," Funeral Service Program, 2/7/2001.

⁵² From EHT Traceries Inc., Treischman, Laura, Senseman's Leland Memorial Hospital of the West Riverdale Historic District, <http://mht.maryland.gov/nr/NRDetail.aspx?HDID=1394&COUNTY=Prince%20Georges&FROM=NRCountyList.aspx?COUNTY=Prince%20Georges>, 12/23/2001. Photo and Links, http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Leland_Hospital_Sept_09.JPG. *National Register of Historic Places listings in Prince George's...* There are 89 properties and districts listed on the *National Register* in the 01970-04-17 April 17, 1970, 2.1 miles east of Laurel on Maryland Route 197..... community that includes the former *Eugene Leland Memorial Hospital*; EHT Traceries National Register Nomination, MHT Nomination form.

⁵³ American Institute of Architects, Archives, "Senseman."

⁵⁴ Pastor L.H. King, in *Columbia Union Visitor*, 8/14/1947, P. 4 & 5, Vol. 52, # 33.

⁵⁵ By Kenneth Dole, Staff Reporter, "Adventist Elder Mansell Marks His Day of Reward." *Washington Post*, 11/17/1952, B 12

⁵⁶ Takoma Park 7th Day Adventist Gothic Revival Church graced the cover of "*The Columbia Union Visitor*," 11/29/1956, Vol. 61, # 48, & pp. 2, 6, 7, 8, article and with photos with permission of architect Senseman. President Dwight Eisenhower's telegram said, "Congratulations for the faith and sacrifice required to complete this project. Your church is a splendid addition to the religious life of the capital city. In it you will gain inspiration for continued service for God and neighbor" (President Dwight Eisenhower).

⁵⁷ Takoma Park, Md., Historic District Inventory, Takoma Park Resources, Appendix A, 1976.

⁵⁸ "School Building Designed," *Washington Post*, 12/17/1939, p. R-5. (Currently, Strayer University Headquarters.)

⁵⁹ Vol. XXIX, No. 10, see attached photo. & "Theological Seminary building erected in Takoma Park," *The Adventist Review & Sabbath Herald Centennial Special, 1844-1944, Adventist Review Anniversary Issue for 1945*, Vol. 121, No. 42, pp. 52, 70.

⁶⁰ "Theological Seminary Dedication," by Ruth Conard, *The Advent Review* 2/13/1941, Vol. 118, No. 7, p.2

Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. M: 36-61

Name Silver Spring Baptist Church
Continuation Sheet

Number 8 Page 8

Senseman received awards and accolades for his creative modern public school designs to accommodate the burgeoning post war enrollment. In 1949 for Oak View Elementary School, Senseman received the Washington Board of Trade's Certificate of Merit biennial award for "meritorious architectural design and construction."⁶¹ In 1951 Senseman was awarded a certificate of architectural merit for developing and utilizing an economical two-stage construction technique, among other innovations, for two of his Montgomery County public school buildings.⁶² These same techniques were applied to six other of his Montgomery County schools, and his lightweight steel construction to at least 9 schools in Levittown, N.J.⁶³ He also designed schools in Washington, DC,⁶⁴ Prince Georges County, and Arlington, Va. *Progressive Architecture* magazine devoted a story to a laudatory critique of Senseman's architectural expertise and "progressive" elementary school design amid numerous planning challenges.⁶⁵

By the time he designed the Silver Spring Baptist Church, Senseman was already well-known for his work not only on educational buildings, but also hospitals, including the Washington Sanitarium and Hospital in Takoma Park, Md., 1951, and government buildings such as the Department of the Army Biologic Products Research Lab at Walter Reed Medical Center, Wash., D.C., 1954, and the modern "monumental" Montgomery County Council Office Building in Rockville, MD, 1950-1953.⁶⁶

⁶¹ "Board of Trade Honors Owners, Architects and Builders of Eye-Appealing Structures," *Washington Post*, March 17, 1949, p. 9, by Conrad Harness. The 3 nationally famous architects judging were Leopold Arnaut, Columbia University Architecture professor, John F. Harbeson, architect, Philadelphia, and Edward D. Stone, architect, New York. Thomas H. Locraft was Chairman of the BOT architecture and architectural Awards Committee. One of only 12 structures out of 147 vying to receive this award.

⁶² "Strict Building Economies Are Emphasized in Two Schools Winning Washington Board of Trade Architectural Awards," for Rolling Terrace and Veirs Mill Elementary Schools, designed by Senseman. The judges were Pietro Belluschi, dean of the School of Architecture and Planning at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and a member of the District Fine Arts Commission; John W. Root, senior partner of the Chicago firm of Holabird and Root and Burgee; and Lewis Skidmore of the New York firm of Skidmore, Owings and Merrill. Senseman stated, "Nothing was incorporated in the design that was not completely functional. Our effort was to achieve the utmost simplicity of design and economy in construction, and at the same time provide classrooms quickly in a building that could be expanded and yet represent a unified structure when finally completed." *Evening Star*, 4/14/1951, with photos, B-1.

⁶³ Senseman was called the Pioneer Architect of the component structural system for schools, an economical, lightweight steel construction frame application. Senseman's Nomination for Fellowship (revised), Nominee's Achievement in Architectural Design, 10/22/65 p. 4b.

⁶⁴ Eugene Meyer Elementary School, D.C, 1961-1963, "New Eugene Meyer School," "Designed for 1,076 students...34 classrooms." Fallout shelter in basement. *Washington Post*, 12/23/61, B1. Abraham Lincoln Elementary School, D.C., 1965, AIA Archives.

⁶⁵ *Progressive Architecture* July 1950, "This school [Forest Grove] is an unusually good illustration of the essentially plastic quality of architectural design—and the inter-relation of all factors, from land contours to the comfort of those who use the building...The project is also a good argument for the adaptability of progressive design. The stylized Georgian school, formal and symmetrical, would have found poor harbor on this site."

⁶⁶ "County Plans Offices Costing Over \$1 Million," *Washington Post*, May 25, 1950, p. 7. "Monumental" is Senseman's adjective, AIA Archives, "Senseman." Art Deco and International styles. Of buff brick and limestone trim in an E shape, its main entrance shines with a surround of polished Carnelian granite or marble. Senseman weaves Art Deco elements, with a zigzag motif beneath the roofline of the building, (and in its lobby, with its curved marble reception desk, terrazzo floor, brushed aluminum/stainless steel elevator doors, stairwell doors, and other). Senseman also incorporates the International Style with "strip windows." County offices move in September, 1953. Silver Spring Historical Society.

Maryland Historical Trust

Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. M: 36-61

Name Silver Spring Baptist Church
Continuation Sheet

Number 8 Page 9

Senseman's office was located at 327 Carroll Avenue, NW, Washington, D.C., from 1946 until 1953.⁶⁷ In 1954, Senseman relocated his office to the top, third, floor of his International Style, and the first air conditioned office building on Georgia Avenue (7705) in Washington, DC.⁶⁸ Senseman supervised his architectural firm that numbered over time up to 35 employees.⁶⁹ His office trained many architects.⁷⁰ Senseman and Stewart Bainum, builder of his Georgia Ave. office headquarters, (and Bainum's Park Offices, Inc.), partnered to create the modern Park 'Motor Hotel' system, ultimately becoming Quality Court Motels: in Maryland, "Park Silver" (Silver Spring), 1955, "Park University" (College Park), and "Park Towson" (Towson), 1959, and the "Park Arlington" in Virginia, 1961.⁷¹ Senseman's Schrafts Restaurant contains "Googie" detailing.⁷² Senseman also designed Sheraton Hotels.⁷³

Senseman played a leading role in establishing the Potomac Valley Chapter of the American Institute of Architects in 1955,⁷⁴ acting as its first president, and was awarded Fellowship status in 1966.⁷⁵ Senseman was inducted into the AIA College of Fellows for his "Service to the Institute and Design," and "notable contribution in service to the profession"⁷⁶ A "coveted award": at that time there were only 698 Fellows representing less than 4% of the AIA membership. The Washington Metropolitan area had only 25 Fellows.⁷⁷ Senseman was registered as an architect in 14 states, and Washington, D.C., was NCARB certified, and qualified for Federal Public Works projects.⁷⁸ The Montgomery County Council in 1965 appointed Senseman to Chair "For a More Beautiful Montgomery County"

⁶⁷ Earlier office was located at 1100 Carroll Ave, Takoma Park, MD, (1944) AIA Archives.

⁶⁸ Questionnaire for Architects' Roster and/or Register of Architects for Federal Public Works, Ronald S. Senseman (firm), American Institute of Architects, September 27, 1946, and March 5, 1953, AIA Historical Directory of American Architects. <http://www.aia.org/about/history/aiab082017> [last accessed March 17, 2010]; & "A New Building for Georgia Ave," *Washington Post and Times Herald*, October 10, 1954, R13; & "Records of the Columbia Historical Society of Washington D.C., 1966-1968," Edited with an Introduction by Francis Coleman Rosenberger, 1969, 'Marching Up Georgia: A Tour of Historic Georgia Avenue,' by Arthur Hecht, p. 316.

⁶⁹ AIA Archives, Senseman, "Qualifications for Regional Director," 1958.

⁷⁰ Professor of Architecture Isabelle Gournay, University of Maryland research, 10/14/2005. "Senseman was certainly a major player in the post war suburban MD design scene."

⁷¹ "Work Started on \$1.5 million Motel," *Washington Post*, June 17, 1961, with photo. Fabricated with unusual materials: "Exterior of the 3-story, contemporary motel, designed by Ronald Senseman AIA . . . colorful glass and porcelain panels, rubble stone and face brick with ribboned wrought iron railings and terra cotta grill work. The foiled plate roof adds to the contemporary flavor. One hundred and ten rooms will be built into the original structure, with site room available for expansion. There will be a large swimming pool, cabana club and recreation room." "Schraft's will operate restaurant facilities."

⁷² [PARK ARLINGTON MOTEL SCHRAFT'S RESTAURANT VA 1963 AD - eBay \(item...](#)

Feb 19, 2010 ... "Armstrong Adhesive brightens pleated façade." ARMSTRONG ADHESIVE LANCASTER, PA. ARCHITECT: RONALD SENSEMAN, WASHINGTON DC...

⁷³ "Celebrating the Life of Ronald S. Senseman," 2001.

⁷⁴ "The newly formed Potomac Valley Chapter of the American Institute of Architects held its first luncheon meeting for the 1955-56 year in Silver Spring...President Ronald Senseman will represent the PV Chapter next week at the American Congress Of Architects at Caracas, Venezuela." *Washington Post*, September 18, 1955: G 9

⁷⁵ "The State of Real Estate," *Washington Post and Times Herald* June 12, 1955: G3 and "Four Architects Advanced," *Washington Post and Times Herald* May 21, 1966: F18.

⁷⁶ AIA Archives, 9/9/1964 Nominating Committee Letter

⁷⁷ *Columbia Union Visitor*, "Silver Spring Architect Gets Professional Award," June 2, 1966, p. 9, & AIA Press Release, May 14, 1966, Washington, DC; AIA Archives.

⁷⁸ AIA, *American Architects Directory*, 1970. p.824. NCARB- National Council of Architectural Registration Boards.

Maryland Historical Trust

Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. M: 36-61

Name Silver Spring Baptist Church
Continuation Sheet

Number 8 Page 10

Committee, for which he received much praise.⁷⁹

One of Ronald Senseman's earliest church buildings was the Gothic Revival Hyattsville Seventh-Day Adventist Church constructed in 1938.⁸⁰ This building was constructed towards the end of a period in which historical revival styles were giving way to more non-traditional styles. Senseman designed another Gothic Revival building for the Silver Spring Seventh-day Adventists, at 8900 Colesville Road, of which he was a member, which opened in 1950 just a few blocks from the future site of the Silver Spring Baptist Church.⁸¹ Both the Hyattsville and the Silver Spring Adventist churches were featured in a series of articles written in 1952 by Senseman for *The Advent Review and Sabbath Herald*, a publication of the Seventh-day Adventists, adding to the growing literature and field of church planning and design.⁸² In his first article, "Building a Church," Senseman explains the importance of careful design and planning of church buildings and describes the general move away from more traditional designs:

"There is no doubt that churches today, especially the nonliturgical churches, are taking liberties with these historic types. This is brought about many times because the limited means of the congregation may require that all nonessentials be removed. This stylizing of traditional types alone does not make a truly contemporary church, as the modernist knows it, because the general plan in all probability would remain traditional, the change being in the façade."⁸³

It is clear from this publication that by the time Senseman designed the Silver Spring Baptist Church he was immersed in the on-going discourse on the place of modernism in religious architecture. He cautioned, "Regardless of the style of architecture of our churches, they must be, first, a house of God; they should be distinctive and readily recognized as a place of worship. The facade should, even to the casual observer, reflect the purpose for which it was intended. It should not look like an auditorium or a place of amusement or a post office," a reaffirmation of a statement made by Martin Anderson in his 1949 publication *Planning and Financing the New Church* one of the many church planning advice books published in the 1940s and 1950s.⁸⁴

Senseman was awarded a Doctorate in Fine Arts in 1999 by the John Nevins Andrews University in Berrien Springs, Michigan, for his lifelong career in architecture.⁸⁵ He donated his extensive collection of rare and valuable books to

⁷⁹ "Potomac Valley Architect Beautification Report 1963-1966," "The formation of this organization in 1965 was greeted with enthusiasm by architects, businessmen, civic and garden groups, all of whom are represented on this Committee under the Chairmanship of RONALD S. SENSEMAN, FAIA," p. 8.

⁸⁰ "Adventists Worship in New Church," *Washington Post* January 8, 1939: 12.

⁸¹ "Adventists Plan New Church in Silver Spring," *Washington Post* July 31, 1945: p. 8.

⁸² Eleven articles on all aspects of "Building a Church," covering topics to help religious congregations in selecting a site, architect, design, contractor and quality building materials. Senseman believed that "any church, regardless of style, might well retain the orderliness, permanence and religious and emotional appeal of the medieval church. Our churches should inspire rather than offend, and should produce a warm, quiet and friendly feeling."

⁸³ Ronald S. Senseman, "Building a Church," *Adventist Review and Sabbath Herald* January 3, 1952: 3.

⁸⁴ Allitt, 15.

⁸⁵ "FOCUS, The Andrews University Magazine," Summer 1999, Vol. 35, No. 3, P. 6, with photo. He designed the modernistic Andrews University Seminary Building 1960 and Administration Building 1964. The Seminary Hall Chapel is featured on the cover of *Lake Union Herald Commencement Special*, 6/13/1961, Vol. LII, # 24, pp. 4-5, with photo, when the Seminary was dedicated.

Maryland Historical Trust

Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. M: 36-61

Name Silver Spring Baptist Church
Continuation Sheet

Number 8 Page 11

the Architecture Resource Center at John Nevins Andrews University. It contains about 250 books, some original rendered and technical drawings, art work, and photographs. Senseman taught architecture at several local universities and published numerous articles in this field. He was a member of many service and civic organizations and ran for public office.⁸⁶ Senseman resided in the home he designed at 10718 Gatewood Ave. in Burnt Mills Hills, Silver Spring, MD from 1981 until his death in 2001.⁸⁷ Since 1953, he had lived next door at 901 McCeney Avenue, a long-term Silver Spring, Montgomery County, resident.

Senseman's 1956 Church is his only mid-century modernist structure in Silver Spring; a robust presence, a bold anchor. His other modernist structures reside elsewhere, including the 1939 7th Day Adventist Theological Seminary Building, Covenant Baptist Church,⁸⁸ First Church of the Nazarene,⁸⁹ First Baptist Church of Deanwood,⁹⁰ all in Washington, DC.; Montgomery County Office Building, Rockville, Maryland; Theological Seminary and Administration Buildings, Andrews University, Berrien Springs, Mich.; and Church of India, Vellore, India, to name a few.

2002 HISTORIC RESOURCES SURVEY REPORT

The 2002 Historic Resources Survey Report (by Potomac-Hudson Engineering, Inc), was commissioned by Montgomery County to provide an assessment of the National Register eligibility of buildings 50 years or older within the Silver Spring CBD, as one mitigation for demolition of the Montgomery County Master Plan 1927 Silver Spring National Guard Armory.⁹¹ Neither Baptist Church structure was ever evaluated on its merits for National Register eligibility. The report erroneously referred to the 1926-1931 parsonage and auditorium as being constructed in 1950, and stated that: "As a religious property, this building is not eligible for the National Register, as religious properties are not generally eligible." The Consultant did not review the 1956 Baptist Church, presumably because he thought all churches ineligible and/or the fact that it wasn't 50 years old at the time of the survey. There are several thousand churches on the National Register throughout the nation, 55 individually nominated alone in Washington, D.C., and many others located within historic districts.⁹²

"Seminary Hall is the official name of the new home of the SDA Theological Seminary...." "More than 1,000 persons were on hand for the dedication of the new Seminary Hall." The Administration Building is featured on front and back covers of the "Lake Union Herald," 5/3/1966, Vol. 58, # 18, P. 2, P. 19, with photo. Senseman's FAIA Collection resides at John Nevins Andrews University, Berrien Springs, Michigan.

⁸⁶ AIA Archives, 9/9/1964 Nominating Committee Letter.

⁸⁷ AIA Historical Directory of American Architects, & "Hospital, School Architect, Ronald Senseman." *Washington Post* February 6, 2001: B.07.

⁸⁸ *Places of Worship in the District of Columbia*, Scott, Pamela, 2000 (no page numbers). www.cbwcdc.org/about-us/history.html

⁸⁹ Senseman's Rendered Drawing, "Church of the Nazarene," FAIA Collection, Andrews University, Architectural Resource Center.

⁹⁰ "Community Outreach Update," by Patsy Fletcher, *Landmarks* Newsletter, Spring 2008:3 "...First Baptist Church of Deanwood [is] a DC, Landmark...A large [sanctuary and education building] addition constructed in 1962 is set perpendicular to the 1929 building. Designed by the architectural firm of Ronald...Senseman, the addition is a handsome example of the mid century Modern aesthetic." *HISTORIC PRESERVATION REVIEW BOARD*, Feb 19, 2008 "... nomination to the National Register of the Historic Places, ... The addition was designed by the Silver Spring architectural firm of Ronald E.[sic] Senseman and provides a good, handsome example of a mid-century Modern ...www.planning.dc.gov/lib/preservation/1st_baptist_of_deanwood.pdf

⁹¹ Montgomery County Historic Preservation Commission Archives, 2002.

⁹² "There are several thousand churches on the National Register throughout the nation," Patrick Andrus (NPS) and "55 individually nominated alone in Washington, D.C., and many others located within historic districts," Anne Brockett, (D.C. Preservation Office) July 2010 from phone conversation and emails.

Maryland Historical Trust

Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. M: 36-61

Name Silver Spring Baptist Church
Continuation Sheet

Number 8 Page 12

Architectural Legacy of Ronald S. Senseman, Representative Buildings:

DATE	NAME/Building	ADDRESS	STYLE/Building Type	STATUS/Comments
1931-32	Piggly Wiggly	Takoma Park, MD	Commercial Block 1 Story	Historic Takoma HQ
1936-39	College Press Building	Takoma Park, WAU	Industrial	Modified, WAU ⁹³
1936-39	H.M.S. Richards "Normal"	Takoma Park, WAU	Georgian School	Education Classrooms
1938	Hyattsville SDA Church	Hyattsville, MD	Gothic Revival	
1938	John Nevins Andrews ES	Takoma Park, MD	Modern/International	SDA Elementary ⁹⁴
1939-41	SDA Theological Seminary	Takoma, DC	Modern/Neo-Classical	Worldwide SDA HQ
1939-42	Leland Memorial Hospital	West Riverdale, MD	Greek/Classical Revival	N.R. Hist. Dist. Resource
1940	Atlantic Union College	South Lancaster, MA	Colonial Revival	Women's Residence ⁹⁵
1942	Campus Library	Takoma Park, WAU	Colonial Revival	Main Library, Marble Interior
1945-52	Atlantic Union College	South Lancaster, MA	Federal style	Administration Building ⁹⁶
1946-55	Hadley Memorial Hospital	SW Washington, DC	Modern	SDA Hospital ⁹⁷
1947	Halcyon Hall	Takoma Park, WAU	Colonial Revival/Art Deco detail	Women's Dormitory ⁹⁸
1947	Catawba Mountain SDA	Roanoke, VA	Stone Gothic Church	Praised
1948	Fasanko Car Dealership	College Park MD		Presently Laundromat ⁹⁹
1948	Oak View Elementary	Silver Spring, MD	Senseman School Design	Wash. Board of Trade Award
1949	Oak View Elementary	Silver Spring, MD	Senseman School Design	Addition ¹⁰⁰
1949-50	Forest Grove Elem.	Silver Spring, MD	Senseman School Design	Award
1951	Rolling Terrace Elem.	Silver Spring, MD	School	Wash Board of Trade Award
1951-52	Veirs Mill Elem School	Silver Spring, MD	School Bldg	Wash Board of Trade Award
1950	Silver Spring SDA Church	Silver Spring, MD	Gothic Revival	Senseman Church Member
1950	Takoma Park Fire House	Takoma Park, MD	Remodeling	AIA and SS Bd. Trade Award

⁹³ "Thirty-Five Years of Growth & Building Progress at W.M.C.," *Sligionian*, May 12, 1939, pp. 2-3. Senseman designed six buildings for the Washington Missionary College, now Washington Adventist University (WAU) in Takoma Park, MD, at Carroll and Flower Aves. between 1939 and the 1960s; five are intact, the sixth is modified; all are vitally serving WAU, including WMC College Press Bldg., "Normal" Education Hall, Campus Library, Halcyon Hall Women's Dormitory, Campus Center/Wilkinson Hall, Morrison Hall Men's Dormitory.

⁹⁴ "Bank Architect Has Designed Many Types of Buildings," *Silver Spring Standard-Montgomery Independent*, 4/30/1942.

⁹⁵ "Distant Tangents to Washington Missionary College," *Sligionian*, 8/30/1940, Vol. 25, # 19, p. 2.

⁹⁶ "Recent Expansion at College," *Atlantic Union Gleaner*, March 11, 1952, Vol. LI, No. 11, p 1, with Photo, South Lancaster, Mass. "Members of the board, constituency, faculty, and students, as well as faithful members throughout the union, are justly proud of the new modern, spacious administration building at Atlantic Union College." Senseman designed its federal style Administration Building, 1945, dedicated 1952, which includes its Library, auditorium seating for 1,250 people, classrooms, executive and teacher offices, and college store.

⁹⁷ "Hadley Memorial Hospital to be Dedicated" *Washington Post*, 5/13/1955, p. 26. AIA Archives, Architects' Roster, Senseman.

⁹⁸ "Ronald Senseman, instructor in architecture, recently honored for his designing of Halcyon Hall...." *Columbia Union Visitor*, 2/22/1951, pp.6-7. 1950 Honorable Mention Award, "Ronald Senseman, for Regional Director Qualifications," AIA Archives.

"Beautiful new Halcyon Hall for young women, a commodious brick and steel structure, exquisitely designed for efficiency and convenience is rapidly rising and will soon accommodate 158 girls." "Columbia Union Visitor," 6/12/1947, Vol. 52, P. 24.

⁹⁹ Professor Isabelle Gournay, *Modern Movement in Maryland*, University of Maryland Research, 10/14/2005.

¹⁰⁰ "Planned for Elementary Education," *School Board Journal*, September, 1949, pp.41-43.

Maryland Historical Trust

Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. M: 36-61

Name Silver Spring Baptist Church
Continuation Sheet

Number 8 Page 13

Architectural Legacy of Ronald S. Senseman, Representative Buildings (Cont.):

DATE	NAME/Building	ADDRESS	STYLE/Building Type	STATUS/Comments
1951	Washington Sanitarium	Takoma Park, MD	Modern Hospital	Adjacent to WMC Campus
1951	Takoma Academy	Takoma Park, MD	Senseman School Design	SDA High School ¹⁰¹
1952	Council Office Building	Rockville, MD	Art Deco, International	Montgomery County
1952	Takoma Pk Baptist Ed. Bldg.	NW, Washington, DC	Modified Gothic Revival	Matches 1923 Church ¹⁰²
1952	SDA General Conference	Takoma Park, MD	Office Bldg Addition	Senseman AIA Archives
1952	Eastern Junior High School	Silver Spring, MD	Modern	Senseman AIA Archives
1952	Highland Elem School	Silver Spring, MD	Modern	Senseman AIA Archives
1952	Kessinger, A.J., Residence			Award Hon Men AIA
1952-54	Takoma Park SDA Church	Takoma Park, MD	Gothic Revival	Outstanding Historic District Resource
1953	Kings Daughters Hospital,	Martinsburg, WV		Senseman AIA Archives
1953	Wheaton High School	Wheaton, MD	Modern	Senseman AIA Archives
1953-54	Office Building	NW, Washington, DC	Modern, International	Senseman's Office, AC ¹⁰³
1954	Medical Ctr. Research Lab	NW, Washington, DC		Walter Reed Hospital ¹⁰⁴
1954	Church of the Nazarene	NW, Wash, DC	Modern	Senseman AIA Archives
1954	Roberta Park Apts.	Indianapolis, IN		Senseman AIA Archives
1954	United States Travel Agency	Washington, D.C.		Hon. Men., AIA, Md. Div.
1954-56	St John Evangelical Lutheran,	Ellicott City, MD		Gournay, I, U of Md.
1954-57	Covenant Baptist Church	SE, Wash, DC	Modern, Roman, Intern ¹⁰⁵	Scott, Pamela
1955	Wheaton Presbyterian	Wheaton, MD	Colonial Revival/Georgian	Gournay, I, U of Md.
1956	Mrs. Helen Marino Home,	Annapolis, MD	Modern	AIA Award for Design ¹⁰⁶
1956	First Baptist Church of SS	Silver Spring, MD	Modern, Roman, Art Deco	Historic Nominee
1956	Dallas Park Motel	Dallas, Texas	Motel	Award Potomac Valley AIA
1956-57	Park Silver	Silver Spring, CBD, MD	Motel	Quality Court ¹⁰⁷
1958	Stow-A-Way Motel,	Ocean City, MD	Motel	Award of Merit, PVC-AIA

¹⁰¹ "Ronald Senseman, instructor in architecture, recently honored for his designing of Halcyon Hall, drew the plans for the new building [Takoma Academy, 8120 Carroll Ave.] It will be a one-story, L-shaped building and will be constructed in the area known as 'Forty Acres.'" *Columbia Union Visitor*, 2/22/1951, pp. 6-7.

¹⁰² Aspen St. at Piney Branch Rd. Takoma, DC. 1952 and 1923 date stones. "Cornerstone Rites Held in Takoma Park," *Washington Post*, 6/9/1952, p. 14. Senseman's Architects' Roster Questionnaire, AIA, # 7, "Representative Works," 3/5/1953.

¹⁰³ "Certificate of Award" from Potomac Valley Chapter of Maryland, AIA, 1956, AIA Archives.

¹⁰⁴ Department of the Army Biologic Products Research Lab at Walter Reed Medical Center, Senseman AIA Archives.

¹⁰⁵ "Founded 1945... the church moved to its present location in 1950, with completion and dedication a new educational building. An adjoining second building housing a commodious sanctuary and additional educational space, was dedicated in 1958 ..." Covenant Baptist Church, www.cbewdc.org/about-us/history.html; *Places of Worship in the District of Columbia*, by Pamela Scott, 2000.

¹⁰⁶ "Maryland Architectural Award Winners," with photo of home, *Washington Post*, 6/17/1956: G 8. AIA Potomac Valley Chapter awarded Senseman/Harold Esten Associates its First Place Award for residential design for the home designed and built for Mrs. Helen Marino, Annapolis, MD.

¹⁰⁷ "162-Room County Motor Hotel Planned," *Washington Post*, 1/1/1955, P. 16. (Park Motels became Quality Inns and now 2010 Choice Motel system.), & McCoy, Jerry A. and the Silver Spring Historical Society, *Historic Silver Spring*, 2005, p.56.

Maryland Historical Trust

Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. M: 36-61

Name Silver Spring Baptist Church
Continuation Sheet

Number 8 Page 14

Architectural Legacy of Ronald S. Senseman, Representative Buildings (Cont.):

DATE	NAME/Building	ADDRESS	STYLE/Building Type	STATUS/Comments
1958-60	Takoma Academy	Takoma Park, MD	SDA High School	Addition ¹⁰⁸
1959	Park Towson Motel	Towson, MD	Motor Hotel	PVA/PVC, 4, 10/1/1959
1959	Ascension Lutheran	Landover Hills, MD	Modernist	Gournay, I, U of Md. ¹⁰⁹
1960	SDA Seminary Bldg.	Berrien Springs, MI	Modernist	John Nevins Andrews Univ.
1960	Eisenhower Hall Bldg.	Fort McNair, Wash, DC	Modern	Industrial College Armed Forces ¹¹⁰
1960-62	First Baptist Church of:	Deanwood, NW, DC	Mid-Century Modernist	Main Sanctuary/Ed. Bldg:
1961	Park Arlington Motel	Arlington, Va.	Googie, Ziggurat	Schraft's Restaurant
1961-63	Eugene Meyer Elem. School,	Wash, DC	Modern, Zigzag Motif	Wash Post, 12/23/1961
1962	Pawtucket SDA Church	Pawtucket, RI,	A-Frame	Stone ¹¹¹
1962	Stardust Motel	Ocean City, MD	Motor Court	Gournay, I, U of Md.
1962	Wheaton Nursing Home	Wheaton, MD		Gournay, I, U of Md.
1963	St. Martin's Evangelical	Annapolis, MD	Modernist, A-Frame	Lutheran Church ¹¹²
1963-64	Sligo Adventist Elementary	Takoma Park, MD	SDA School	"Googie" Zigzag Pavilion ¹¹³
1964	Administration Bldg.	Berrien Springs, MI	Modernist	John Nevins Andrews Univ.
1964	Wytheville SDA Church,	Wytheville, Virginia	Modern, A-Frame	Praised ¹¹⁴
1965	Abraham Lincoln ES	Wash, DC	School	Senseman AIA Archives
1966	Springvale Terrace	Silver Spring, MD	Modern/Colonial	Elderly Home ¹¹⁵
1960c	Morrison Hall	Takoma Park, WAU	Modified Georgian	Men's Residence ¹¹⁶
1968-69	Wilkinson Hall	Takoma Park, WAU	Modern/International	Campus Center/Admin ¹¹⁷

¹⁰⁸ "New Addition at Academy," *Columbia Union Visitor*, rendering, Vol. 63, No. 34, 8/21/1958, pps. 6-7. "New Addition at Takoma Academy," *Columbia Union Visitor*, Vol. 65, # 22, 8/21/1958, p. 3.

¹⁰⁹ "Architects Report," Winter 1959.

¹¹⁰ "President [Eisenhower] Dedicates New Home of U.S. Industrial College" *Washington Post, Times Herald*, September 7, 1960: C5. & Ft. McNair Historic District, D.C. Inventory of Historic Sites 2009, Contributing Structure, Listed 1964, & AIA Archives, *American Architects Directory*, 1970, p.824.

http://planning.dc.gov/planning/frames.asp?doc=/planning/lib/planning/preservation/inventory/2009_alpha_version.pdf

¹¹¹ "Services held for the first time, 5/19/1962," *Review & Herald*, 7/19/1962, with photo, P. 11.

¹¹² Senseman's FAIA Nominee's "Achievement in Architectural Design," Type, "Special," Nomination to FAIA," 10/22/1965: 3.

¹¹³ "New Sligo School to Provide Additional Facilities," *Columbia Union Visitor*, July 2, 1964, Vol. 69, # 27, pp. 6-7.

<http://www.sligoadventistschool.org/> photo at top. & "Dignitaries at Sligo School Groundbreaking -1963," Sligo SDA Church, Sligo History:1902-1969, photo and caption, "...Ron Senseman, Architect." http://www.sligochurch.org/photo_albums/1287/photos/106287

¹¹⁴ A-Frame native field stone, church, its exterior and portions of its interior garnered much praise: Groundbreaking, 1961, and "Dedicated January 25, 1964, in a sacred and beautiful ceremony.... About 2-and-1-half years of concentrated and consecrated effort, under Dr. W. E. Malin, Chairman of the Building Committee, has produced for this section of the Potomac Conference an appropriate monument to our Maker and our King."-Press Sec. Carl F. Laubach, *Columbia Union Visitor*, May 28, 1964, Vol. 69, # 22, p. 7.

¹¹⁵ Senseman's FAIA Nominee's "Achievement in Architectural Design," Type, "Special," Nomination to FAIA," 10/22/1965: 3.

¹¹⁶ "New Dormitory to Be Built at WMC," w. photo, *Columbia Union Visitor*, Vol. 65, No. 48, 12/1/1960, P. 1, "A dean's apartment, chapel, intercommunication system, recreation room and kitchen, and temporary classrooms and teachers' offices ... are to be included in this new structure."

¹¹⁷ "Campus Center Construction to Begin in April," w. photo, *Columbia Union Visitor*, 4/4/1968: 3.

Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. M: 36-61

Name Silver Spring Baptist Church
Continuation Sheet

Number 8 Page 15

Architectural Legacy of Ronald S. Senseman, Representative Buildings (Cont.):

DATE	NAME/Building	ADDRESS	STYLE/Building Type	STATUS/Comments
1969	Atlantic Union College	South Lancaster, MA	Federalist	Library
1969	Nehru Memorial	New Delhi, India ¹¹⁸		
1975	Church of India	Vellore, India	Modern, Gothic ¹¹⁹	
1981	Senseman's Residence	Burnt Mills Hills, SS, MD	Modern Home	
1989	Doctors Medical Park Cent.	Silver Spring, MD	Subterranean Bldg	Clinical Radiology Facility ¹²⁰

The Silver Spring Baptist Church established its ecclesiastical presence in Silver Spring, MD., in 1924 with about a dozen founders, growing to approximately 1200 members by 1956, a milestone in church history, and it has remained strong and vital throughout the present time. The Silver Spring Baptist Church established its permanence through a series of religious structures that remain today, commencing in 1925 with its Colonial Revival Parsonage, built on a prominent town crossroad and reflecting the growth of Silver Spring from a bucolic railroad suburb of "Washington City" to a burgeoning City in its own right; by the 1950s, the second largest in Maryland.

The church initially met in iconic Silver Spring buildings and businesses with assembly space, and by 1931 constructed its own Colonial Revival auditorium serving as its Sanctuary, and for Sunday School, and by 1950 a temporary Sanctuary, both additions to the Parsonage. These structures are the oldest religious church buildings remaining in the Silver Spring Central Business District. By 1956 plans were completed and work commenced on the reserved corner site for the permanent Sanctuary that exemplified a change in values and tastes in the booming Montgomery County suburbs towards acceptance of more modernist views and lifestyles. Constructed in an evolutionary architectural style transitioning from the traditional Colonial Revival characteristics exhibited in the Parsonage and its Sanctuary auditorium, to a highly stylized and simplified vocabulary with other modernist elements incorporated, this monumental church appears to be the first Modernist church built in the greater Silver Spring area, and possibly the first in Montgomery County.

¹¹⁸ "Ronald Senseman a well-known designer of churches and public buildings took a leading part in designing the Nehru Memorial for New Delhi." *South Asia Tidings*, 11/1969, # 11, Vol. 64.

¹¹⁹ *Review & Herald*, 11/6/1975, p. 20, with photo. "D. R. Watts, South India Union President, was the speaker at the dedication services of the Vellore Church on 3/29. The church was designed by R.S. Senseman, brother of L.A. Senseman, a psychiatrist who served with the Christian Medical College, Vellore [India]...." "The sanctuary seats nearly 140 persons."

¹²⁰ In 1989, Senseman designed a subterranean medical facility at Georgia and Dennis Avenues., Silver Spring, Md., when County Planning officials warned developer doctors they would not approve another massive structure in the area, largely zoned residential. "The clinic houses a magnetic resonance imaging machine. "Builders Dig for Zoning Approval; Md. Medical Center Expands Underground," *Washington Post*, by Joel Glenn Bremer, 7/8/1989, p. E-1.

Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. M: 36-61

Name Silver Spring Baptist Church
Continuation Sheet

Number 8 Page 16



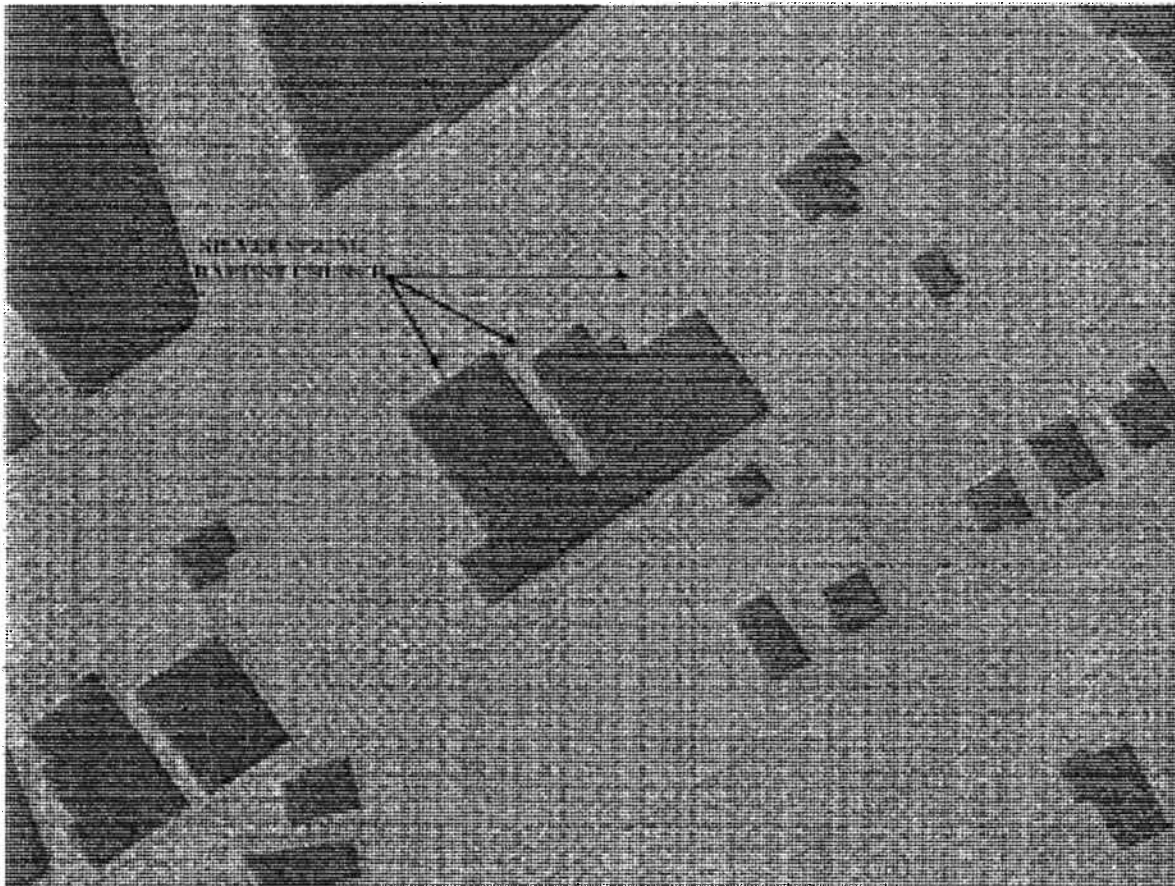
Location Map, Silver Spring Baptist Church, located at 830-832 Wayne Avenue, Silver Spring, MD (Source: M-NCCPC GIS 03.09.2010)

Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. M: 36-61

Name Silver Spring Baptist Church
Continuation Sheet

Number 8 Page 17



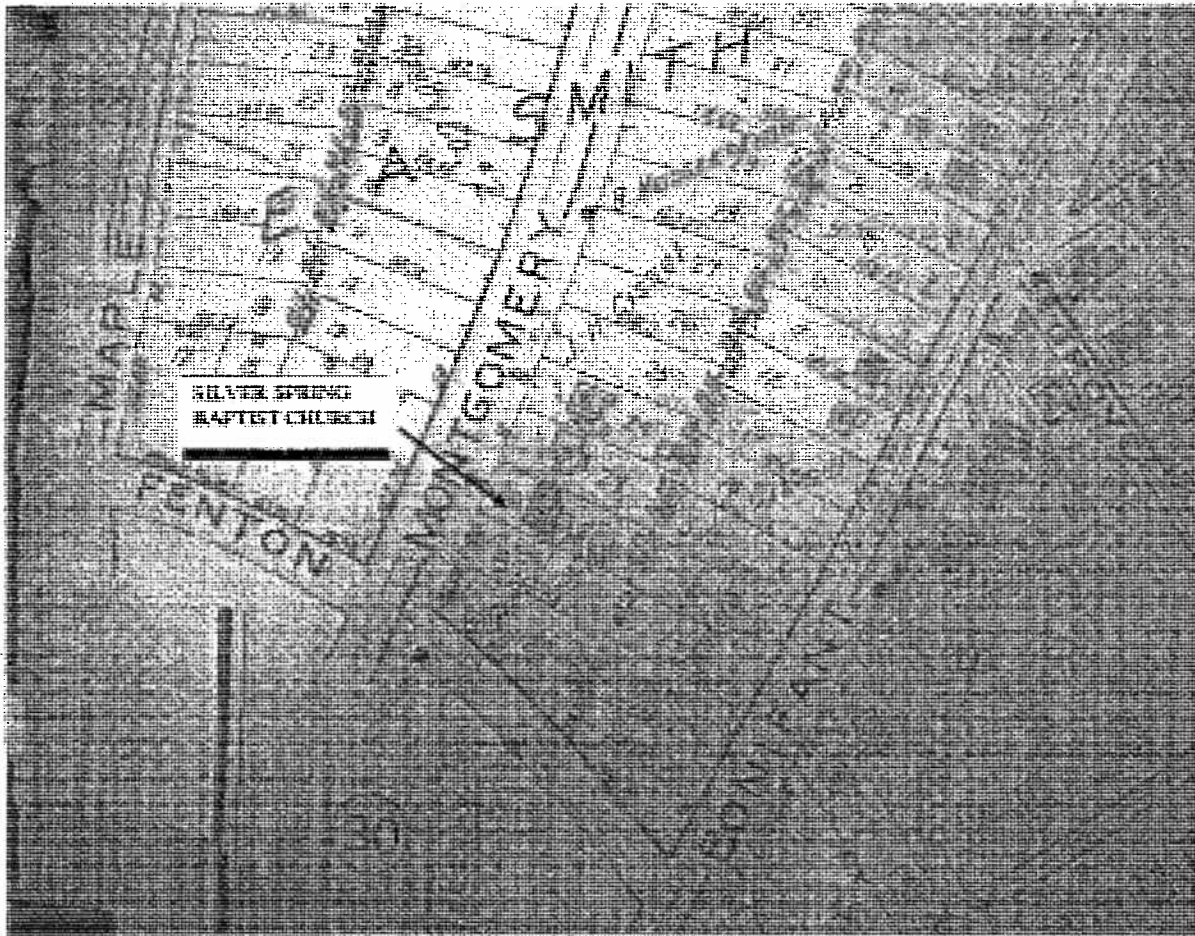
Site Map, Silver Spring Baptist Church, located at 830-832 Wayne Avenue, Silver Spring, MD (Source: M-NCCPC GIS 03.09.2010)

Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. M: 36-61

Name Silver Spring Baptist Church
Continuation Sheet

Number 8 Page 18



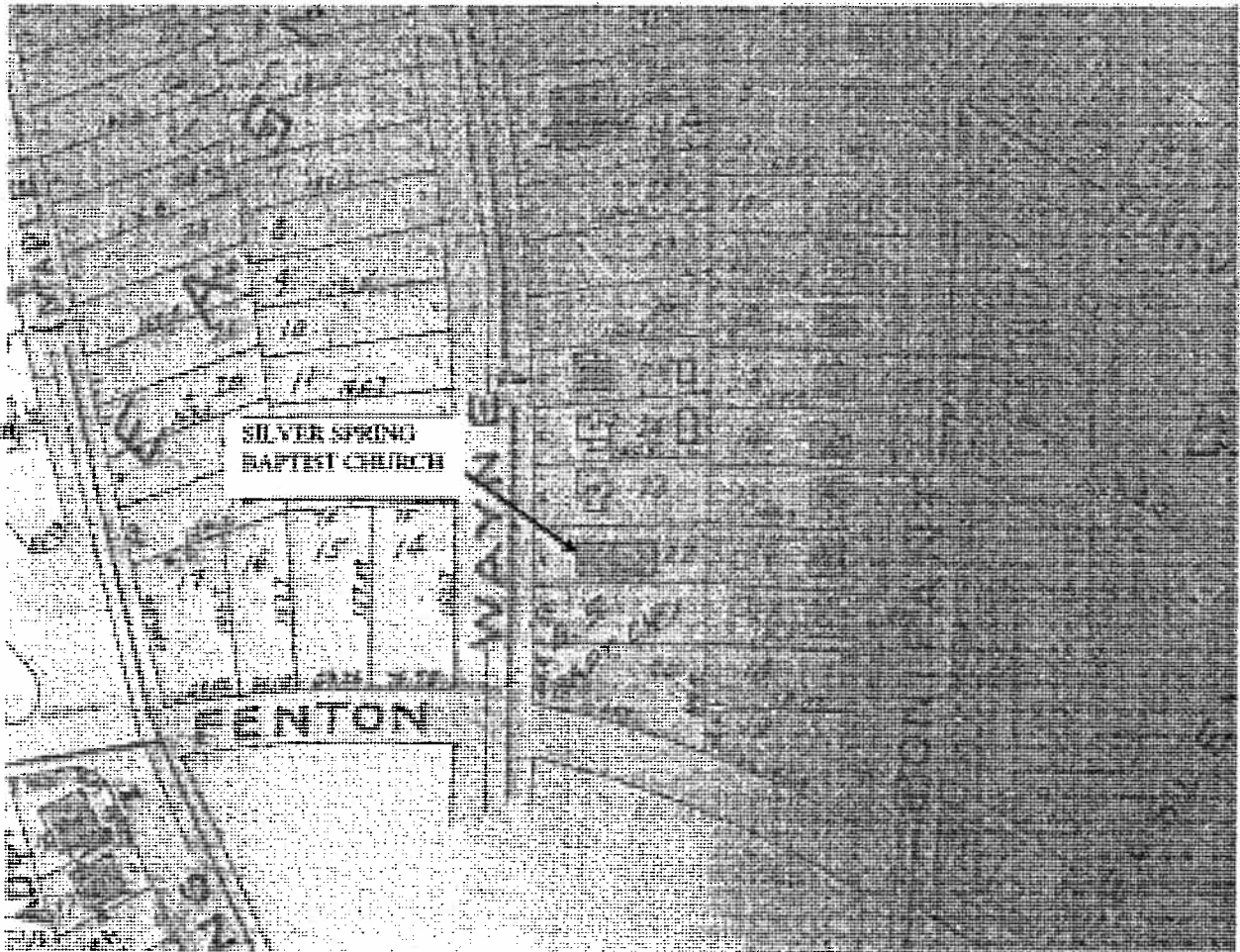
Excerpt 1931 F.M.H. Klingé Atlas of Real Estate in Montgomery County Maryland.

Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. M: 36-61

Name Silver Spring Baptist Church
Continuation Sheet

Number 8 Page 19



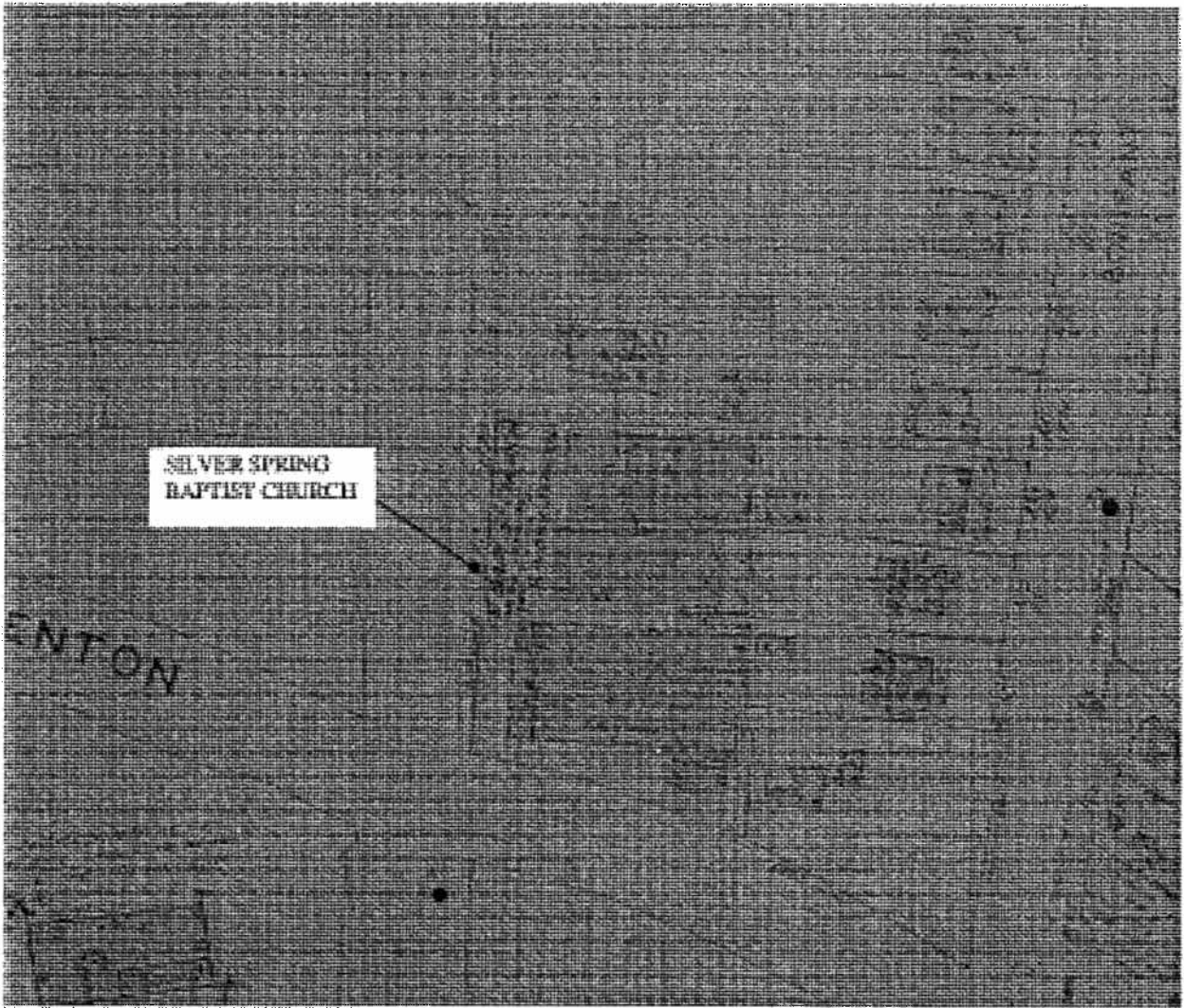
Excerpt 1941 F.M.H. Klingé Atlas of Real Estate in Montgomery County Maryland.

Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. M: 36-61

Name Silver Spring Baptist Church
Continuation Sheet

Number 8 Page 20



Excerpt 1917 Standard Fire Insurance Map, updated 1963

**Maryland Historical Trust
Maryland Inventory of
Historic Properties Form**

Inventory No. M: 36-61

Name Silver Spring Baptist Church
Continuation Sheet

Number 8 Page 21



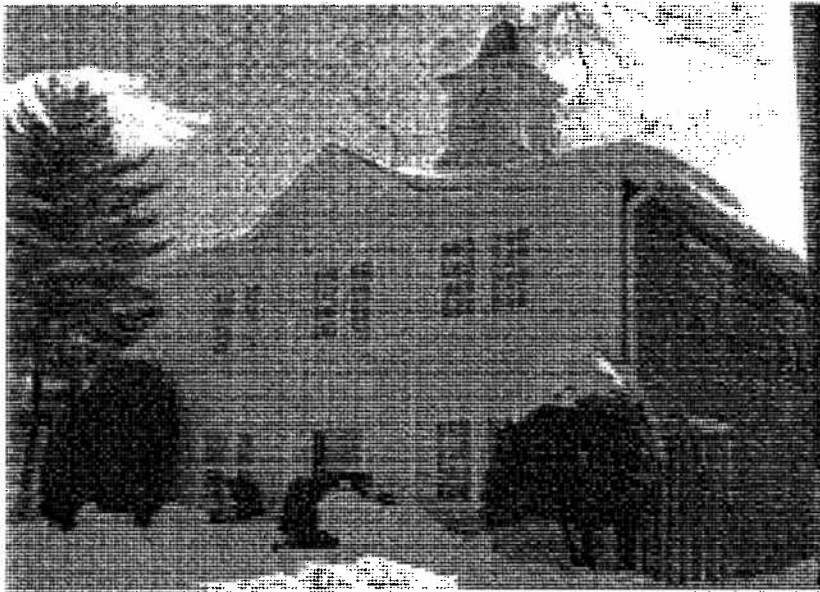
First Baptist Church of Silver Spring from "Silver Spring Church Week," Maryland News, February 10, 1950, p. C4.
1925 -1926 Parsonage, 1931 Sanctuary-Auditorium.

**Maryland Historical Trust
Maryland Inventory of
Historic Properties Form**

Inventory No. M: 36-61

Name Silver Spring Baptist Church
Continuation Sheet

Number 8 Page 22



Silver Spring Baptist Church,
parsonage, north (front) façade
and partial west (side) façade,
Clare Lise Kelly, 02.19.2010



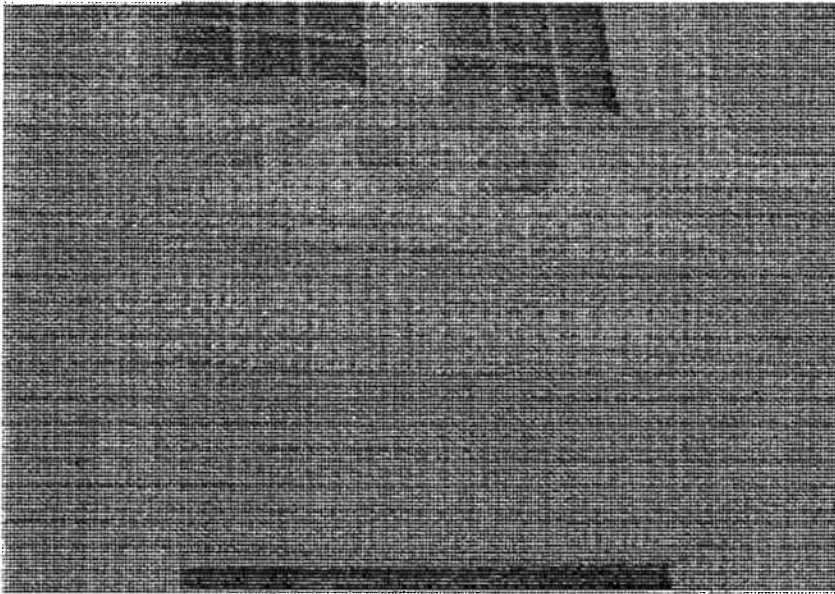
Silver Spring, Baptist Church
parsonage and addition, north
(front) facade and partial east
(side) façade, Lisa Mroszczyk,
03.10.10

**Maryland Historical Trust
Maryland Inventory of
Historic Properties Form**

Inventory No. M: 36-61

Name Silver Spring Baptist Church
Continuation Sheet

Number 8 Page 23



Silver Spring Baptist Church,
parsonage, door surround detail,
Clare Lise Kelly, 02.19.10



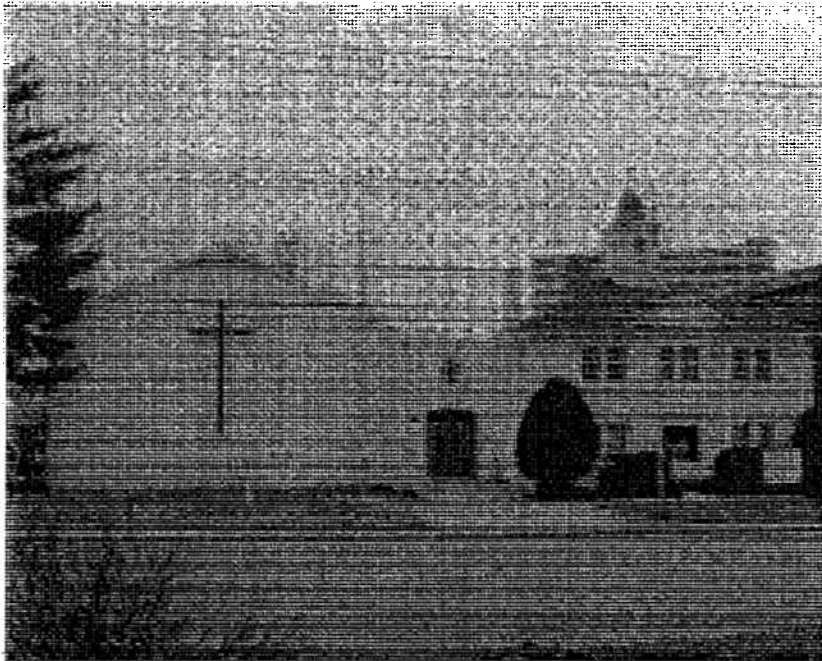
Silver Spring Baptist Church,
parsonage, cupola detail, Lisa
Mroszczyk, 03.10.10

**Maryland Historical Trust
Maryland Inventory of
Historic Properties Form**

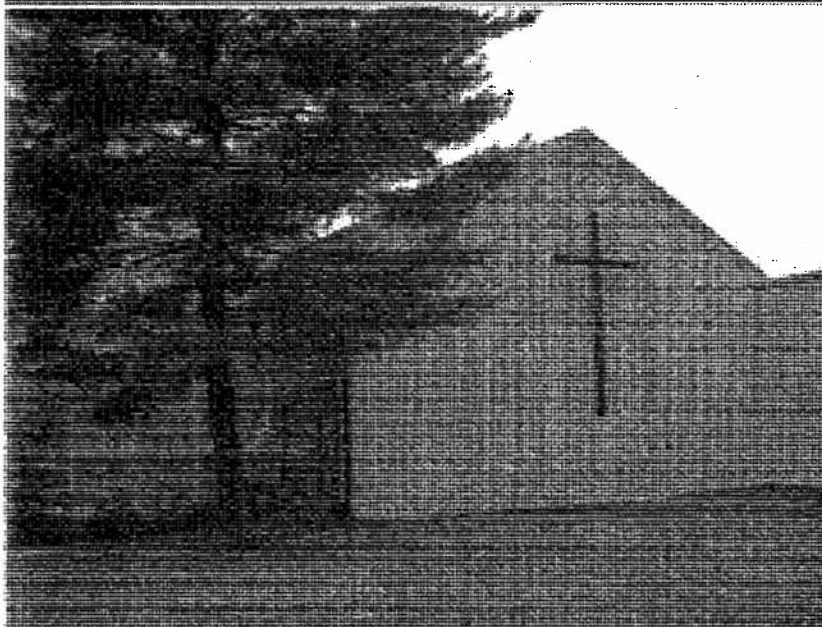
Inventory No. M: 36-61

Name Silver Spring Baptist Church
Continuation Sheet

Number 8 Page 24



Silver Spring Baptist Church,
parsonage and addition, north
façade (front), Lisa Mroszczyk,
03.10.10



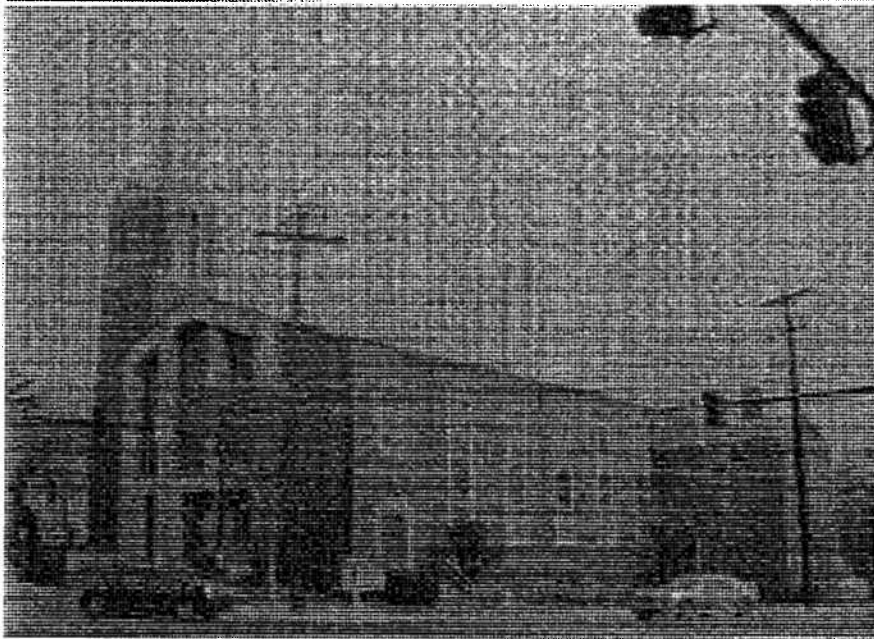
Silver Spring Baptist Church,
temporary sanctuary, north
façade (front) and east (side)
facade, Lisa Mroszczyk,
03.10.10

Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. M: 36-61

Name Silver Spring Baptist Church
Continuation Sheet

Number 8 Page 25



Silver Spring Baptist Church,
view looking east, Lisa
Mroszczyk, 03.10.10



Silver Spring Baptist Church,
view looking south, Lisa
Mroszczyk, 03.10.10

Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

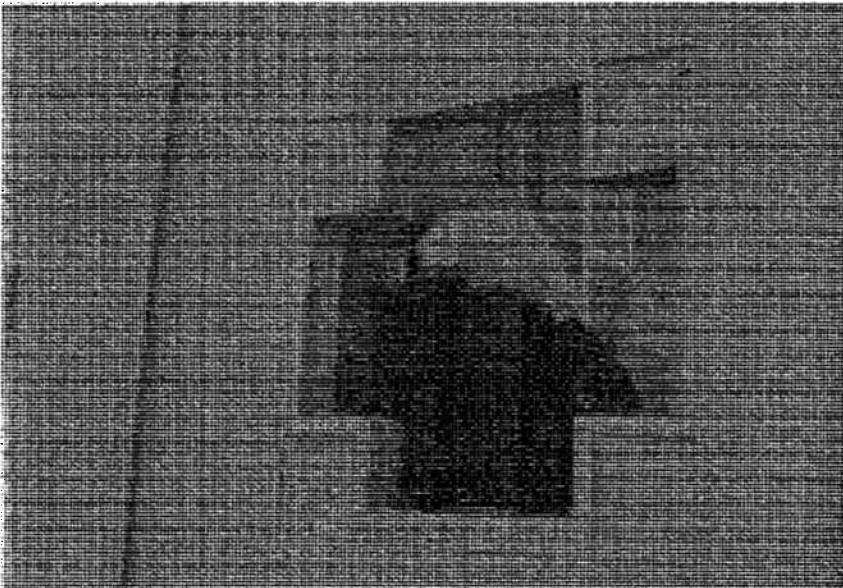
Inventory No. M: 36-61

Name Silver Spring Baptist Church
Continuation Sheet

Number 8 Page 26



Silver Spring Baptist Church,
document facade, Lisa
Minnis, 02.10.10



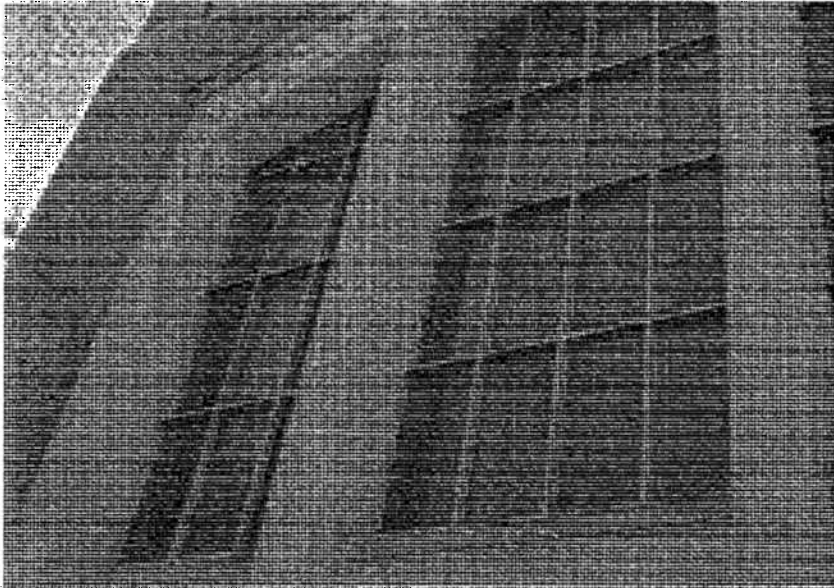
Silver Spring Baptist Church,
door detail, Clare Lise Kelly,
02.19.10

**Maryland Historical Trust
Maryland Inventory of
Historic Properties Form**

Inventory No. M: 36-61

Name Silver Spring Baptist Church
Continuation Sheet

Number 8 Page 27



Silver Spring Baptist Church,
north (front) façade detail, Clare
Lise Kelly, 02.19.10



Silver Spring Baptist Church,
date stone, northeast corner,
Clare Lise Kelly, 02.19.10

**Maryland Historical Trust
Maryland Inventory of
Historic Properties Form**

Inventory No. M: 36-61

Name Silver Spring Baptist Church
Continuation Sheet

Number 8 Page 28



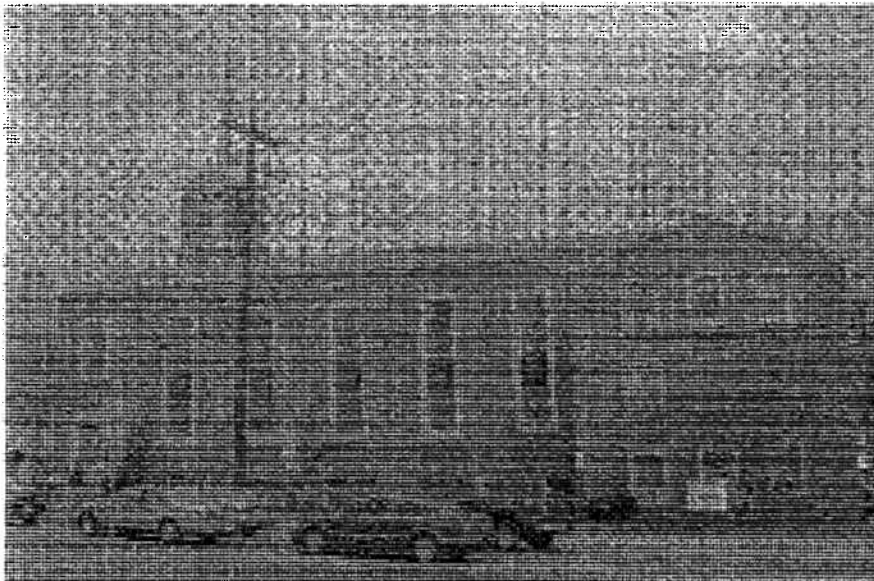
Silver Spring Baptist Church 1956 Corner Stone Installation Ceremony, Ronald S Senseman, Architect,
Photographer Don Fuggitt, SSHS Archives

**Maryland Historical Trust
Maryland Inventory of
Historic Properties Form**

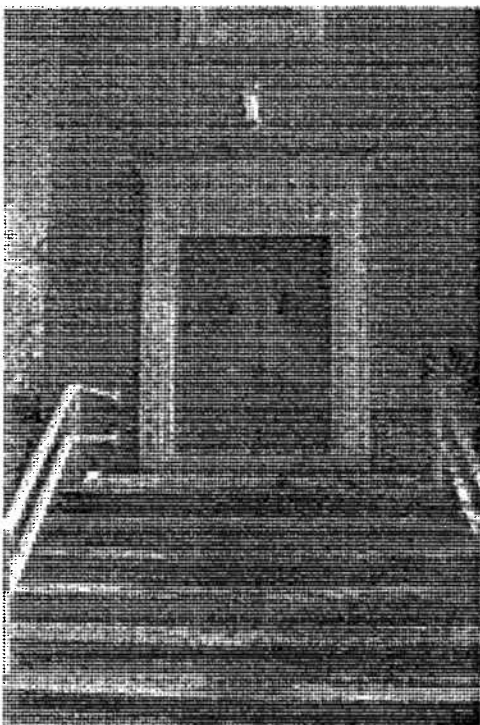
Inventory No. M: 36-61

Name Silver Spring Baptist Church
Continuation Sheet

Number 8 Page 29



Silver Spring Baptist Church,
west (Fenton Street) façade,
Lisa Mroszczyk, 03.10.10



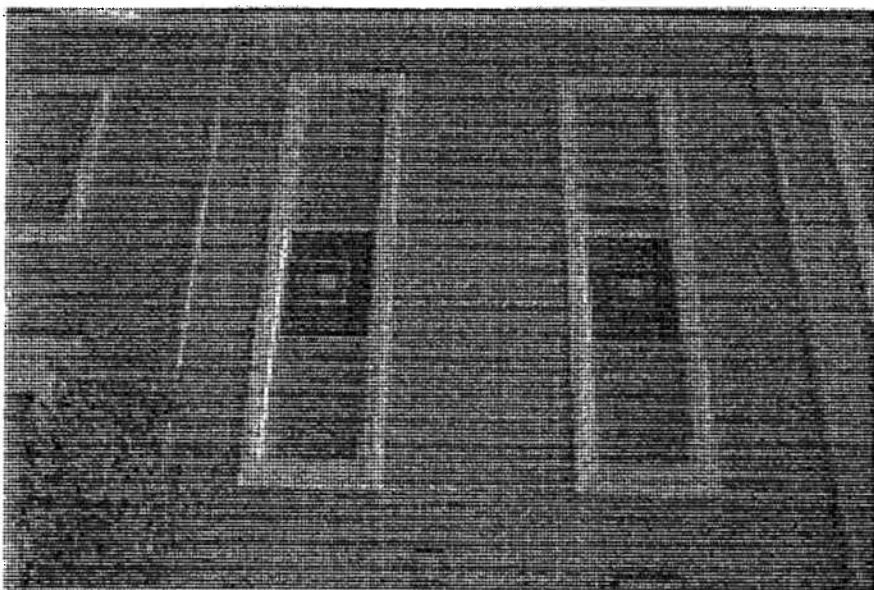
Silver Spring Baptist Church,
secondary entrance,
west facade,
Clare Lise Kelly, 02.19.10

**Maryland Historical Trust
Maryland Inventory of
Historic Properties Form**

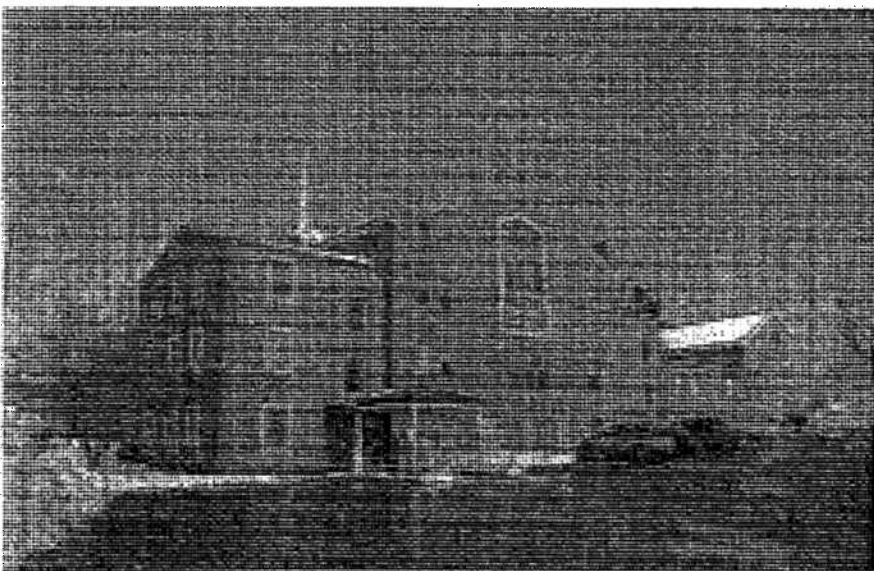
Inventory No. M: 36-61

Name Silver Spring Baptist Church
Continuation Sheet

Number 8 Page 30



Silver Spring Baptist Church,
west (side) façade detail, Clare
Lise Kelly, 02.19.10



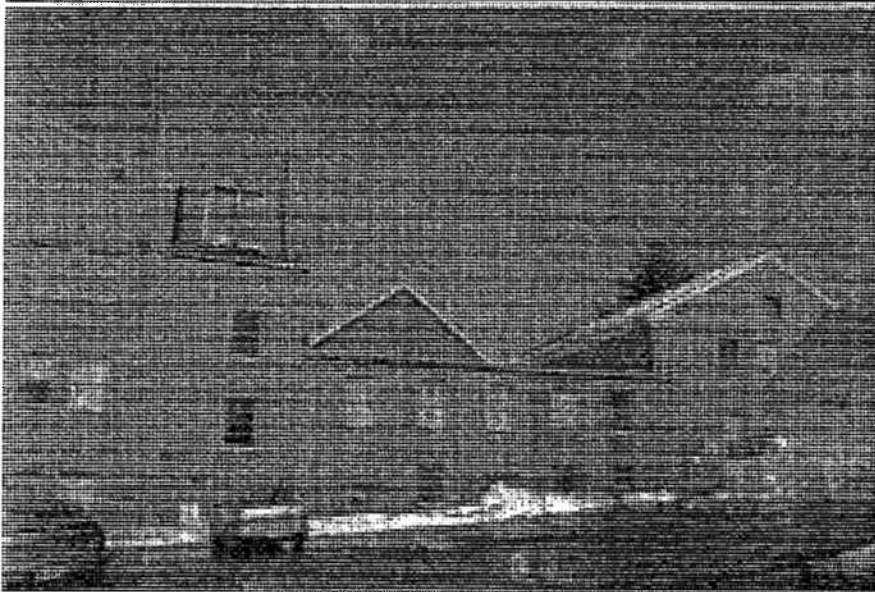
Silver Spring Baptist Church, south
(rear) façade and partial west (side)
façade, Clare Lise Kelly, 02.19.10

**Maryland Historical Trust
Maryland Inventory of
Historic Properties Form**

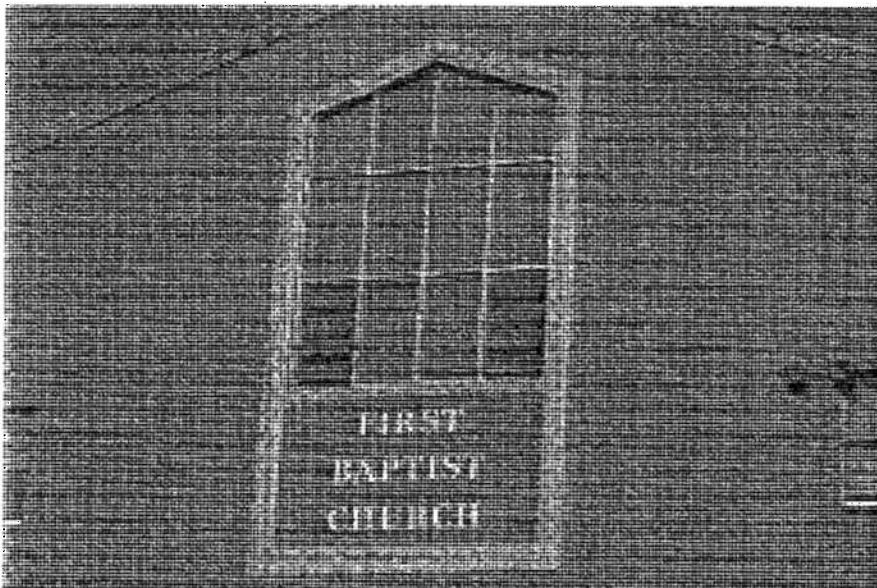
Inventory No. M: 36-61

Name Silver Spring Baptist Church
Continuation Sheet

Number 8 Page 31



Silver Spring Baptist Church,
partial south (rear) facade, Clare
Lise Kelly, 02.19.10



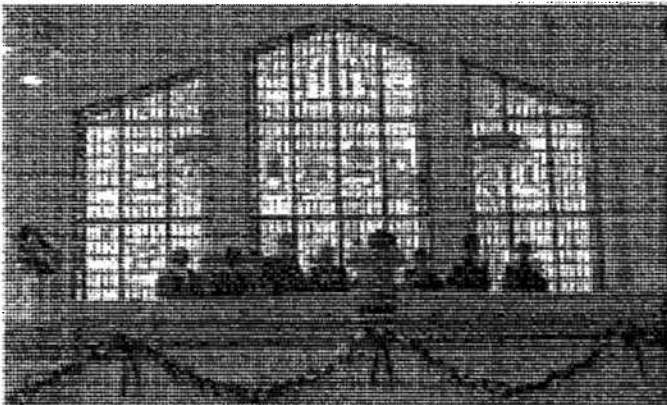
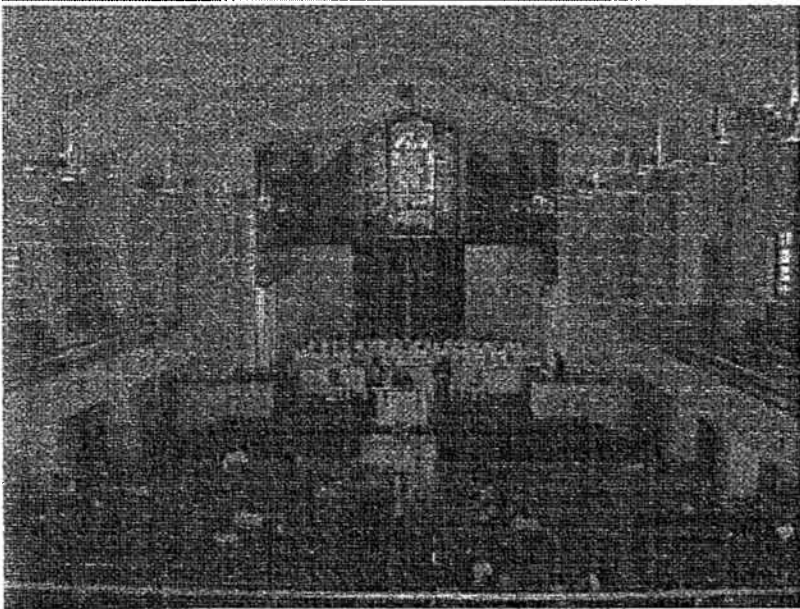
Silver Spring Baptist Church, south
(rear) façade detail, Clare Lise Kelly,
02.19.10

Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. M: 36-61

Name Silver Spring Baptist Church
Continuation Sheet

Number 8 Page 32



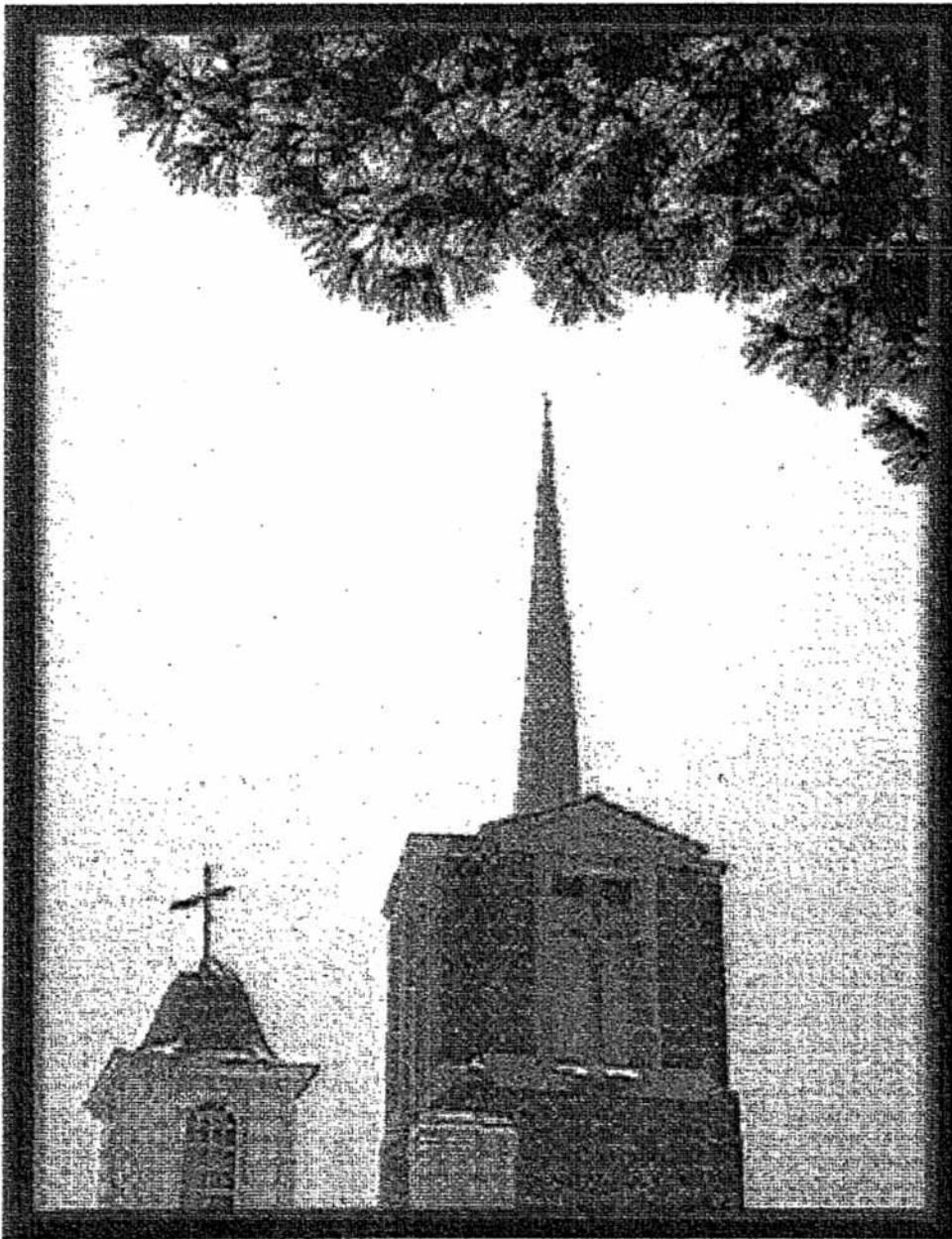
Sanctuary, 1956 First Baptist Church of Silver Spring, Sanctuary, Above.
Below, Balcony with Stained Glass Windows & Bell Ringers, FBCSS Website 2010.

**Maryland Historical Trust
Maryland Inventory of
Historic Properties Form**

Inventory No. M: 36-61

Name Silver Spring Baptist Church
Continuation Sheet

Number 8 Page 33



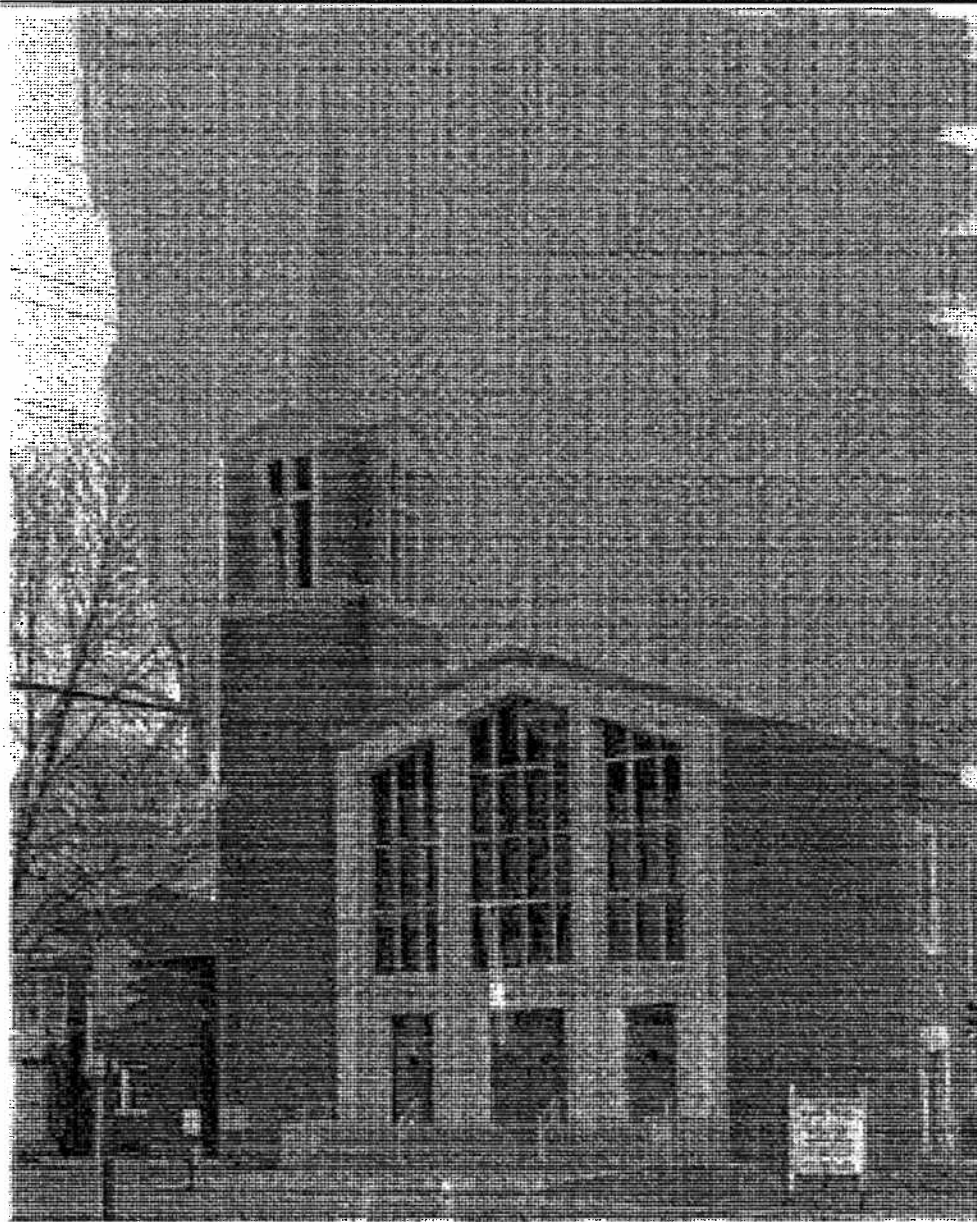
"2 Baptist Church Steeples, One Chimney, in Snow," 1956 Tower Rises 102 Feet, 1956 Steeple 40 Feet.
1926 Colonial Revival Steeple & Chimney Juxtaposed to Senseman's 1950's Modernism; SSHS Photo, 12/09.

Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. M: 36-61

Name Silver Spring Baptist Church
Continuation Sheet

Number 8 Page 34



"Church Dedication Tomorrow," The Evening Star, Wash., D.C., Sat., 3/9/1957: A-8, Star Staff Photo, Telephone Lines Removed, Photo Cropping Marks Visible.

**Maryland Historical Trust
Maryland Inventory of
Historic Properties Form**

Inventory No. M: 36-61

Name Silver Spring Baptist Church
Continuation Sheet

Number 8 Page 35



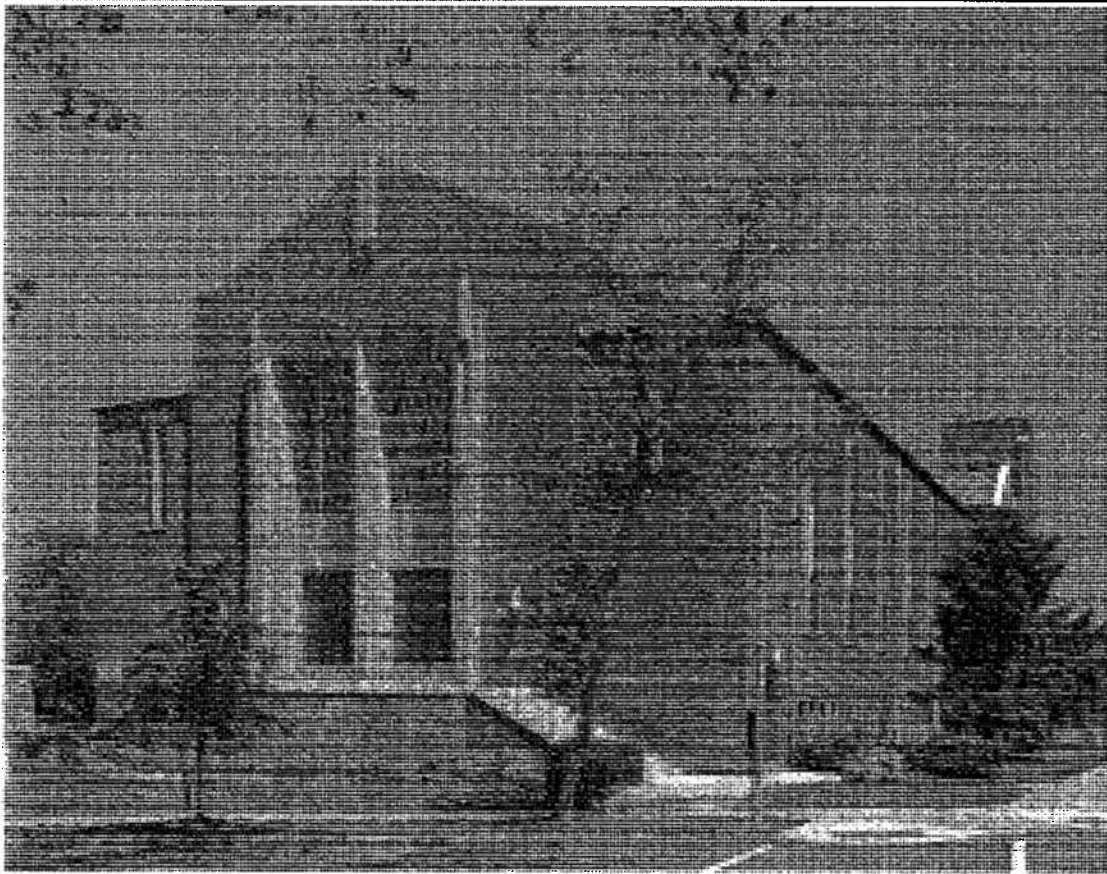
1951 Senseman's Takoma Park Seventh-Day Adventist Church, Gothic Revival, Takoma Park, Md., Historic District, Outstanding Resource, SSHA Photograph, 2010.

**Maryland Historical Trust
Maryland Inventory of
Historic Properties Form**

Inventory No. M: 36-61

Name Silver Spring Baptist Church
Continuation Sheet

Number 8 Page 36



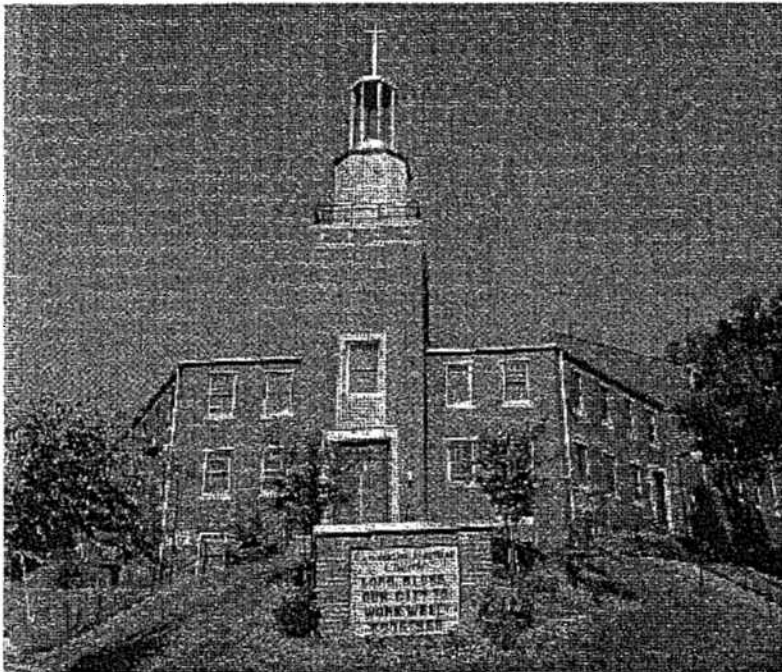
Senseman's First Baptist Church of Deanwood, N.W., D.C., 1960-1962, Modernized Gothic, Sanctuary, Education, Social Bldg., adjoining 1929-1938 African-American architect Roscoe I. Vaughn's Modified Gothic Sanctuary. Photo by E. L. Malvaney, 5/20/2010.

**Maryland Historical Trust
Maryland Inventory of
Historic Properties Form**

Inventory No. M: 36-61

Name Silver Spring Baptist Church
Continuation Sheet

Number 8 Page 37



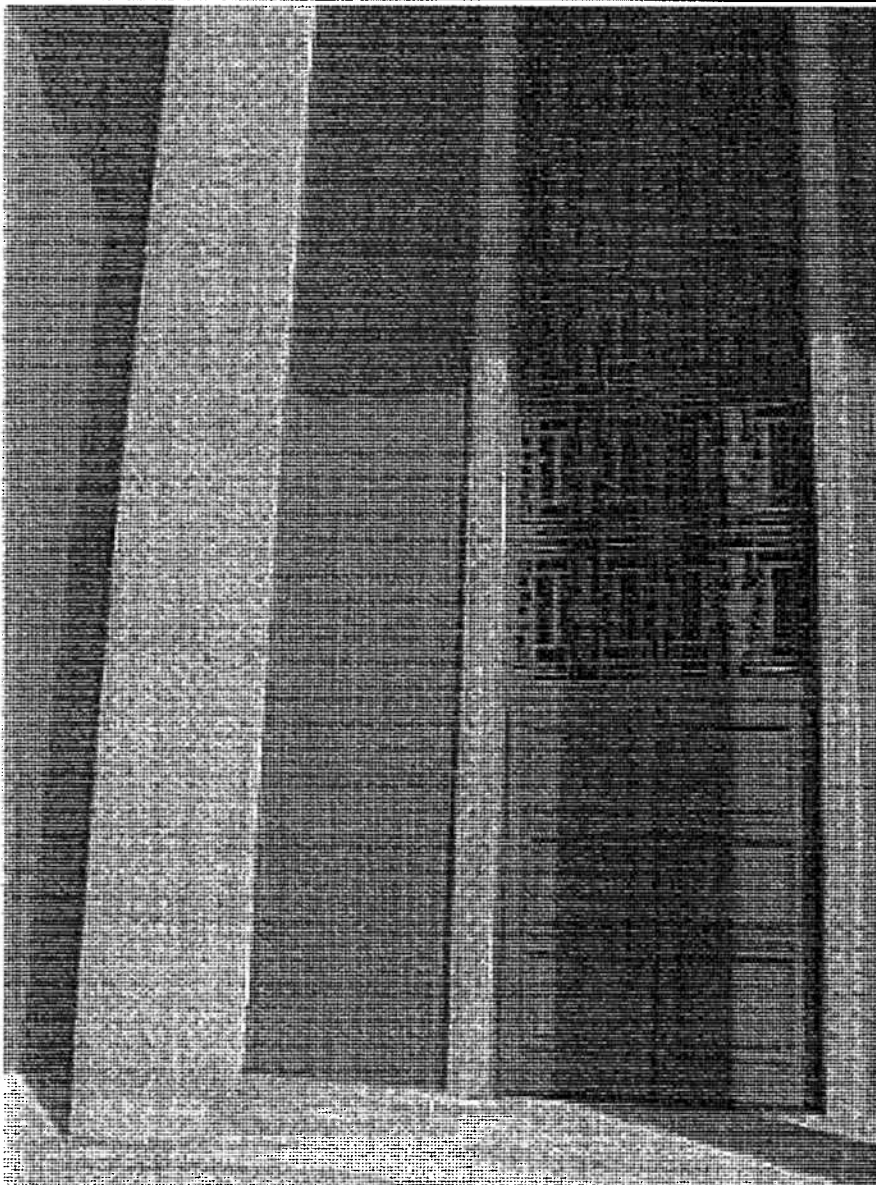
Senseman's Covenant Baptist Church, S.E., D.C., 1954-1957, Main Sanctuary & Education Building, Modernized Romanesque & Colonial Revival.

**Maryland Historical Trust
Maryland Inventory of
Historic Properties Form**

Inventory No. M: 36-61

Name Silver Spring Baptist Church
Continuation Sheet

Number 8 Page 38



Senseman's 1954 Church of the Nazarene, Wash., D.C., now "The Mosaic Church."
Front entryway details, including multi-colored tile, metal filigree work, wooden doors,
limestone columns. SSHS Photo

**Maryland Historical Trust
Maryland Inventory of
Historic Properties Form**

Inventory No. M: 36-61

Name Silver Spring Baptist Church
Continuation Sheet

Number 8 Page 39



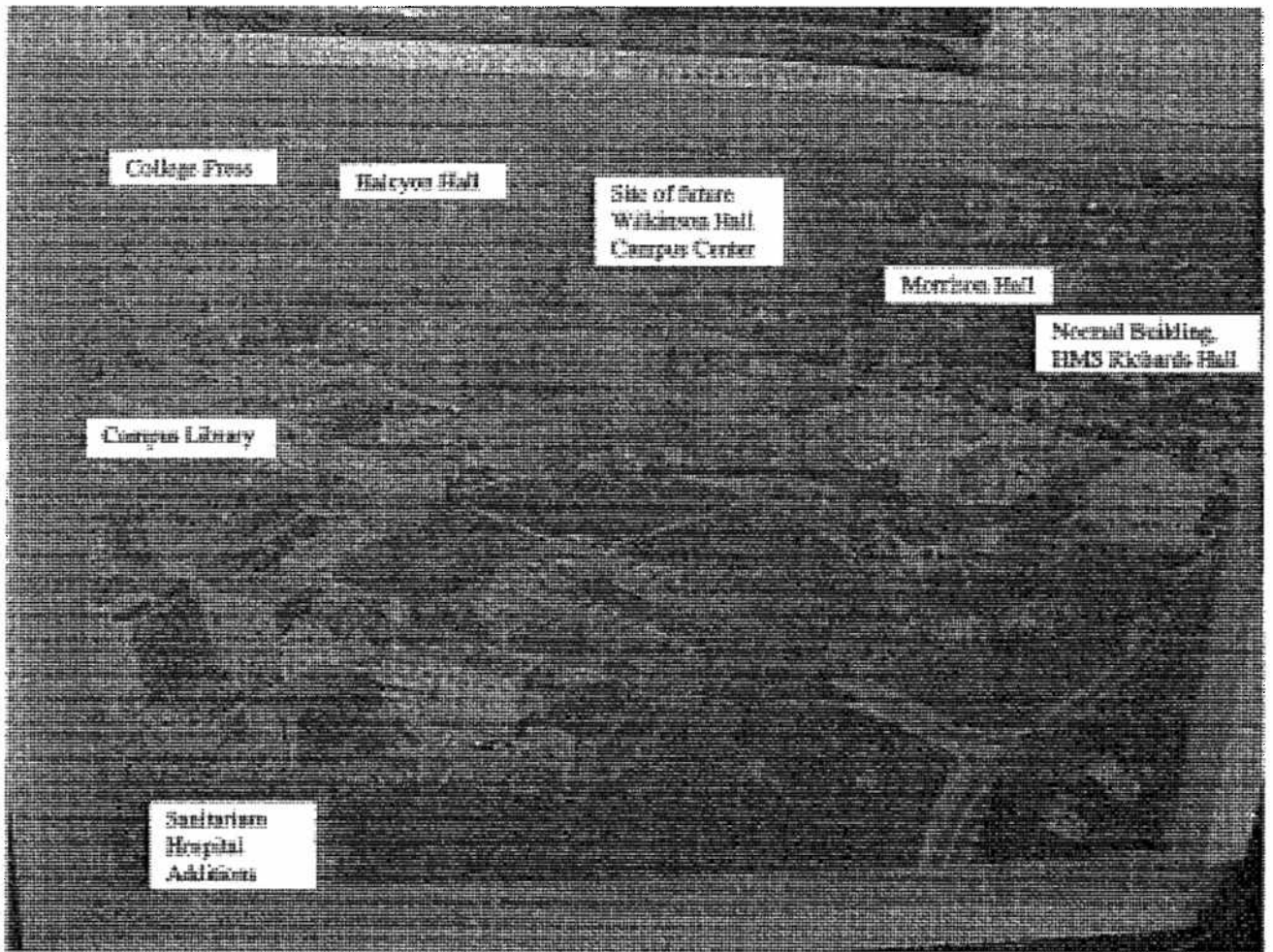
Senseman's 1936-1939 "Normal" Building, for Education and Teacher Training, named after H.M.S. Richards, "The Voice of Prophecy," Washington Adventist University, at Flower & Carroll Avenues, Takoma Park, Md., Completely Intact.

Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. M: 36-61

Name Silver Spring Baptist Church
Continuation Sheet

Number 8 Page 40



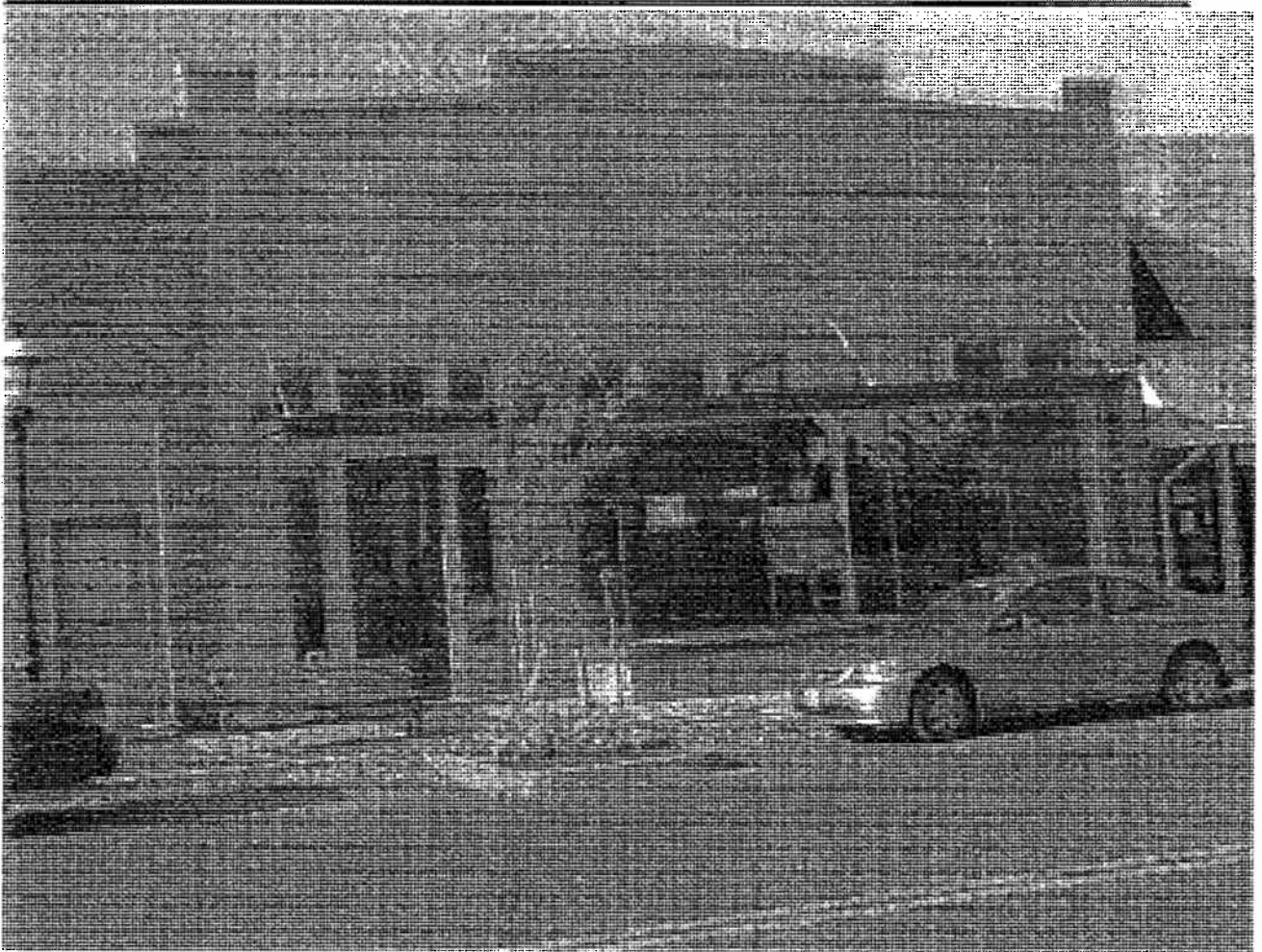
Aerial View: Senseman-designed buildings at Washington Adventist University, and Washington Adventist Hospital , Photo 1960c, In a variety of styles, spanning 1936 through early 1960s.

**Maryland Historical Trust
Maryland Inventory of
Historic Properties Form**

Inventory No. M: 36-61

Name Silver Spring Baptist Church
Continuation Sheet

Number 8 Page 41



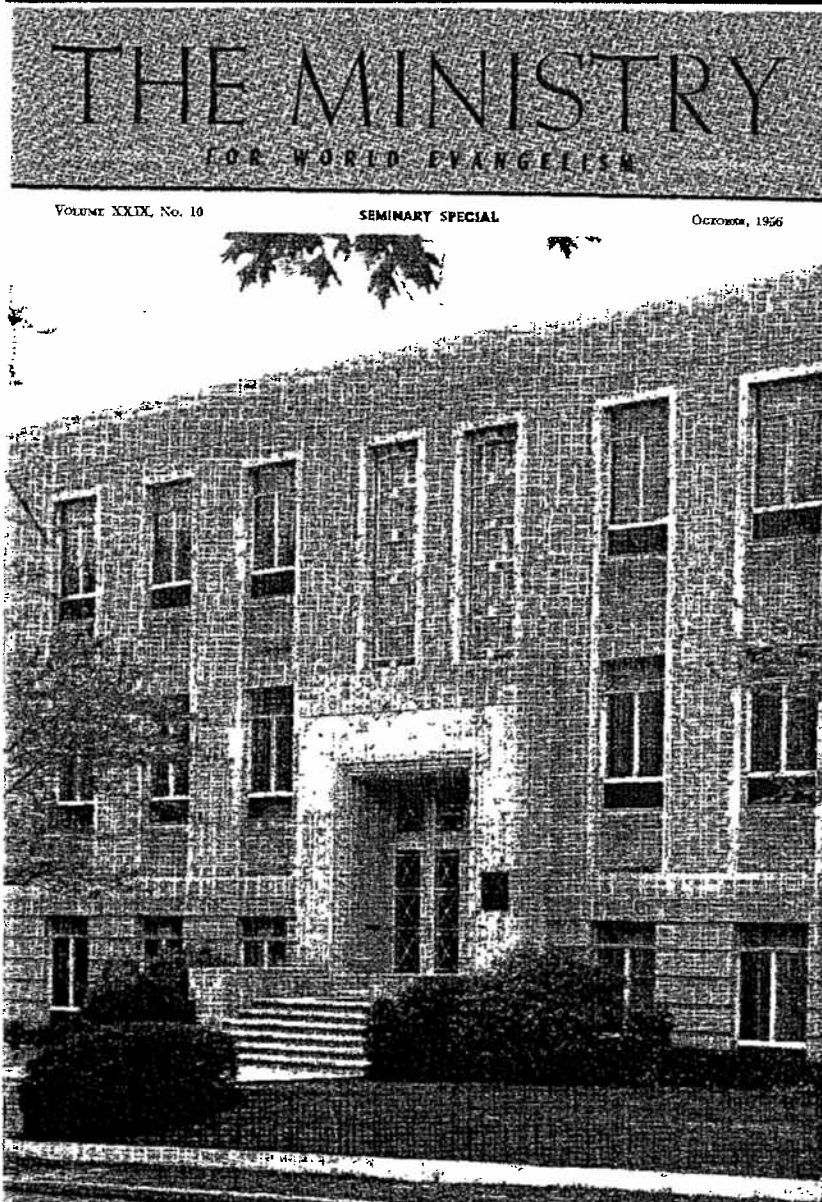
Seaman's 1931 Commercial Structure for a Piggly Wiggly grocery store, Takoma Park, Md., designed when he was 19 years old, and a student at Washington Missionary College, Takoma Park; subsequently Barcelona Nuts. 2009 to the present, Historic Takoma Inc. Headquarters.

Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. M: 36-61

Name Silver Spring Baptist Church
Continuation Sheet

Number 8 Page 42



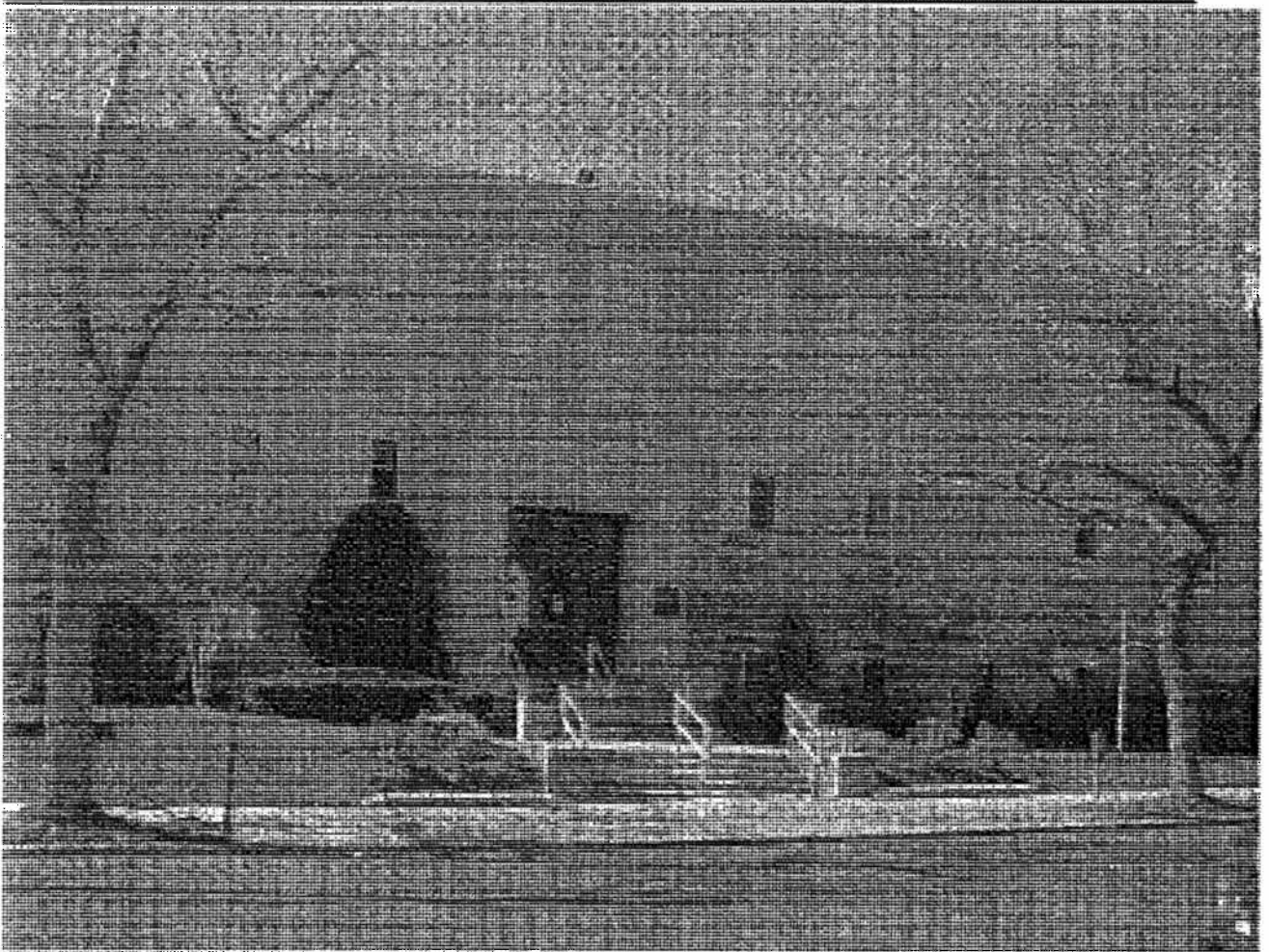
Senseman's 1939 Modernist 7th Day Adventist Worldwide Headquarters Theological
Seminary Bldg., Laurel Ave., Takoma, D.C.

**Maryland Historical Trust
Maryland Inventory of
Historic Properties Form**

Inventory No. M: 36-61

Name Silver Spring Baptist Church
Continuation Sheet

Number 8 Page 43



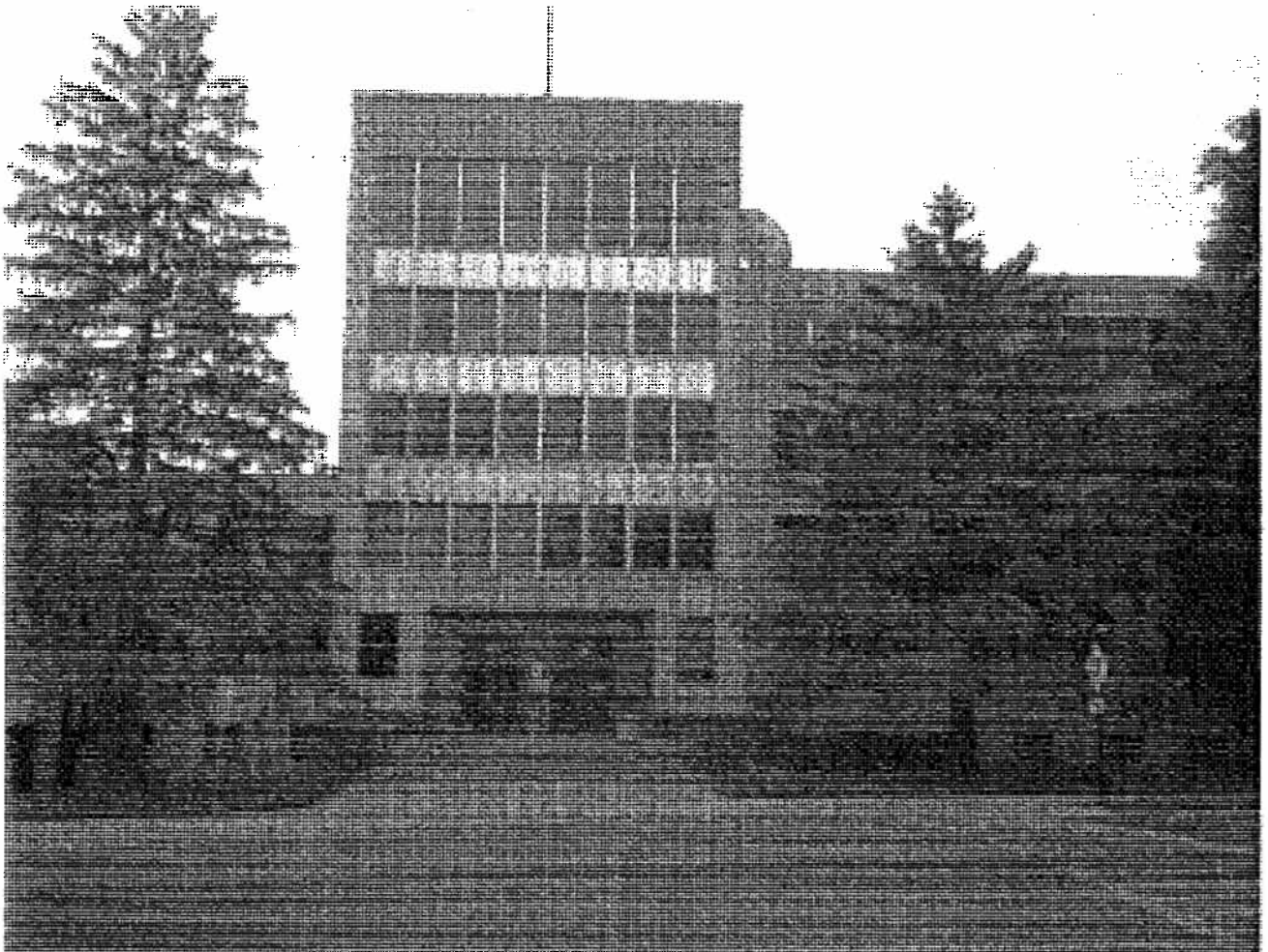
Senseman's Modernist 1939 Worldwide Theological Seminary Building, Laurel Ave., Takoma, D.C.,
Now serving as Strayer University headquarters. SSSS Photograph 2010

**Maryland Historical Trust
Maryland Inventory of
Historic Properties Form**

Inventory No. M: 36-61

Name Silver Spring Baptist Church
Continuation Sheet

Number 8 Page 44



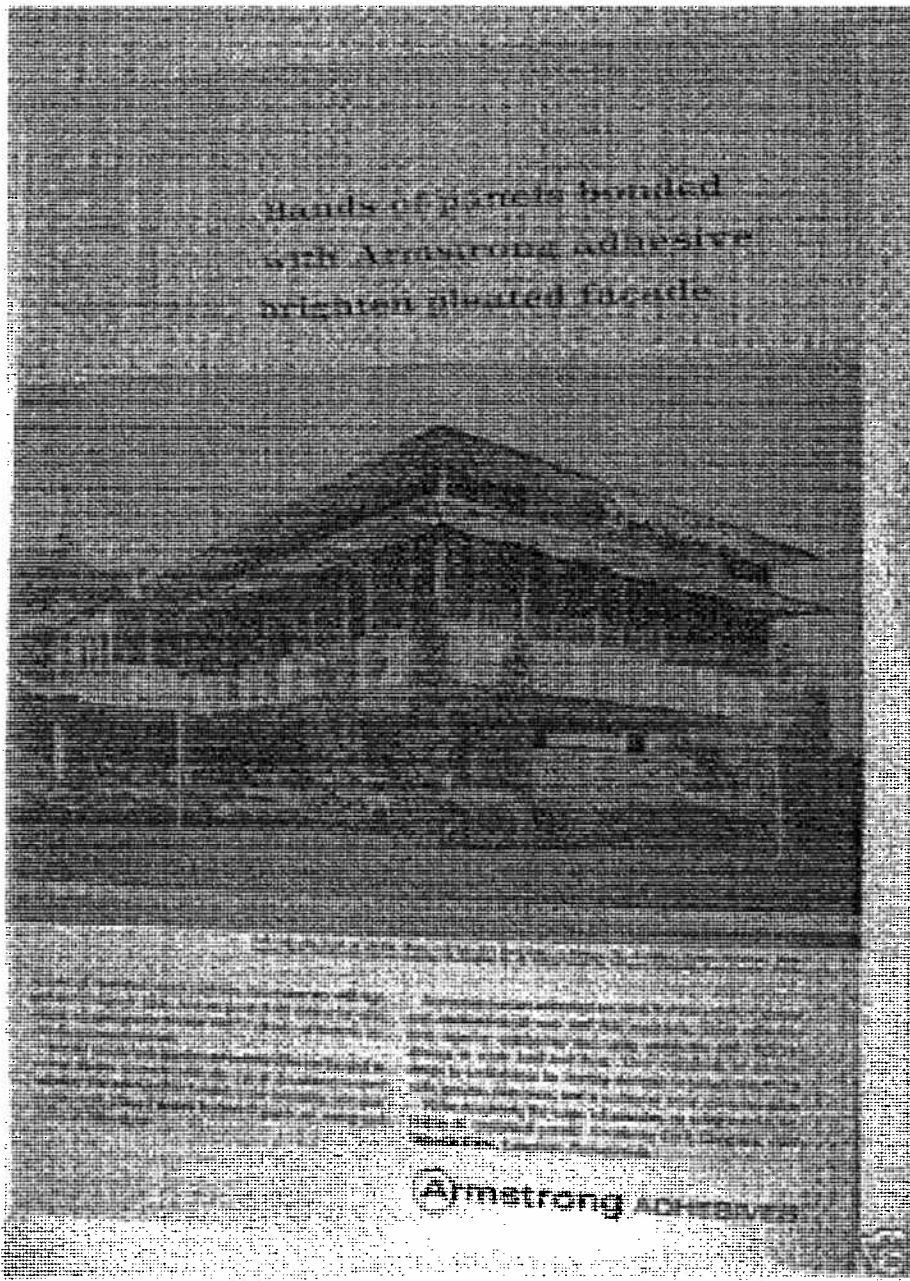
Senseman's "Monumental" 1952 Montgomery County Council Office Building, Rockville, Md.
International Style & Art Deco, also in interior, SSSH Photograph, 2010

Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. M: 36-61

Name Silver Spring Baptist Church
Continuation Sheet

Number 8 Page 45



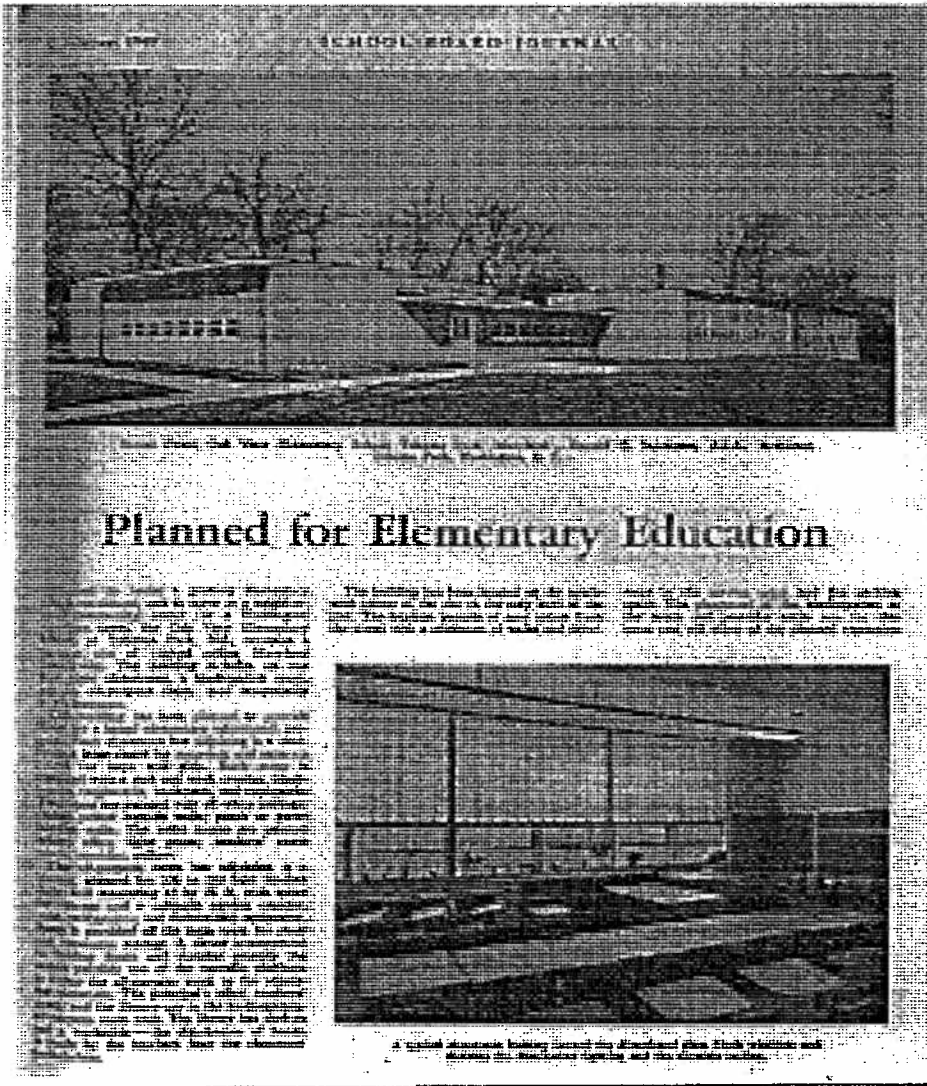
Seneca's c. 1900 Park Artisanal Model, including Schraff's Restaurant. May Photo 2010.

Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. M: 36-61

Name Silver Spring Baptist Church
Continuation Sheet

Number 8 Page 46



Oak View Elementary, School Board Journal, September 1949, Washington Board of Trade Award.

Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. M: 36-61

Name Silver Spring Baptist Church
Continuation Sheet

Number 8 Page 47

Theological Seminary Dedication

THE fine new building to house the Seventh-day Adventist Theological Seminary was dedicated on the evening of January 21, at an impressive service which was marked by a spirit of sincerity and earnestness. There was a capacity audience of 350 in attendance, gathered in the stately designed, attractive chapel on the main floor and in the adjoining hall.

Professor M. E. Kern, president of the school, set forth in his dedicatory address the purposes and aims of the Seminary, which, though it has been in operation since 1924, has up until now been conducted in temporary quarters.

"This school," he said, "was born of an ardent desire on the part of the chosen leadership of the church to strengthen the backbone of the movement, and hasten the completion of the task which God has committed to this people." He summed up the purpose of the Seminary as follows:

"1. To offer graduate courses in the two important fields of Bible and history for the benefit of our college and academic Bible and history teachers and other educational workers, and thus strengthen our entire educational system by rendering effective assistance in the maintenance of our Bibliocentric plan of education.

"2. By these courses in Bible and history, supplemented with courses in evangelism and Christian leadership, to bring special help in our ministers, missionaries, Bible workers, editors, and other workers, thus greatly strengthening our evangelistic forces in the world field.

"3. To stand in these perilous and propitious times as a bulwark of defense for the 'commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus.'"

W. E. Nelson, treasurer of the General Conference, gave a report of building operation and finances.

The cost of the building is \$37,237.23, which, added to \$21,050, the estimated worth of the lot, which was donated by the Review and Herald, makes the total value of the institution \$197,287.23. Sufficient funds are in hand to pay all building costs which have not already been settled. This money was raised by gifts from the General Conference, from overseas division fields, from institutions in the United States, and through personal donations. Professor Nelson made special mention of gifts to the library by C. C. Crisler, who died in China a few years ago, and I. H. Evans, of 1,000 books each.

In the closing talk of the service J. L. McElhenny told of the relation of the Seminary to the General Conference. "This institution is here in response to a conviction on the part of a large number of our brethren . . . of a real need," he affirmed. He emphasized two points in this connection. First, he said, the Theological Seminary is helping to maintain the unity of our great movement by bringing to denominational headquarters workers from all over the world. This direct contact with the headquarters of our work is of inestimable value to these workers, especially, as has happened in a number of cases, if their fields later become isolated from contact with the headquarters because of war conditions. Secondly, Elder McElhenny continued, this school is training Bible teachers for our academies and colleges. And he considered that properly qualified Bible teachers are the greatest single need of the denomination today.

I. H. Evans offered the dedicatory prayer, asking God's blessing on the teachers and the students of the institution. Two appropriate resolutions were rendered by a male quartet, "Bless This School," and "Thou Whose Temple Stands." The

service closed with that solemn song of dedication:

"Faith of our fathers! holy faith!
We will be true to thee till death!"

This new Theological Seminary building, located on a lot adjoining the General Conference headquarters office, in Takoma Park, D.C., is built to accommodate 150 students. It is modern in design, constructed of buff brick trimmed in Indiana limestone, and has metal floor and window frames. The architect was Ronald Sandeman.

There are three floors in the building. Let us enter through the large glass front doors and take a look around. Our steps hardly soled on the asphalt-tile floor. The walls are all of cream plaster.

First we shall go up the central stairway to the main floor, and through the large swinging, wood-paneled doors into the chapel. To our left is the platform, which may also be entered through an ante-room. There are 134 seats on the floor of the chapel, and the balcony seats about 72 more people.

Now, as we go into the hall again, to the left we find the office of the president, Professor Kern, his secretary's office, and the registrar's office. Each teacher also has an office, located either on this floor or on one of the other floors. Across from the chapel are a large classroom, which will hold 120 students, and two smaller classrooms with a capacity of 30 or 25 each.

On the third floor are four classrooms. In addition, there is a room known as the "prayer room," to be used by the students, not for study, but for private devotion.

A seminar room is located in the basement, but the main part of this floor was occupied by the library. And as the library is the real heart of a school, this has been planned carefully with a view to serving the needs of the students with the greatest efficiency and dispatch. The light, roomy reading rooms will accommodate 66 students at the large study tables. The reference shelves, magazine racks, and central charging desk were made, we learn, by the Washington Missionary College woodwork shop.

Back of the charging desk are the bookshelves. They are of metal and are adjustable, to accommodate different sizes of books. The stacks are on two levels, connected by a stairway. There is space here for 40,000 books. There are 600, of course, that many books here at the present time, but sufficient room has been left for expansion of the library. Behind the stacks are desks for research workers.

As we complete our tour of the building and think of our workers who will come here from year to year to gain a deeper insight into the truths which hold us as a people together, it is with the earnest prayer that God may richly bless the work carried on within its walls.

BETH CONNARD.



New Seventh-day Adventist Theological Seminary Building, Takoma Park, Washington, D.C.

THE ADVENT REVIEW

7th Day Adventist Theological Seminary Worldwide Headquarters Bldg. Dedication,
"The Advent Review," Vol. 118, No. 7, 2/13/1941, P. 2; 1939-1941

Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. M: 36-61

Name Silver Spring Baptist Church
Continuation Sheet

Number 8 Page 48

Atlantic Union GLEANER

Barnada - Maine - New Hampshire - Vermont - Massachusetts - Connecticut - Rhode Island - New York

Vol. LI

SOUTH LANCASTER, MASSACHUSETTS, MARCH 11, 1952

No. 11

Recent Expansion at College

Members of the board, constituency, faculty, and students, as well as our faithful members throughout the union, are justly proud of the new modern spacious administrative building at Atlantic Union College.

Seven years ago the foundation was laid for this building, but problems of securing adequate funds delayed active work on the building until 1949. Since then construction, under the supervision of Mr. J. D. Zwemer as construction superintendent, has gone forward steadily, and we are now nearing the completion of this new building on the Atlantic Union College campus.

The building provides for a library with room for 50,000 volumes and seating space for approximately 130 students. There are 17 classrooms, approximately 20 executive offices, and 12 teacher offices. In addition to this, there are vaults, the College Store, which is 30' x 54', cafeterias, rooms, and a large auditorium with a seating capacity of 1,250 people.

The building has been constructed with a minimum of experienced mechanics and twenty to thirty students, who have worked on the building ever since the work was begun.

Recently Mr. Ronald S. Beneman, the architect of the building, visited the college campus and was much pleased with the progress of the work and the general high quality of all the



various processes that enter into the construction of a large building.

The building has more than an acre of floor space, and provides for a classroom capacity that will be adequate for a number of years since it could accommodate up to 1,500 students.

Advantages to be realized through the construction of the new building are that it provides adequate, well-lighted classrooms and library, and makes available space that has been used for the housing of dormitory men. The dormitory that has been used for college men is now being used by South Lancaster Academy to care for the boarding students of the Southern

and Northern New England Conferences.

The value of the building has been estimated variously at three-quarters of a million to a million dollars, when completed. It is a beautiful building and will add much to the conditions under which young people at Atlantic Union College will pursue their college program.

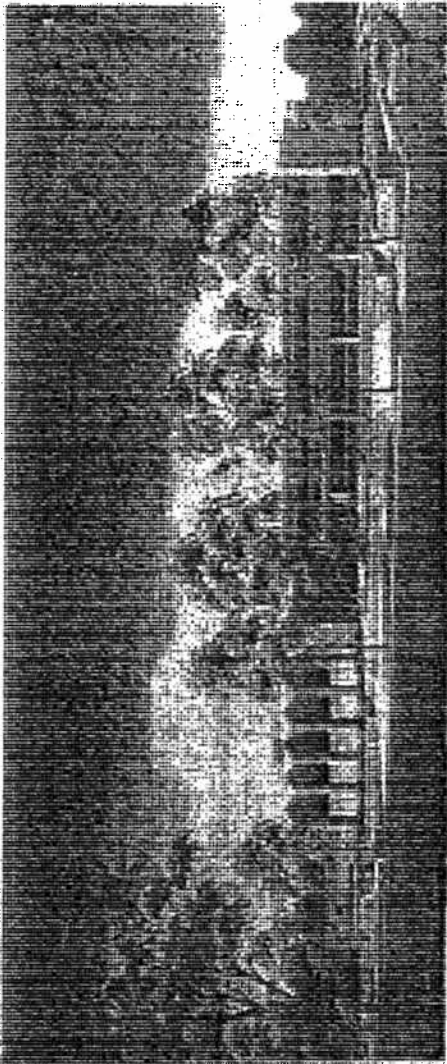
As for the operating costs of the institution, the building is well constructed and should be easy to heat and keep clean, and wide from the original investment, the operating cost should be lower than that of any other building on the campus.

Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. M: 36-61

Name Silver Spring Baptist Church
Continuation Sheet

Number 8 Page 49



New Eugene Meyer School
The building was built by the Federal Government in 1963. It is located at 11th and Clifton St. N.E., Washington, D.C. The building was designed by the architect Paul H. Rafter.

New Eugene Meyer School

Featured is an architect's drawing of the new Eugene Meyer Elementary School to be built on part of the old Cardinal Hospital site at 11th and Clifton St. N.E. Construction work (delayed because of the District's revenue shortage), is scheduled to begin Jan. 15. School officials hope to have the building ready for occupancy by February of 1963. The new school is designed to house 1,000 students of many ages attending classes in the evening. It will have 24 classrooms, a multi-purpose room equipped for special shops, art, science and group teaching activities, and a large combination school, library, cafeteria and play room. Beneath the large room is an unfinished basement which school officials believe can be easily converted to use as a school auditorium. It is the first such space in a District school earmarked, at construction, for emergency use. The new school is named for the late Eugene Meyer, Chairman of the Board of the District of Columbia, who died last year at the age of 71. The building will cost about \$14 million. Architect is Donald B. Strauss.

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February 2011 SSHS MIHP Form

7. Description

Inventory No. M: 36 - 61

Condition

excellent deteriorated
 good ruins
 fair altered

Prepare both a one paragraph summary and a comprehensive description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

SUMMARY

The Silver Spring Baptist Church sanctuary, built in 1956 of brick and limestone, is the primary structure on the property. It is a landmark that commands a prominent location at the top of a rise at the corner of Wayne Avenue and Fenton Street, two key roads in Silver Spring's downtown. Its traditional front gable church form is modernized with Art Deco influences and strong modernist geometric interpretations of formal design elements. Most notable are its monumental pillars and cornice of limestone, forming an abstraction of a traditional portico, and its slender limestone spire, piercing the sky atop a four story tower belfry. The brick parsonage constructed in 1925-26 has a hip roofed cubical form. Its present Colonial Revival appearance dates from 1931 and features an elegant, oversize cupola, a central pavilion and a broken-scroll pedimented entrance. It has two additions, one dating from 1931, and another from 1950. Both the church and parsonage with its 1931 sanctuary/ auditorium addition retain a high level of architectural and material integrity.¹

DESCRIPTION

The 1956 church is a front gabled brick building measuring approximately 62 feet by 120 feet with a four story square tower at the northeast corner. The church is elevated six steps up from Wayne Avenue and faces north. Monumental limestone pillars divide the front façade into three bays and are capped with a limestone cornice forming an austere geometric interpretation of a traditional portico. The sterility of the unadorned monolithic pillars is tempered by the inscription of "First Baptist Church" in a curvilinear stylized Art Deco lettering with a diamond pattern on each side. The center bay has a double door, and outer bays have single doors. Doors are wood with a square cross shaped window with Art Deco style angular fan-like details in the corners centered in the upper half of each door. On the front façade, these windows have etched glass and the doors have transoms. Stained glass windows in shades of blue and purple rise above the doorways with non-figurative symbols of the Baptist Church centered within each window. A limestone block set in the northeast corner of the tower is inscribed with the 1956 construction date in stylized Art Deco lettering. The tower has a first floor entrance in the east wall and a stained glass window with a limestone surround on the second floor. Above the eave of the main building the tower has inset corners leading up to a cross gable roof with a simple, narrow pyramidal limestone spire. The upper section of the tower is demarcated with limestone coursing. Within each gable of the tower there is a cut out stone cross. Brick is laid in a Flemish stretcher bond and the building has a composition roof.

The west elevation, which faces Fenton Street, is nine bays wide. The elevation is enlivened with multi-story stained glass windows in the five bays next to the entrance bay. The windows have limestone surrounds and burgundy color architectural glass spandrels (Vitrolite) with framed images of a Bible in cast aluminum with "Be ye doers of the Word" inscribed on its open pages. A secondary entrance is located on the northern end of this elevation with a window above. This entrance has a limestone surround with "First Baptist Church" inscribed above the door in a stylized Art Deco lettering. The decorative paired doors match those on the front façade. Projecting from the southern three bays is a gabled rear wing. The three story wing, constructed of matching brick, has a gable roof set below the eave height of the main building. The obtuse angle of the existing lot formed by Wayne Avenue and Fenton Street allows the church entrance to square with Wayne Avenue right at the corner, and also accommodate the western transept ell at the rear. Windows are metal double hung sashes with limestone surrounds except on the rear in the stairway section. The

¹Mroszczyk, Lisa, and Kelly, Clare Lise. M-NCPPC Planning Dept. HPC Staff Draft MIHP Form. "Silver Spring Baptist Church" Inventory # 36-61, 2010: Number 7; cover page and page 1. All paragraphs in this Section 7 drawn from this Report except 5 and 9.

Maryland Historical Trust

Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. M: 36-61

Name Silver Spring Baptist Church

Continuation Sheet

Number 7 Page 1

existing grade descends from north to south along the length of the building giving way to a raised basement with steel frame awning windows. There is a basement entrance into the ell on the north and south sides.

The south elevation of the main building is symmetrical in design and features a multi-story window mirroring the gable roof form and framed with stone in the center of the wall. The window is divided into twelve sections with metal frames and translucent etched glass. The lowest row contains awning windows. Below the windows there is a brick panel laid in a stack bond with a pin-mounted sign reading "First Baptist Church." The building wraps around and connects to the parsonage sanctuary/auditorium with an intermediary section. This two story section has a basement with a stairwell leading into a one story section with a basement. Decorative details are simplified or omitted on the rear of the building. This includes elimination of the window surrounds and plain square windows in the doors.

The east elevation facing the parsonage and its sanctuary/auditorium is finished in the same smooth red and orange brick and matching bond. This Flemish stretcher bond also matches the older parsonage construction and the brick color is similar, including the occasional dark brick woven in. The windows have been shortened on this side and rise one story above the interior balcony and are made of stained-glass, framed with limestone surrounds. This side is connected, below the second story to the parsonage sanctuary/auditorium at the rear of both buildings. The 1956 church is virtually freestanding and finished on all four sides.

The parsonage, constructed between 1925 and 1926, owes its current appearance to a 1931 Colonial Revival style renovation. The two story brick structure, three bays wide and two bays deep, has a hip roofed cubical form. An oversize cupola sitting at the roof peak features round arched windows, pilasters and a bell roof topped with a cross. On the front (north) façade, a center bay projecting pavilion is flanked with wood pilasters and surmounted by a front gable pediment with German lap siding. A second set of pilasters flank the second story windows in the central pavilion. The center bay is further differentiated by flat casing framing the second floor windows and dividing the first and second floors. The door surround is composed of Ionic pilasters with a denticulated entablature and a broken-scroll pediment. Windows are paired 6/6 double hung with rowlock sills. The main entrance doors have been replaced with a fixed window and wood panel although the five light transom remains in place and the opening appears otherwise unaltered. The north wall and visible portions of the east wall have been painted white. The hip roof, now covered in asphalt shingles, has exposed rafter tails. There is a single brick chimney with corbeled cap on the west wall.

A sanctuary/auditorium addition extending from the rear (south) of the parsonage building was constructed in 1931. It is one and a half stories with a raised basement and a gable roof. The addition is four bays deep with tall arched windows on the sides with limestone panels below tied together by a band of stone at floor height.

A second addition, constructed in 1950 as a temporary sanctuary, stands on the northeast side of the parsonage and sanctuary/auditorium. The bulk of the addition has a footprint of approximately 45 feet by 71 feet and is a two story brick front gable structure set towards the rear of the lot. The front (north) façade is solid and unornamented except for a large wooden cross and a simple wooden box cornice. This part of the addition was originally located behind a two story frame residential building that was constructed on this lot prior to the church's ownership in 1940 and which has since been demolished. The narrow two story section connects the parsonage to this addition. In this

Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

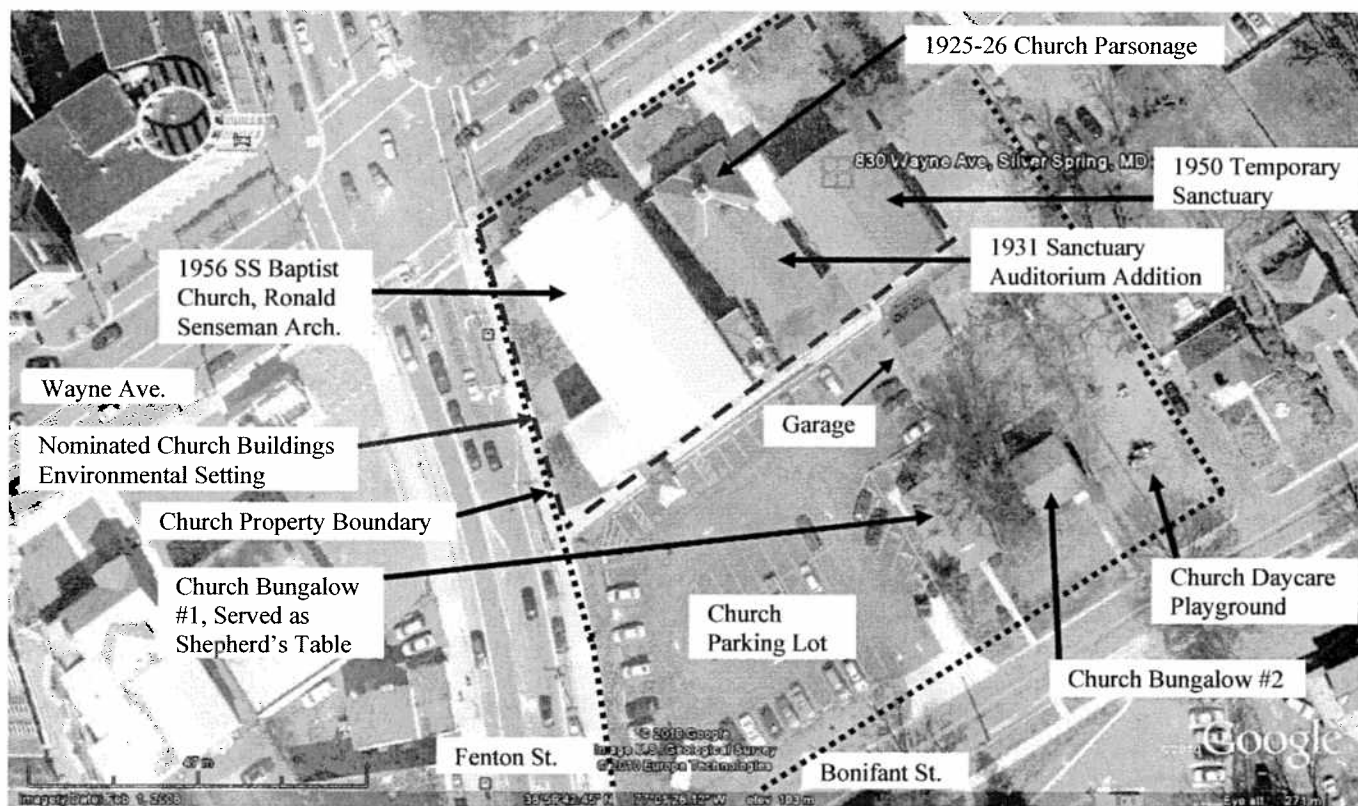
Inventory No. M: 36-61

Name Silver Spring Baptist Church
Continuation Sheet

Number 7 Page 2

portion of the addition, a concrete ramp leads up to a pair of double doors with an elliptical transom with five lights. A vertically oriented octagonal window is centered above the doors at the second floor.

Two 1930s brick bungalows facing Bonifant Street adjacent to the residential neighborhood (one with detached garage), a Child Development Center playground and a parking lot round out the Baptist property, but are not included in this nomination, nor are they part of the environmental setting.



Silver Spring Baptist Church Property Locator Map (Image Date Feb 1, 2008).

Nominated Structures: Silver Spring Baptist Church 1925-1926 Parsonage and its 1931 Sanctuary Auditorium, its 1950 Temporary Sanctuary, and 1956 Senseman's Silver Spring Baptist Church.

8. Significance

Inventory No. M: 36-61

Period	Areas of Significance	Check and justify below		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> health/medicine	<input type="checkbox"/> performing arts
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> invention	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-1999	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment/ recreation	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 2000-	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> ethnic heritage	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/ settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> social history
	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning		<input type="checkbox"/> maritime history	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation		<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other: _____

Specific dates	1925-1956	Architect	1956 Church: Ronald S. Senseman
Construction dates	1925-1926 (parsonage), 1931 (sanctuary/auditorium), 1950 (temporary sanctuary), 1956 (new sanctuary)		

Evaluation for:

National Register Maryland Register not evaluated

Prepare a one-paragraph summary statement of significance addressing applicable criteria, followed by a narrative discussion of the history of the resource and its context. (For compliance projects, complete evaluation on a DOE Form – see manual.)

SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANCE

The 1956 Silver Spring Baptist Church with Art Deco and modernist influences illustrates the shift away from historical styles and toward an increasingly technological culture. It is important as an architectural representation of the transition between the traditional and the highly modern. It represents an era of postwar suburban expansion and its prominent corner location marks an important Silver Spring civic node. The building is also significant as the work of prominent architect Ronald S. Senseman, FAIA, a Silver Spring resident, an expert in the design of religious and educational buildings. The 1925 to 1931 Colonial Revival style parsonage and its 1931 sanctuary represent the first phase of suburbanization in Montgomery County. Their historically-influenced design provides a point of reference for the changing cultural and social values exhibited in the church's next phase of development. The Silver Spring Baptist Church complex as a whole represents the development of the church from its founding in 1924 through the second half of the twentieth century, and beyond.²

Both churches are exceptional resources for Silver Spring and Montgomery County. The 1925 to 1931 brick and wood trim Colonial Revival Parsonage and its 1931 Sanctuary addition is the oldest extant church building in the Silver Spring CBD. It is virtually unchanged, except for the restorable front doors, exhibiting a very high degree of integrity. The 1956 church is completely unaltered, is the first modernist church in Silver Spring's CBD, and one of the first post war modernist churches built in Montgomery County.

The Silver Spring Baptist Church complex meets several of the Criteria of the Montgomery County Historic Preservation Ordinance, Chapter 24A3.

Criteria 1a. The historic resource has character, interest or value as part of the development, heritage or cultural characteristics of the County, State or Nation.

1d. Exemplifies the cultural, economic, social, political, or historic heritage of the County and its communities.

2a. Embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction.

2b. The historic resource represents the work of a master.

2e. The historic resource represents an established and familiar visual feature of the neighborhood, community or county due to its singular physical characteristic or landscape.

² Mroszczyk, Section 8 (or # 8): cover page.

Maryland Historical Trust

Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. M: 36-61

Name Silver Spring Baptist Church

Continuation Sheet

Number 8 Page 1

SILVER SPRING BAPTIST CHURCH

The Silver Spring Baptist Church was organized in 1924 by Reverend H.W.O. Millington under the Columbia Baptist Association. Services were originally held Sundays in the 1914 Silver Spring National Guard Armory, and Fire Station (1918) located on the southeast corner of Georgia and Silver Spring Avenues, with prayer meetings held at a member's residence.³ Founding members totaled 14 congregants⁴ On August 10, 1925, the church purchased lots 20, 21 and 22 at the southeast corner of Fenton Street and Montgomery (now Wayne) Avenue. This property was part of "Jordan and Smith's Addition to Silver Spring Park" platted in June of that year.⁵ Frank L. Hewitt, Silver Spring realtor and World War I hero, brokered the real estate transaction.⁶ Between 1925 and 1926, the congregation constructed a two story brick parsonage on lot 22 which would establish the congregation's physical presence on an important corner and serve as a marker for future development.⁷ The parsonage also served other church functions such as meetings, dinners, and at least one wedding.⁸

By December 1930 a design was rendered by nationally known architect George Earnest Merrill [1870-1933], AIA, Architect-Secretary of the American Baptist Home Mission Society Department of Building Counsel, for a new church and renovated parsonage.⁹ Merrill's 1930 drawing of the Colonial Revival parsonage is virtually identical to its current appearance.¹⁰

By June 1931, the sanctuary was constructed to the rear of the renovated parsonage that more than doubled its size.¹¹ The first phase of the church edifice planned by Merrill was used for church services and Sunday school. Ceremonies celebrating the opening of the new "unit" were held October 5, 1931.¹² Up until this time services had also been held in the new 1927 SECO Theater and the top floor of the newly relocated 1910 Silver Spring National

³ "New Pastor Comes to Silver Spring," *Washington Post*, 5/2/1925: 8. Mroszczyk, Section or #8: cover page.

⁴ First Baptist Church of Silver Spring Website 2010, <http://fbcss.org/history.html>

⁵ Montgomery County Land Records, l. 382, f. 87, August 10, 1925 and "Jordan's and Smith's Addition to Silver Spring Park," Plat 301, June 1, 1925. Mroszczyk, Section or #8: cover page.

⁶ "Suburban," *Washington Post*, 6/16/1925: 8.

⁷ 1931 F.M.H. Klingé Atlas of Real Estate in Montgomery County Maryland. Mroszczyk, Section or #8: cover page.

⁸ "The Parsonage of the Baptist Church is Nearing Completion," *Washington Post*, 1/31/1926: 11.

⁹ "By Rockville Bureau," *Washington Post*, 7/14/1926: 2.

¹⁰ "Dr. G.E. Merrill [1870-1933] Architect, Dead, Built More Than 600 Church Structures for Baptists in Last 13 Years." "He also had been consultant on 1,100 other church building projects," Special to *The New York Times*, 11/24/1933: 21. Society of Architectural Historians, SAH.org, <http://www.sah.org/index.php?src=gendocs&ref=BiographiesArchitectsM&category=Resources>.

Merrill, George E. "... AIA Affiliation. Member of The American Institute of Architects (AIA) 1921-decease ..." communities.aia.org/sites/hdoaa/wiki/.../ahd1030135.aspx.

¹¹ "Proposed Baptist Church for Silver Spring," Rendering, *Maryland News Advocate*, 12/17/1930:1, See Number 8: 64, with Caption.

¹² "... Plans Rapidly going Forward for New Structure, Open House Is Held," *Md. News*, 12/17/1930: 5.

¹³ 1941 F.M.H. Klinge Atlas of Real Estate in Montgomery County, Md., and "History and Future," First Baptist Church of Silver Spring, <http://fbcss.org/history.html> [last accessed March 8, 2010] Mroszczyk, Section or #8: cover page.

¹⁴ "News of the Suburbs, 'Silver Spring'" "...building has been under construction for 3 months.... The New Sunday School Auditorium of the Silver Spring Baptist Church will be occupied for the first time this morning, when Sunday school will convene at 10 a.m.... furniture for the new church has not yet arrived.... It is expected that services will be held in the church proper on the coming Sunday," *Washington Post*, 6/28/1931: M12. "Services will be held", *Washington Post*, 8/30/1931: M24. "Ceremony Planned for Church Opening, Silver Spring Baptists Will Use First Unit of Its \$125,000 Building," *Washington Post*, 10/4/1931: M5.

Maryland Historical Trust

Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. M: 36-61

Name Silver Spring Baptist Church
Continuation Sheet

Number 8 Page 2

Bank (1925).¹³ In 1940, the church purchased a fourth lot (lot 23) adjacent to its corner properties that contained a small two-story frame structure which was demolished sometime after 1963. In order to serve a growing congregation, a temporary sanctuary was constructed in 1950 on the east side of the parsonage until the "...permanent sanctuary..." could be built on the prominent corner location "... reserved for it."¹⁴

"Man long has understood that a beautiful and inspiring architectural setting encourages faith and dignity and promotes high aspirations.... A church should be the outstanding and most beautiful building in the community.... Beauty is not always a matter of price but of good proportion in design...." Ronald S. Senseman¹⁵

The 1956 church was designed by architect Ronald S. Senseman.¹⁶ The building cost \$400,000 to \$425,000 to construct, and opened for services in February 1957.¹⁷ At the time of dedication on March 10, 1957, the congregation exceeded 1,200 members. The sanctuary was designed to seat 1,059 persons, with a wrap-around balcony on three sides. This new air conditioned structure also contained a social hall seating 450 people, six classrooms, choir room, kitchen, two church offices and a pastor study to accommodate the expanding church community.¹⁸

Senseman's Silver Spring Baptist Church maintains many traditional forms and features of historical designs such as the linear plan, front gable, the tower and steeple (modified Romanesque¹⁹), use of brick and stone and stained glass windows, and is imbued with aspects of modernism distinctive of the immediate postwar period, such as in the austere simplicity of the steeple and its sharp needle spire, the strong vertical emphasis of the pillars and abstracted form of the portico, as well as Art Deco influences in the geometric and streamline details and in the lettering and doors. An evolutionary church design of its time, the Silver Spring Baptist Church is illustrative of a period of peaceful transition between the traditional, embodied in the Colonial Revival parsonage/sanctuary, and the highly modern.²⁰

¹³ "News of the Suburbs," *Washington Post*, 3/18/1928: 10. "Silver Spring Baptist Church Services held at the SECO Theater," "News Notes of Interest in Suburban Society Circles," *Washington Post* 10/19/1930: M 24. " 'Silver Spring Baptist Church,' Silver Spring Church Week," Photo of Parsonage & Sanctuary Auditorium, *Maryland News*, 2/10/1950: C4-5.

¹⁴ "Twenty-eight years later, the permanent sanctuary was built on the corner reserved for it," First Baptist Church of Silver Spring website 2010. 1948 F.M.H. Klinge Atlas of Real Estate in Montgomery County Maryland updated in 1963. See also the 1950 date stone to the left of the temporary Sanctuary building's main entry doors.

¹⁵ Ronald S. Senseman, "Building a Church," *Review & Herald*, 1/3/1952: 3-4.

¹⁶ The 9/9/1964 AIA Fellowship Nominating Committee's reaffirmation of Senseman's 9/26/1963 FAIA Nomination application contains the AIA "Declaration of Authorship," signed by the Nominee, R. S. Senseman, and categories were provided to the nominee. "First Baptist Church of Silver Spring" is listed by Senseman as Category "A": "The nominee was largely responsible for the design." Senseman includes likewise 9 other of his structures as Category "A." See Declaration document, Number 8: 65. See also *Evening Star*, 3/9/1957: A8, "Baptists Slate Dedication in Silver Spring Tomorrow." 2nd paragraph: "Ronald S. Senseman of Washington is the architect."

¹⁷ "First Service to Be Held in Silver Spring Church," *Washington Post*, 2/16/1957: A6; Mroszczyk, #8: 1.

"Baptists Slate Dedication in Silver Spring Tomorrow," *Evening Star*, 3/9/1957: A8.

¹⁸ "Baptists Slate Dedication in Silver Spring Tomorrow," *Evening Star*, 3/9/1957: A8; Don Fuggitt photo of 1956 cornerstone laying ceremony in SSHS archives.

¹⁹ Senseman, Ronald S. "Building a Church-Exterior Design of the Church," *Advent Review and Sabbath Herald*, 1952 Vol. 129, # 8: 6.

²⁰ Another building of this rare type of blending the traditional and modern appears in the Silver Spring CBD: the geometric modernist aesthetic Perpetual Building Association Building (1958) at 8700 Georgia Avenue proposed for removal by owner. Emily Eig, Tracerics, nomination for historic designation of the Perpetual Building Association Building, Silver Spring, Md., 2009, 2010.

Maryland Historical Trust

Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. M: 36-61

Name Silver Spring Baptist Church

Continuation Sheet

Number 8 Page 3

The proximity and association of the two buildings enhances the distinction, and together, reflect significant periods in Montgomery County's growth and development.²¹

SILVER SPRING CONTEXT²²

The first phase of suburban development in Montgomery County began in the late nineteenth century with the development of the B&O Railroad and streetcar lines. Silver Spring's first railroad station located at Georgia and Sligo Avenues was designed by E Francis Baldwin and constructed in 1878.²³ One of six trolley lines in Montgomery County, the Forest Glen line was completed in 1897 and traveled through Silver Spring along Georgia Avenue. Clusters of suburban communities expanded to the north and east contributing to an increased population in the 1920s. Georgia Avenue developed into a commercial Main Street both north and south of the train station and along the trolley line.²⁴ Suburban development continued with the rise of the automobile and an increase in government workers during the New Deal Era of the 1930s.²⁵

The parsonage represents the beginnings of Silver Spring's development into the commercial and civic center of 20th Century Montgomery County, and its Colonial Revival style provided a comforting connection to the past during this period of rapid technological and cultural change. Other buildings of this period include the Silver Spring Armory constructed in 1927 diagonally across from the Silver Spring Baptist Church site at the northwest corner of Fenton Street and Wayne Avenue, the Silver Spring Post Office, at 8412 Georgia Avenue, constructed in 1936-1937 within a block's distance of the church and the Silver Spring Masonic Temple, constructed in 1927, at the corner of Georgia and Wayne Avenues. The 1925 Silver Spring National Bank (founded 1910) and SECO Theater (1927) were only two blocks away. North of the railroad station were E. Brooke Lee's 1922 North Washington Realty Co. and James Herbert Cissel's Silver Spring Building Supply Co. South of the station were several significant businesses and buildings including *The Maryland News* (1927), National Association of Dyers and Cleaners (1927), the second North Washington Realty Co. Building (c. 1929), and American Instrument Company (1935 to 1943).²⁶ The area's first shopping center, the Silver Theatre and Shopping Center, was constructed in 1938. To the west just beyond the railroad, garden apartments were springing up, including the "New Deal" Falkland Apartments (1936-38), and Spring Garden Apartments (1941).²⁷ Other apartments were located in close proximity to the Baptist Church, including the Bonifant Court Apartments (c. 1938), the 937-943 Bonifant Street Rowhouses (c. 1938), Montgomery Arms (Garden) Apartments (c. 1941), and the St. Charles (Garden) Apartments (c. 1950).

After World War II, Montgomery County entered a period of tremendous growth and prosperity. An influx of new

²¹ Mroszczyk. This paragraph almost entirely drawn from HPC Document 36-61: Section 8 page 4.

²² Mroszczyk. This Subsection largely drawn from HPC Document 36-61: Section 8 page 1.

²³ McCoy, Jerry A. and the Silver Spring Historical Society, *Historic Silver Spring*, 2005: 12.

²⁴ McCoy, *Ibid.* 2005: 9-20.

²⁵ Clare Lise Cavicchi [Kelly], *Places from the Past: The Tradition of Gardez Bien in Montgomery County, Maryland* (Silver Spring: Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission, 2001): 40-41, and Richard C. Jaffeson, *Silver Spring Success: An Interactive History of Silver Spring Maryland*(1997): 53-55. Mroszczyk, #8: 1.

²⁶ McCoy, *Ibid.* 2005: 20, 60, 65, 68, 90, 93.

²⁷ McCoy, *Ibid.* 2005: 49, 114

Maryland Historical Trust

Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. M: 36-61

Name Silver Spring Baptist Church

Continuation Sheet

Number 8 Page 4

government workers made Montgomery County their home.²⁸ Suburban life was becoming more desirable and greater access to the automobile made it practical for many. The rapid increase in population required quick and economical housing to be constructed and increased access to goods and community services. By the late 1950s, Silver Spring had become the commercial center of Montgomery County and the largest business district in the state only after Baltimore.²⁹ The first suburban branch of The Hecht Co. Department Store opened in Silver Spring in 1947, followed by J.C. Penney in 1950.³⁰ Hundreds of smaller commercial and institutional buildings lined Georgia Avenue and Colesville Road, and along the important adjacent streets of the commercial district. In 2010, the Silver Spring Baptist Churches mark and anchor an important civic center, and the transition between the commercial core and the residential neighborhoods to the east, and between the commercial core and the independent ethnic businesses within the low-rise buildings of Fenton Village.

The Silver Spring Baptist Church has always been easily accessible, centrally located near the intersections of major Silver Spring thoroughfares, with plentiful parking lots, and later, garages catering to the automobile. Silver Spring's civic center, Armory Place, diagonally across from the Church remained until 1998. It served as a terminal, beginning in 1960 for the extensive local metropolitan bus system that crisscrossed the region, later relocated to the new Silver Spring Metro Station two blocks to the west in 1978.³¹ Today, in 2010, eight bus routes pass in front of the Baptist Churches and property and numerous others are only blocks away.

CHURCHES OF SILVER SPRING

Several churches were founded in Silver Spring before and during the period of significance. Not only did suburban residents desire local access to goods and services, but also to neighborhood religious, civic, social, and fraternal organizations. Only the Woodside Methodist congregation precedes the establishment of the Baptists and their religious presence in downtown Silver Spring. Organized as Sligo Village Methodist Church in 1872, when there were 50 people in the area, their church was located near the northeast corner of Georgia and Colesville.³² Their current 1966 Colonial Revival church is located 1 1/2 blocks north of this spot outside of the CBD at 8900 Georgia Ave.

St. Michael's Church was established in 1930 as an offshoot of the Catholic, St. John the Evangelist Parish, of Forest Glen, Md.³³ In 1931, St. Michaels purchased and modified to resemble a church the 1927 Knights of Columbus Hall, one quarter block north of Montgomery Ave. at Georgia Ave. and Harden St. now Wayne Ave. In 1952, they moved

²⁸ Richard K. MacMaster and Ray Eldon Hiebert, A Grateful Remembrance: The Story of Montgomery County, Maryland (Rockville, Maryland: Montgomery County Government and the Montgomery County Historical Society, 1976): 330. Mroszczyk, #8: 1

²⁹ Cavicchi, 48-49. Mroszczyk, #8: 1

³⁰ Michael F. Dwyer, "Old Silver Spring Commercial Area," Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission, MIHP Form #36/7, June 2, 1975. Mroszczyk, #8: 1

³¹ "Transit to Extend Bus Lines Into Silver Spring," *Washington Post and Times Herald*, 9/4/1960: B1, By Jack Eisen Staff Reporter,

³² Woodside United Methodist Church Website. (last accessed 2010) In 1897 a team of horses moved the church north to the west side of the 8800 block of Georgia Avenue (now 8700 block) when the Forest Glen Railway trolley threatened parishioners' safety. <http://www.woodsideumc.org/about-us/our-history.html>

³³ Richard C. Jaffeson, AICP, *Silver Spring Success*, 1996: 37. The Forest Glen Parish was founded in 1774 by John Carroll, the first Roman Catholic Bishop and Archbishop in the United States, and founder of Georgetown University.

Maryland Historical Trust

Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. M: 36-61

Name Silver Spring Baptist Church
Continuation Sheet

Number 8 Page 5

into their present Colonial Revival structure across Wayne Avenue, a half block northeast from the Baptist property.³⁴

Grace Episcopal Church, organized in 1855, built its present 1956 Gothic Revival church several blocks north of the CBD at Georgia Avenue and Grace Church Rd. St. Luke's Lutheran Church organized in 1940, moved into its modified Gothic Revival church located east on Colesville Rd. at Dale Drive in 1945 or 1946. Church of the Ascension (Episcopal) at 633 Sligo Avenue, further into the East Silver Spring (Park) neighborhood is Gothic Revival, built 1930.³⁵ Congregations erecting new churches or expanding facilities during the 1950s in Silver Spring and adjacent to its CBD were still building in the Classical Revival styles; primarily Colonial Revival and modified Gothic.³⁶ The Silver Spring Baptist Church was a significant departure from those familiar and heavily utilized forms.³⁷

In 1983, the Silver Spring Baptist Church, along with 32 other local religious congregations, founded Shepherd's Table, the County's first community-supported soup kitchen. These religious organizations realized that homelessness was a growing suburban challenge. The Baptists assumed a leading role in this project, providing on their church property, in the church's 1933 Cape Cod Bungalow facing Bonifant Street, a facility that would not only serve as the soup kitchen, but also laundry, clothes distribution, showering, counseling and medical center.³⁸

POST WAR RELIGION AND CHURCH DESIGN³⁹

Nationwide, and locally, church attendance increased after World War II. In the two decades immediately following the war, thousands of new churches and synagogues were built quickly and economically, in an effort to meet the growing demand. There were several reasons for the growth of church-going. There was a strong response among the Christian community to the fear of the spread of Communism and an increasingly secular lifestyle.⁴⁰ Having a faith and a family were seen as part of being an American, and important in defying the threatening forces affecting everyday life.⁴¹

At a 1955 Seventh-day Adventist convention, churches were encouraged to sell Christianity despite the secularism that was invading American life in the form of degrading motion pictures and demoralizing literature and entertainment.⁴² Another reason for a rise in church-going was the increase in population and suburbanization.

³⁴ *Saint Michael the Archangel Parish: 1930-2000, Silver Spring, Maryland*, Olan Church Directories June 2001: 5-6.

³⁵ From the cornerstone.

³⁶ From an SSHS windshield and churches' website survey 2010.

³⁷ A survey of 120 Montgomery County churches revealed 26 built in the 1950s. Fourteen are Gothic or Colonial Revival. Eight are modernist built after 1956, and four have modernist elements built about the same time as the Baptist Church. (See #33 above.)

³⁸ For 13 years, from its house behind the Baptist Churches, many volunteers administered to the health and welfare of an expanding homeless and needy population. In 1996 this endeavor moved to Progress Place, in the nearby Ripley District, and became partners with the County in this program to help the homeless. The Shepherd's Table has not missed serving a hot dinner meal every day for nearly 28 years. First Baptist Church & Shepherd's Table Websites: <http://fbcss.org/history.html>, & <http://www.shepherdstable.org/>

³⁹ Mroszczyk. This Subsection entirely from HPC Document 36-61: Section 8 pages 1-2.

⁴⁰ Patrick Allitt, *Religion in America Since 1945: A History* (New York: Columbia University Press, 2003): 22-24, 31, 33. Mroszczyk.

⁴¹ Robert Brueggemann, ed., *Modernism at Mid-Century: The Architecture of the United States Air Force Academy* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1994): 94 and Robert S. Ellwood, *1950, Crossroads of American Religious Life* (Louisville: Westminster John Knox Press, 2000): 104. Mroszczyk, #8:2.

⁴² "Hard-selling Approach to Christianity Urged," *Washington Post and Times Herald*, 9/2/1955: 2. Mroszczyk, #8: 2.

Maryland Historical Trust

Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. M: 36-61

Name Silver Spring Baptist Church
Continuation Sheet

Number 8 Page 6

Montgomery County's population had doubled by 1950 and more than doubled in the following decade.⁴³ As young families moved to the suburbs churches provided support networks and a means for connecting with others in the community.⁴⁴ Churches began offering more programs, such as Sunday schools, and required more space. Overcrowded churches offering multiple services was cited as one reason why church attendance did not increase as much in the greater Washington, D.C. area as in the country as a whole.⁴⁵

With the postwar church building boom, there was a new focus on church design and planning and a call for reform in existing practices. The Department of Worship and the Arts and the Department of Church Building and Architecture, both part of the National Council of Churches, and the Church Architectural Guild of America were established.⁴⁶ There was an increase in church planning consulting firms which provided advice on how to create building and finance committees, how to allocate space, choose architects, buy land and meet code requirements.⁴⁷

Moving away from historical styles, the focus was now on modern architecture as the most appropriate for the mid-century church. A 1950 publication of *Liturgical Arts* wrote, "The church edifice today is intended for the people of our time. Hence it must be fashioned in such a way that the people of our times may recognize and feel that it is addressed to them."⁴⁸ The mid-century proponents of architectural reform for churches also tied modernism to an expression of the Protestant religion itself, "its honest use of materials and construction techniques, its adaptability to new shapes and forms, its freedom from ornamentation and symbolic context, its simplicity and unpretentiousness."⁴⁹ A 1957 exhibit of modern church architecture at the Washington Cathedral demonstrates the rising interest in modern church architecture.⁵⁰

RONALD SENSEMAN AND MID-CENTURY MODERNISM, LIFE, CAREER, AND ACCOLADES⁵¹

Ronald S. Senseman was a prolific architect and a master of versatility, designing more than 2,000 projects in his lifetime:⁵² including churches (50), schools and educational structures (150), university and college buildings, governmental and other office buildings, hospitals, senior living facilities, motels, hotels, military facilities, private homes, and apartments.⁵³ A Silver Spring resident, Senseman was especially known for his schools, churches, and

⁴³ MacMaster, 329. Mroszczyk, #8 2.

⁴⁴ Ellwood, 104. Mroszczyk #8: 2.

⁴⁵ "Capital an Irreligious City, Figures Indicate," *Washington Post*, 4/28/1951: 10. Mroszczyk, #8: 2.

⁴⁶ Anne C. Loveland, *From Meetinghouse to Megachurch: A Material and Cultural History* (Columbia: University of Missouri Press, 2003): 108. Mroszczyk, #8: 2.

⁴⁷ Allitt, 33. Mroszczyk, #8: 2.

⁴⁸ Albert Christ-Janier and Mary Mix Foley, *Modern Church Architecture: a guide to the form and spirit of 20th century religious buildings* (New York: McGraw-Hill, 1962): 2 quoting "Directives for the Building of a Church (by the Liturgical Commission for the Catholic Bishops of Germany)," *Liturgical Arts*, February 1950. Mroszczyk, #8: 2.

⁴⁹ Loveland, 110-111. Mroszczyk, #8: 2.

⁵⁰ "Cathedral Opens Architecture Show," *Washington Post and Times Herald*, 8/3/1957: C9. Mroszczyk, #8: 2.

⁵¹ Mroszczyk, Portions of this Subsection Drawn from HPC Document 36-61: #8: 2-4.

⁵² "Hospital, School Architect, Ronald Senseman," *Washington Post*, 2/6/2001: B7. Mroszczyk, #8: 3.

⁵³ *American Architects Directory*, 1955, 1962 and 1970. The American Institute of Architects (AIA) bibliographies list Senseman executing structures in 14 of 18 categories of construction.

Maryland Historical Trust

Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. M: 36-61

Name Silver Spring Baptist Church
Continuation Sheet

Number 8 Page 7

hospitals in the greater Washington, D.C., metropolitan area, elsewhere in the country, and abroad. He received much recognition for his work during his lifetime.⁵⁴

Ronald Senseman was born in 1912 in Collingswood, New Jersey, and graduated 1930 in architectural drawing at Camden County Vocational and Technical School, Pennsauken, NJ.⁵⁵ Prior to establishing his own firm in 1934 (at the age of 22), Senseman worked in 1930 to 1931 as a draftsman for Joseph N. Hettel, AIA, prominent N.J. architect,⁵⁶ in Camden, N.J., and in 1931 for the College Mill,⁵⁷ a student employed woodworking enterprise, at the Seventh Day Adventist Washington Missionary College,⁵⁸ Takoma Park, Md., and designed small residences privately. At the age of 19, newly enrolled in WMC, he designed his first commercial building in Takoma Junction on Carroll Ave. in Takoma Park, Md.⁵⁹ He was a student of architecture at Catholic University (1934-1936), and received its Outstanding Achievement Award in Architecture from the Alumni Association.⁶⁰

Senseman's 1936-1942 Greek and Colonial Revival Eugene Leland Memorial Hospital (now Crescent Cities Health and Rehabilitation Center) is the central and "most high style" structure in the West Riverdale National Register Historic District, and Prince George's County's first hospital.⁶¹ During World War II he was employed by the Office of Quartermaster General as an expert consultant, inventor, and wood technologist doing research and development work on Army equipment.⁶²

Senseman designed numerous churches in traditional styles. His 1947 Roanoke, Va., Catawba Mountain Stone Gothic church, engendered this praise: "This building is the realization of a dream long cherished by the Roanoke constituency Ronald Senseman of Takoma Park, planned a house of worship of unusual character and design which will always be a credit to his genius and ability as an architect"⁶³ His 1952 Gothic Revival Takoma Park

⁵⁴ "Hospital, School Architect, Ronald Senseman." *Washington Post*, 2/6/2001: B7, and [American Architects Directory](#), 1955, 1962 and 1970. Mroszczyk, #8: 4.

⁵⁵ Camden County Technical and Vocational School "Vocationlite," Graduation Photo, 6/1930: 6.

⁵⁶ Joseph Norman Hettel, AIA (1885-1957), <http://communities.aia.org/sites/hdoaa/wiki/Wiki%20Pages/ahd1019597.aspx>.

⁵⁷ His work experience at the College Mill of the Washington Missionary College in Takoma Park, Maryland, was running millwork, detailing and alteration work for the College, AIA Archives, Architects' Questionnaire, 1953.

⁵⁸ WMC, Later Potomac University, then Columbia Union College, now Washington Adventist University, Website 2010, http://www.wau.edu/index.php?option=com_content&view=category&layout=blog&id=172&Itemid=169.

⁵⁹ "Mr. Senseman, a student of Washington Missionary College, draws Piggly Wiggly Plansfor the Piggly Wiggly Store which is being constructed on Carroll Avenue," *Sligonian*, 12/23/1931: 3. (To serve next as Barcelona Nuts headquarters, and opening 2009 as Historic Takoma Inc's headquarters.)

⁶⁰ Awarded in 1967, "Hospital, School Architect Ronald Senseman," Obituary, *Washington Post*, 2/6/2001: B7; & "Celebrating the Life of Ronald S. Senseman, Oct. 19, 1912, to Feb. 3, 2001," Funeral Service Program, 2/7/2001.

⁶¹ <http://www.nps.gov/nr/listings/20030103.htm>: MARYLAND, PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY, **West Riverdale Historic District**, Roughly bounded by East-West Hwy, 44th Place, the City of Hyattsville and 43rd St., Riverdale Park, **02001609, LISTED, 12/23/02**. From EHT Tracerics Inc., Treischman, Laura, Senseman's Leland Memorial Hospital of the West Riverdale Historic District, <http://mht.maryland.gov/nr/NRDetail.aspx?HDID=1394&COUNTY=Prince%20Georges&FROM=NRCOUNTYList.aspx?COUNTY=Prince%20Georges>, 12/23/2001. Photo and Links, http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Leland_Hospital_Sept_09.JPG. *National Register of Historic Places listings in Prince George's...* There are 89 properties and districts listed on the *National Register* in the 01970-04-17 April 17, 1970, 2.1 miles east of Laurel on Maryland Route 197..... community that includes the former *Eugene Leland Memorial Hospital*; EHT Tracerics National Register Nomination, MHT Nomination form.

⁶² American Institute of Architects, Archives, "Senseman."

⁶³ Pastor L.H. King, in *Columbia Union Visitor*, 8/14/1947, Volume 52, No. 33: 4-5.

Maryland Historical Trust

Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. M: 36-61

Name Silver Spring Baptist Church
Continuation Sheet

Number 8 Page 8

Seventh-Day Adventist and SDA's Worldwide Headquarters Church, at Carroll, Laurel, and Willow Avenues in the center of Takoma Park's CBD is "... perhaps the finest pearl in the chain of Adventist churches across the country,"⁶⁴. President Dwight Eisenhower sent a congratulatory telegram to its highly celebrated opening.⁶⁵ It resides as an "outstanding resource" within the Takoma Park, Md., Historic District.⁶⁶

His early modernist proclivity is featured in his 1939 Seventh-Day Adventist Theological Seminary, Worldwide SDA Headquarters for the General Conference of 7th Day Adventists, 6830 Laurel Ave., Takoma, D.C.; designed when he was 27 years old.⁶⁷ His Seminary building graced the cover of the October 1956 *The Ministry for World Evangelism, Seminary Special*.⁶⁸ "It is modern in design; [three stories] constructed of buff brick trimmed in Indiana limestone, and has metal door and window frames. The architect was Ronald Senseman."⁶⁹

Senseman received awards and accolades for his creative modern public school designs to accommodate the burgeoning post war enrollment. In 1949 for Oak View Elementary School, Senseman received the Washington Board of Trade's Certificate of Merit biennial award for "meritorious architectural design and construction."⁷⁰ In 1951 Senseman was awarded a certificate of architectural merit for developing and utilizing an economical two-stage construction technique, among other innovations, for two of his Montgomery County public school buildings.⁷¹ These same techniques were applied to six other of his Montgomery County schools, and his lightweight steel construction to at least 9 schools in Levittown, N.J.⁷² He also designed schools in Washington, DC,⁷³ Prince Georges County, and Arlington, Va. *Progressive Architecture* magazine devoted a story to a laudatory critique of Senseman's

⁶⁴ Kenneth Dole, Staff Reporter, "Adventist Elder Mansell Marks His Day of Reward." *Washington Post*, 11/17/1952: B12

⁶⁵ Takoma Park 7th Day Adventist Gothic Revival Church graced the cover of "*The Columbia Union Visitor*," 11/29/1956, Vol. 61, # 48, and pages 2, 6, 7, 8, article and with photos with permission of architect Senseman. President Dwight Eisenhower's telegram said, "Congratulations for the faith and sacrifice required to complete this project. Your church is a splendid addition to the religious life of the capital city. In it you will gain inspiration for continued service for God and neighbor" (President Dwight Eisenhower).

⁶⁶ Takoma Park, Md., Historic District Inventory, Takoma Park Resources, Appendix A, 1976.

⁶⁷ "School Building Designed," *Washington Post*, 12/17/1939: R5. (Currently, Strayer University Headquarters.)

⁶⁸ Vol. XXIX, No. 10, see attached photo. & "Theological Seminary building erected in Takoma Park," *The Adventist Review & Sabbath Herald Centennial Special, 1844-1944, Adventist Review Anniversary Issue for 1945*, Vol. 121, No. 42: 52, 70.

⁶⁹ "Theological Seminary Dedication," by Ruth Conard, *The Advent Review* 2/13/1941, Vol. 118, No. 7: 2.

⁷⁰ "Board of Trade Honors Owners, Architects and Builders of Eye-Appealing Structures," *Washington Post*, 3/17/1949: 9, by Conrad Harness. The 3 nationally famous architects judging were Leopold Arnaud, Columbia University Architecture professor, John F. Harbeson, architect, Philadelphia, and Edward D. Stone, architect, New York. Thomas H. Locraft was Chairman of the BOT architecture and architectural Awards Committee. One of only 12 structures out of 147 vying to receive this award.

⁷¹ "Strict Building Economies Are Emphasized in Two Schools Winning Washington Board of Trade Architectural Awards," for Rolling Terrace and Veirs Mill Elementary Schools, designed by Senseman. The judges were Pietro Belluschi, dean of the School of Architecture and Planning at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and a member of the District Fine Arts Commission; John W. Root, senior partner of the Chicago firm of Holabird and Root and Burgee; and Lewis Skidmore of the New York firm of Skidmore, Owings and Merrill. Senseman stated, "Nothing was incorporated in the design that was not completely functional. Our effort was to achieve the utmost simplicity of design and economy in construction, and at the same time provide classrooms quickly in a building that could be expanded and yet represent a unified structure when finally completed." *Evening Star*, 4/14/1951: B1 with photos.

⁷² Senseman was called the Pioneer Architect of the component structural system for schools, an economical, lightweight steel construction frame application. Senseman's Nomination for Fellowship (revised), Nominee's Achievement in Architectural Design, 10/22/65, Page 4b.

⁷³ Eugene Meyer Elementary School, D.C., 1961-1963, "New Eugene Meyer School," "Designed for 1,076 students...34 classrooms." Fallout shelter in basement. *Washington Post*, 12/23/61: B1. Abraham Lincoln Elementary School, D.C., 1965, AIA Archives.

Maryland Historical Trust

Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. M: 36-61

Name Silver Spring Baptist Church
Continuation Sheet

Number 8 Page 9

architectural expertise and “progressive” elementary school design amid numerous planning challenges.⁷⁴

By the time he designed the Silver Spring Baptist Church, Senseman was already well-known for his work not only on educational buildings, but also hospitals, including the Washington Sanitarium and Hospital in Takoma Park, Md., 1951, and government buildings such as the Department of the Army Biologic Products Research Lab at Walter Reed Medical Center, Wash., D.C., 1954, and the modern “monumental” Montgomery County Council Office Building in Rockville, MD, 1950-1953.⁷⁵

Senseman’s office was located at 327 Carroll Avenue, NW, Washington, D.C., from 1946 until 1953.⁷⁶ In 1954, Senseman relocated his office to the top, third, floor of his International Style, and the first air conditioned office building on Georgia Avenue (7705) in Washington, DC.⁷⁷ Senseman supervised his architectural firm that numbered over time up to 35 employees.⁷⁸ His office trained many architects.⁷⁹ Senseman and Stewart Bainum, builder of his Georgia Ave. office headquarters, (and Bainum’s Park Offices, Inc.), partnered to create the modern Park ‘Motor Hotel’ system, ultimately becoming Quality Court Motels: in Maryland, “Park Silver” (Silver Spring), 1955, “Park University” (College Park), and “Park Towson” (Towson), 1959, and the “Park Arlington” in Virginia, 1961.⁸⁰ Senseman’s Schrafts Restaurant contains “Googie” detailing.⁸¹ Senseman also designed Sheraton Hotels.⁸²

Senseman played a leading role in establishing the Potomac Valley Chapter of the American Institute of Architects in

⁷⁴ *Progressive Architecture* July 1950, “This school [Forest Grove] is an unusually good illustration of the essentially plastic quality of architectural design—and the inter-relation of all factors, from land contours to the comfort of those who use the building...The project is also a good argument for the adaptability of progressive design. The stylized Georgian school, formal and symmetrical, would have found poor harbor on this site.”

⁷⁵ “County Plans Offices Costing Over \$1 Million,” *Washington Post*, May 25, 1950: 7. “Monumental” is Senseman’s adjective, AIA Archives, “Senseman.” Art Deco and International styles. Of buff brick and limestone trim in an E shape, its main entrance shines with a surround of polished Carnelian granite or marble. Senseman weaves Art Deco elements, with a zigzag motif beneath the roofline of the building, (and in its lobby, with its curved marble reception desk, terrazzo floor, brushed aluminum/stainless steel elevator doors, stairwell doors, and other). Senseman also incorporates the International Style with “strip windows.” County offices move in September, 1953. Silver Spring Historical Society.

⁷⁶ Earlier office was located at 1100 Carroll Ave, Takoma Park, MD, (1944) AIA Archives.

⁷⁷ Questionnaire for Architects’ Roster and/or Register of Architects for Federal Public Works, Ronald S. Senseman (firm), American Institute of Architects, September 27, 1946, and March 5, 1953, AIA Historical Directory of American Architects. <http://www.aia.org/about/history/aia082017> [last accessed March 17, 2010]; & “A New Building for Georgia Ave,” *Washington*

Post and Times Herald, 10/10/1954: R13, “Records of the Columbia Historical Society of Washington D.C., 1966-1968,” Edited with an Introduction by Francis Coleman Rosenberger, 1969, ‘Marching Up Georgia: A Tour of Historic Georgia Avenue,’ by Arthur Hecht, 316.

⁷⁸ AIA Archives, Senseman, “Qualifications for Regional Director,” 1958.

⁷⁹ Professor of Architecture Isabelle Gournay, University of Maryland research, 10/14/2005. “Senseman was certainly a major player in the post war suburban MD design scene.”

⁸⁰ “Work Started on \$1.5 Million Motel,” *Washington Post*, 6/17/1961: D4, with photo. Fabricated with unusual materials: “Exterior of the 3-story, contemporary motel, designed by Ronald Senseman AIA . . . colorful glass and porcelain panels, rubble stone and face brick with ribboned wrought iron railings and terra cotta grill work. The folded plate roof adds to the contemporary flavor. One hundred and ten rooms will be built into the original structure, with site room available for expansion. There will be a large swimming pool, cabana club and recreation room.” “Schraft’s will operate restaurant facilities.”

⁸¹ [PARK ARLINGTON MOTEL SCHRAFT’S RESTAURANT VA 1963 AD - eBay \(item ...](#)

2/19/2010 ... “Armstrong Adhesive brightens pleated façade.” ARMSTRONG ADHESIVE LANCASTER, PA. ARCHITECT: RONALD SENSEMAN, WASHINGTON DC...

⁸² “Celebrating the Life of Ronald S. Senseman,” 2001.

Maryland Historical Trust

Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. M: 36-61

Name Silver Spring Baptist Church

Continuation Sheet

Number 8 Page 10

1955,⁸³ acting as its first president, and was awarded Fellowship status in 1966.⁸⁴ Senseman was unanimously nominated for elevation to AIA Fellow for "Service to the Institute and Design," and inducted for "notable contribution in Service to the Profession"⁸⁵ A "coveted award": at that time there were only 698 Fellows representing 3.8% of the AIA membership. The Washington Metropolitan area had only 25 Fellows.⁸⁶ Senseman was registered as an architect in 14 states, and Washington, D.C., was NCARB certified, and qualified for Federal Public Works projects.⁸⁷ The Montgomery County Council in 1965 appointed Senseman to Chair "For a More Beautiful Montgomery County" Committee, for which he received much praise.⁸⁸

One of Ronald Senseman's earliest church buildings was the Gothic Revival Hyattsville Seventh-Day Adventist Church constructed in 1938.⁸⁹ This building was constructed towards the end of a period in which historical revival styles were giving way to more non-traditional styles. Senseman designed another Gothic Revival building for the Silver Spring Seventh-day Adventists, at 8900 Colesville Road, of which he was a member, which opened in 1950 just a few blocks from the future site of the Silver Spring Baptist Church.⁹⁰ Both the Hyattsville and the Silver Spring Adventist churches were featured in a series of articles written in 1952 by Senseman for *The Advent Review and Sabbath Herald*, a publication of the Seventh-day Adventists, adding to the growing literature and field of church planning and design.⁹¹ In his first article, "Building a Church," Senseman explains the importance of careful design and planning of church buildings and describes the general move away from more traditional designs:

"There is no doubt that churches today, especially the nonliturgical churches, are taking liberties with these historic types. This is brought about many times because the limited means of the congregation may require that all nonessentials be removed. This stylizing of traditional types alone does not make a truly contemporary church, as the modernist knows it, because the general plan in all probability would remain traditional, the change being in the façade."⁹²

⁸³ "The newly formed Potomac Valley Chapter of the American Institute of Architects held its first luncheon meeting for the 1955-56 year in Silver Spring...President Ronald Senseman will represent the PV Chapter next week at the American Congress Of Architects at Caracas, Venezuela." *Washington Post*, 9/18/1955: G9.

⁸⁴ "The State of Real Estate," *Washington Post and Times Herald*, 6/12/1955: G3 and "Four Architects Advanced," *Washington Post and Times Herald*, 5/21/1966: F18. Mroszczyk, #8: 4.

⁸⁵ AIA Archives, 9/9/1964 Potomac Valley Executive Committee Nomination Letter. See Document Number 8: 66-70.

⁸⁶ *Columbia Union Visitor*, "Silver Spring Architect Gets Professional Award," 6/2/1966: 9. AIA Press Release, Wash., D.C.: "Four local architects ... advanced to Fellowship in The American Institute of Architects....lifetime honor," 5/14/1966, AIA Archives.

⁸⁷ AIA, *American Architects Directory*, 1970: 824. <http://communities.aia.org/sites/hdoaa/wiki/Wiki%20Pages/ahd1040362.aspx>. NCARB-National Council of Architectural Registration Boards.

⁸⁸ "Potomac Valley Architect Beautification Report 1963-1966," "The formation of this organization in 1965 was greeted with enthusiasm by architects, businessmen, civic and garden groups, all of whom are represented on this Committee under the Chairmanship of RONALD S. SENSEMAN, FAIA," page 8.

⁸⁹ "Adventists Worship in New Church," *Washington Post*, 1/8/1939: 12. Mroszczyk, #8: 3.

⁹⁰ "Adventists Plan New Church in Silver Spring," *Washington Post*, 7/31/1945: 8. Mroszczyk #8: 3.

⁹¹ Eleven articles on all aspects of "Building a Church," covering topics to help religious congregations in selecting a site, architect, design, contractor and quality building materials. Senseman believed that "any church, regardless of style, might well retain the orderliness, permanence and religious and emotional appeal of the medieval church. Our churches should inspire rather than offend, and should produce a warm, quiet and friendly feeling."

⁹² Ronald S. Senseman, "Building a Church," *Adventist Review and Sabbath Herald*, 1/3/1952: 3. Mroszczyk, #8: 3

Maryland Historical Trust

Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. M: 36-61

Name Silver Spring Baptist Church

Continuation Sheet

Number 8 Page 11

It is clear from this publication that by the time Senseman designed the Silver Spring Baptist Church he was immersed in the on-going discourse on the place of modernism in religious architecture. He cautioned, "Regardless of the style of architecture of our churches, they must be, first, a house of God; they should be distinctive and readily recognized as a place of worship. The facade should, even to the casual observer, reflect the purpose for which it was intended.

It should not look like an auditorium or a place of amusement or a post office," a reaffirmation of a statement made by Martin Anderson in his 1949 publication *Planning and Financing the New Church* one of the many church planning advice books published in the 1940s and 1950s.⁹³

Senseman was awarded a Doctorate in Fine Arts in 1999 by the John Nevins Andrews University in Berrien Springs, Michigan, for his lifelong career in architecture.⁹⁴ He donated his extensive collection of rare and valuable books to the Architecture Resource Center at John Nevins Andrews University. It contains about 250 books, some original rendered and technical drawings, art work, and photographs. Senseman taught architecture at several local universities and published numerous articles in this field. He was a member of many service and civic organizations and ran for public office.⁹⁵ Senseman resided in the home he designed at 10718 Gatewood Ave. in Burnt Mills Hills, Silver Spring, MD from 1981 until his death in 2001.⁹⁶ Since 1953, he had lived next door at 901 McCeney Avenue, a long-term Silver Spring, Montgomery County, resident.

Senseman's 1956 Church is his only mid-century modernist structure in Silver Spring; a robust presence, a bold anchor. His other modernist structures reside elsewhere, including the 1939 7th Day Adventist Theological Seminary Building, Covenant Baptist Church,⁹⁷ First Church of the Nazarene,⁹⁸ First Baptist Church of Deanwood,⁹⁹ all in Washington, DC.; Montgomery County Office Building, Rockville, Maryland; Theological Seminary and Administration Buildings, Andrews University, Berrien Springs, Mich.; and Church of India, Vellore, India, to name a few.

⁹³ Allitt, 15. Mroszczyk, #8: 3. See also Senseman's philosophy contained in AIA Documents, #8: 67-68.

⁹⁴ "FOCUS, The Andrews University Magazine," Summer 1999, Vol. 35, No. 3: 6, with photo. He designed the modernistic Andrews University Seminary Building 1960 and Administration Building 1964. The Seminary Hall Chapel is featured on the cover of "*Lake Union Herald Commencement Special*," 6/13/1961, Vol. LII, No 24: 4-5, with photo, when the Seminary was dedicated. "Seminary Hall is the official name of the new home of the SDA Theological Seminary...." "More than 1,000 persons were on hand for the dedication of the new Seminary Hall." The Administration Building is featured on front and back covers of the "*Lake Union Herald*," 5/3/1966, Vol. 58, # 18: 2, 19, with photo. Senseman's FAIA Collection resides at John Nevins Andrews University, Berrien Springs, Michigan.

⁹⁵ AIA Archives, 9/9/1964 Nominating Committee Letter. Senseman was bestowed Member Emeritus of AIA in 1988.

⁹⁶ AIA Historical Directory of American Architects, & "Hospital, School Architect, Ronald Senseman." *Washington Post*, 2/6/2001: B7.

⁹⁷ *Places of Worship in the District of Columbia*, Scott, Pamela, 2000 (no page numbers). www.cbcwdc.org/about-us/history.html

⁹⁸ Senseman's Rendered Drawing, "Church of the Nazarene," FAIA Collection, Andrews University, Architectural Resource Center.

⁹⁹ "Community Outreach Update," by Patsy Fletcher, *Landmarks Newsletter*, Spring 2008: 3 "...First Baptist Church of Deanwood [is] a DC, Landmark.... A large [sanctuary and education building] addition constructed in 1962 is set perpendicular to the 1929 building. Designed by the architectural firm of Ronald E. [sic] Senseman, the addition is a handsome example of the mid century Modern aesthetic." *HISTORIC PRESERVATION REVIEW BOARD*, Feb 19, 2008 "... nomination to the National Register of the Historic Places, ... The addition was designed by the Silver Spring architectural firm of Ronald E. [sic] Senseman and provides a good, handsome example of a mid-century Modern building..." www.planning.dc.gov/lib/.../preservation/.../1st_baptist_of_deanwood_.pdf

Maryland Historical Trust

Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. M: 36-61

Name Silver Spring Baptist Church

Continuation Sheet

Number 8 Page 12

2002 HISTORIC RESOURCES SURVEY REPORT

The 2002 Historic Resources Survey Report (by Potomac-Hudson Engineering, Inc), was commissioned by Montgomery County to provide an assessment of the National Register eligibility of buildings 50 years or older within the Silver Spring CBD, as one mitigation for demolition of the Montgomery County Master Plan 1927 Silver Spring National Guard Armory.¹⁰⁰ Neither Baptist Church structure was ever evaluated on its merits for National Register eligibility. The report erroneously referred to the 1926-1931 parsonage and auditorium as being constructed in 1950, and stated that: "As a religious property, this building is not eligible for the National Register, as religious properties "are not generally eligible." The Consultant did not review the 1956 Baptist Church, presumably because he thought all churches ineligible and/or the fact that it wasn't 50 years old at the time of the survey. There are several thousand churches on the National Register throughout the nation, 55 individually nominated alone in Washington, D.C., and many others located within historic districts.¹⁰¹

¹⁰⁰ Montgomery County Historic Preservation Commission Archives, 2002.

¹⁰¹ "There are several thousand churches on the National Register throughout the nation," Patrick Andrus (NPS), and "55 individually nominated alone in Washington, D.C., and many others located within historic districts," Anne Brockett, (D.C. Preservation Office) July 2010 from phone conversation and email.

Maryland Historical Trust

Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. M: 36-61

Name Silver Spring Baptist Church
Continuation Sheet

Number 8 Page 13

Architectural Legacy of Ronald S. Senseman, Representative Buildings:

DATE	NAME/Building	ADDRESS	STYLE/Building Type	STATUS/Comments
1931-32	Piggly Wiggly	Takoma Park, MD	Commercial Block 1 Story	Historic Takoma HQ
1936-39	College Press Building	Takoma Park, WAU	Industrial	Modified, WAU ¹⁰²
1936-39	H.M.S. Richards "Normal"	Takoma Park, WAU	Georgian School	Education Classrooms
1936-42	Leland Memorial Hospital	West Riverdale, MD	Greek/Colonial Revival	N.R. Hist. Dist. Resource
1938	Hyattsville SDA Church	Hyattsville, MD	Gothic Revival	
1938	John Nevins Andrews ES	Takoma Park, MD	Modern/International	SDA Elementary ¹⁰³
1939-41	SDA Theological Seminary	Takoma, DC	Modern/Neo-Classical	Worldwide SDA HQ
1940	Atlantic Union College	South Lancaster, MA	Colonial Revival	Women's Residence ¹⁰⁴
1942	Campus Library	Takoma Park, WAU	Colonial Revival	Main Library, Marble Interior
1945-52	Atlantic Union College	South Lancaster, MA	Federal style	Administration Building ¹⁰⁵
1946-55	Hadley Memorial Hospital	SW Washington, DC	Modern	SDA Hospital ¹⁰⁶
1947	Halcyon Hall	Takoma Park, WAU	Colonial Revival/Art Deco detail	Women's Dormitory ¹⁰⁷
1947	Catawba Mountain SDA	Roanoke, VA	Stone Gothic Church	Praised
1948	Fasanko Car Dealership	College Park MD		Presently Laundromat ¹⁰⁸
1948	Oak View Elementary	Silver Spring, MD	Senseman School Design	Wash. Board of Trade Award
1949	Oak View Elementary	Silver Spring, MD	Senseman School Design	Addition ¹⁰⁹
1949-50	Forest Grove Elem.	Silver Spring, MD	Senseman School Design	Award
1951	Rolling Terrace Elem.	Silver Spring, MD	School	Wash Board of Trade Award
1951-52	Veirs Mill Elem School	Silver Spring, MD	School Bldg	Wash Board of Trade Award
1950	Silver Spring SDA Church	Silver Spring, MD	Gothic Revival	Senseman Church Member
1950	Takoma Park Fire House	Takoma Park, MD	Remodeling	AIA and SS Bd. Trade Award
1951	Washington Sanitarium	Takoma Park, MD	Modern Hospital	Adjacent to WMC Campus
1951	Takoma Academy	Takoma Park, MD	Senseman School Design	SDA High School ¹¹⁰

¹⁰² "Thirty-Five Years of Growth & Building Progress at W.M.C.," *Sligonian*, May 12, 1939: 2-3. Senseman designed six buildings for the Washington Missionary College, now Washington Adventist University (WAU) in Takoma Park, MD, at Carroll and Flower Aves. between 1939 and the 1960s; five are intact, the sixth is modified; all are vitally serving WAU, including WMC College Press Bldg., "Normal" Education Hall, Campus Library, Halcyon Hall Women's Dormitory, Campus Center/Wilkinson Hall, Morrison Hall Men's Dormitory.

¹⁰³ "Bank Architect Has Designed Many Types of Buildings," *Silver Spring Standard-Montgomery Independent*, 4/30/1942.

¹⁰⁴ "Distant Tangents to Washington Missionary College," *Sligonian*, 8/30/1940, Vol. 25, No. 19: 2.

¹⁰⁵ "Recent Expansion at College," *Atlantic Union Gleaner*, 3/11/1952, Vol. LI, No. 11: 1, with Photo, South Lancaster, Mass. "Members of the board, constituency, faculty, and students, as well as faithful members throughout the union, are justly proud of the new modern, spacious administration building at Atlantic Union College." Senseman designed its federal style Administration Building, 1945, dedicated 1952, which includes its Library, auditorium seating for 1,250 people, classrooms, executive and teacher offices, and college store.

¹⁰⁶ "Hadley Memorial Hospital to be Dedicated" *Washington Post*, 5/13/1955: 26. AIA Archives, Architects' Roster, Senseman.

¹⁰⁷ "Ronald Senseman, instructor in architecture, recently honored for his designing of Halcyon Hall...." *Columbia Union Visitor*, 2/22/1951: 6-7. 1950 Honorable Mention Award, "Ronald Senseman, for Regional Director Qualifications," AIA Archives. "Beautiful new Halcyon Hall for young women, a commodious brick and steel structure, exquisitely designed for efficiency and convenience is rapidly rising and will soon accommodate 158 girls." *Columbia Union Visitor*, 6/12/1947, Vol. 52: 24.

¹⁰⁸ Professor Isabelle Gournay, *Modern Movement in Maryland*, University of Maryland Research, 10/14/2005.

¹⁰⁹ "Planned for Elementary Education," *School Board Journal*, September, 1949: 41-43.

Maryland Historical Trust

Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. M: 36-61

Name Silver Spring Baptist Church
Continuation Sheet

Number 8 Page 14

Architectural Legacy of Ronald S. Senseman, Representative Buildings (Cont.):

DATE	NAME/Building	ADDRESS	STYLE/Building Type	STATUS/Comments
1952	Council Office Building	Rockville, MD	Art Deco, International	Montgomery County
1952	Takoma Pk Baptist Ed. Bldg.	NW, Washington, DC	Modified Gothic Revival	Matches 1923 Church ¹¹⁰
1952	SDA General Conference	Takoma Park, MD	Office Bldg Addition	Senseman AIA Archives
1952	Eastern Junior High School	Silver Spring, MD	Modern	Senseman AIA Archives
1952	Highland Elem School	Silver Spring, MD	Modern	Senseman AIA Archives
1952	Kessinger, A.J., Residence			Award Hon Men AIA ¹¹²
1952-54	Takoma Park SDA Church	Takoma Park, MD	Gothic Revival	Outstanding Resource in HD
1953	Kings Daughters Hospital	Martinsburg, WV		Senseman AIA Archives
1953	Wheaton High School	Wheaton, MD	Modern	Senseman AIA Archives
1953-54	Office Building	NW, Washington, DC	Modern, International	Senseman's Office, AC ¹¹³
1954	Medical Ctr. Research Lab	NW, Washington, DC		Walter Reed Hospital ¹¹⁴
1954	Church of the Nazarene	NW, Wash, DC	Modern	Senseman AIA Archives
1954	Roberta Park Apts.	Indianapolis, IN		Senseman AIA Archives
1954	United States Travel Agency	Washington, D.C.		Hon. Men., AIA, Md. Div. ¹¹⁵
1954-56	St John Evangelical Lutheran	Ellicott City, MD		Gournay, I, U of Md.
1954-57	Covenant Baptist Church	SE, Wash, DC	Modern, Roman, Intern ¹¹⁶	Scott, Pamela
1955	Wheaton Presbyterian	Wheaton, MD	Colonial Revival/Georgian	Gournay, I, U of Md.
1955-56	Mount Vernon Church	Mt. Vernon, OH	Colonial	<i>Columbia Union Visitor</i> ¹¹⁷
1956	Mrs. Helen Marino Home	Annapolis, MD	Modern	AIA Award for Design ¹¹⁸
1956	First Baptist Church of SS	Silver Spring, MD	Modern, Roman, Art Deco	Historic Nominee
1956	Dallas Park Motel	Dallas, Texas	Motel	Award Potomac Valley AIA
1956-57	Park Silver	Silver Spring, CBD, MD	Motel	Quality Court ¹¹⁹
1958	Stow-A-Way Motel	Ocean City, MD	Motel	Award of Merit, PVC-AIA

¹¹⁰ "Ronald Senseman, instructor in architecture, recently honored for his designing of Halcyon Hall, drew the plans for the new building [Takoma Academy, 8120 Carroll Ave.] It will be a one-story, L-shaped building and will be constructed in the area known as 'Forty Acres.'" *Columbia Union Visitor*, 2/22/1951: 6-7.

¹¹¹ Aspen St. at Piney Branch Rd. Takoma, DC. 1952 and 1923 date stones. "Cornerstone Rites Held in Takoma Park," *Washington Post*, 6/9/1952:

14. Senseman's Architects' Roster Questionnaire, AIA, # 7, "Representative Works," 3/5/1953.

¹¹² Senseman AIA Archives.

¹¹³ "Certificate of Award" from Potomac Valley Chapter of Maryland, AIA, 1956, AIA Archives.

¹¹⁴ Department of the Army Biologic Products Research Lab at Walter Reed Medical Center, Senseman AIA Archives.

¹¹⁵ Senseman AIA Archives.

¹¹⁶ "Founded 1945... the church moved to its present location in 1950, with completion and dedication a new educational building. An adjoining second building housing a commodious sanctuary and additional educational space, was dedicated in 1958 ..." Covenant Baptist Church, www.cbcdwc.org/about_us/history.html; *Places of Worship in the District of Columbia*, by Pamela Scott, 2000.

¹¹⁷ "Mount Vernon Church," *Columbia University Visitor*, 9/22/1955, Vol. 60, No. 38: 2.

¹¹⁸ "Maryland Architectural Award Winners," with photo of home, *Washington Post*, 6/17/1956: G8. AIA Potomac Valley Chapter awarded Senseman/Harold Esten Associates its First Place Award for residential design for the home designed and built for Mrs. Helen Marino, Annapolis, MD.

¹¹⁹ "162-Room County Motor Hotel Planned," *Washington Post*, 1/1/1955: 16. (Park Motels became Quality Inns and now 2010 Choice Motel system.), & McCoy, Jerry A. and the Silver Spring Historical Society, *Historic Silver Spring*, 2005: 56.

Maryland Historical Trust

Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. M: 36-61

Name Silver Spring Baptist Church
Continuation Sheet

Number 8 Page 15

Architectural Legacy of Ronald S. Senseman, Representative Buildings (Cont.):

DATE	NAME/Building	ADDRESS	STYLE/Building Type	STATUS/Comments
1958-60	Takoma Academy	Takoma Park, MD	SDA High School	Addition ¹²⁰
1959	Park Towson Motel	Towson, MD	Motor Hotel	PVA/PVC, 4, 10/1/1959
1959	Ascension Lutheran	Landover Hills, MD	Modernist	Gournay, I, U of Md. ¹²¹
1960	SDA Seminary Bldg.	Berrien Springs, MI	Modernist	John Nevins Andrews Univ.
1960	Eisenhower Hall Bldg.	Fort McNair, Wash, DC	Modern	Indust.Coll. Armd Forces ¹²²
1960-62	First Baptist Church of:	Deanwood, NW, DC	Mid-Century Modernist	Main Sanctuary/Ed. Bldg.
1961	Park Arlington Motel	Arlington, Va.	Googie, Ziggurat	Schraft's Restaurant
1961-63	Eugene Meyer Elem. School,	Wash, DC	Modern, Zigzag Motif	Wash Post, 12/23/1961
1962	Pawtucket SDA Church	Pawtucket, RI,	A-Frame	Stone ¹²³
1962	Stardust Motel	Ocean City, MD	Motor Court	Gournay, I, U of Md.
1962	Wheaton Nursing Home	Wheaton, MD		Gournay, I, U of Md.
1963	St. Martin's Evangelical	Annapolis, MD	Modernist, A-Frame	Lutheran Church ¹²⁴
1963-64	Sligo Adventist Elementary	Takoma Park, MD	SDA School	"Googie" Zigzag Pavilion ¹²⁵
1964	Administration Bldg.	Berrien Springs, MI	Modernist	John Nevins Andrews Univ.
1964	Wytheville SDA Church	Wytheville, Virginia	Modern, A-Frame	Praised ¹²⁶
1965	Abraham Lincoln ES	Wash, DC	School	Senseman AIA Archives
1965	Springvale Terrace	Silver Spring, MD	Modern/Colonial	Elderly Home ¹²⁷
1960c	Morrison Hall	Takoma Park, WAU	Modified Georgian	Men's Residence ¹²⁸
1968-69	Wilkinson Hall	Takoma Park, WAU	Modern/International	Campus Center/Admin ¹²⁹
1969	Kensington Park Library	Kensington, MD	Modern	Senseman on Celebratory Plaque
1969	Atlantic Union College	South Lancaster, MA	Federalist	Library

¹²⁰ "New Addition at Academy," *Columbia Union Visitor*, rendering, 8/21/1958, Vol. 63, No. 34:6-7. "New Addition at Takoma Academy," *Columbia Union Visitor*, 8/21/1958, Vol. 65, No. 22: 3.

¹²¹ "Architects Report," Winter 1959.

¹²² "President [Eisenhower] Dedicates New Home of U.S. Industrial College" *Washington Post, Times Herald*, 9/7/1960: C5. & Ft. McNair Historic District, D.C. Inventory of Historic Sites 2009, Contributing Structure, Listed 1964, & AIA Archives, *American Architects Directory*, 1970: 824. http://planning.dc.gov/planning/frames.asp?doc=/planning/lib/planning/preservation/inventory/2009_alpha_version.pdf

¹²³ "Services held for the first time, 5/19/1962," *Review & Herald*, 7/19/1962: 11 with photo.

¹²⁴ Senseman's FAIA Nominee's "Achievement in Architectural Design," Type, "Special," Nomination to FAIA," 10/22/1965: 3.

¹²⁵ "New Sligo School to Provide Additional Facilities," *Columbia Union Visitor*, 7/2/1964, Vol. 69, # 27: 6-7. <http://www.sligoadventistschool.org/> photo at top. & "Dignitaries at Sligo School Groundbreaking -1963," Sligo SDA Church, Sligo History:1902-1969, photo and caption, "...Ron Senseman, Architect." http://www.sligochurch.org/photo_albums/1287/photos/106287

¹²⁶ A-Frame native field stone, church, its exterior and portions of its interior garnered much praise: Groundbreaking, 1961, and "Dedicated January 25, 1964, in a sacred and beautiful ceremony.... About 2-and-1-half years of concentrated and consecrated effort, under Dr. W. E. Malin, Chairman of the Building Committee, has produced for this section of the Potomac Conference an appropriate monument to our Maker and our King."-Press Sec. Carl F. Laubach, *Columbia Union Visitor*, 5/28/1964, Vol. 69, No. 22: 7.

¹²⁷ Senseman's FAIA Nominee's "Achievement in Architectural Design," Type, "Special," Nomination to FAIA," 10/22/1965: 3.

¹²⁸ "New Dormitory to Be Built at WMC," w. photo, *Columbia Union Visitor*, Vol. 65, No. 48, 12/1/1960: 1, "A dean's apartment, chapel, intercommunication system, recreation room and kitchen, and temporary classrooms and teachers' offices ... are to be included in this new structure."

¹²⁹ "Campus Center Construction to Begin in April," w. photo, *Columbia Union Visitor*, 4/4/1968: 3.

Maryland Historical Trust

Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. M: 36-61

Name Silver Spring Baptist Church
Continuation Sheet

Number 8 Page 16

Architectural Legacy of Ronald S. Senseman, Representative Buildings (Cont.):

DATE	NAME/Building	ADDRESS	STYLE/Building Type	STATUS/Comments
1969	Nehru Memorial	New Delhi, India ¹³⁰		
1975	Church of India	Vellore, India	Modern, Gothic ¹³¹	
1981	Senseman's Residence	Burnt Mills Hills, SS, MD	Modern Home	
1989	Doctors Medical Park Cent.	Silver Spring, MD	Subterranean Bldg	Clinical Radiology Facility ¹³²

CONCLUSION

The Silver Spring Baptist Church established its ecclesiastical presence in Silver Spring, MD., in 1924 with about a dozen founders, growing to approximately 1200 members by 1956, a milestone in church history, and it has remained strong and vital throughout the present time. The Silver Spring Baptist Church established its permanence through a series of religious structures that remain today, commencing in 1925-1931 with its Colonial Revival Parsonage and Sanctuary, built on a prominent town crossroad and reflecting the growth of Silver Spring from a bucolic railroad suburb of "Washington City" to a burgeoning City in its own right; by the 1950s, the second largest in Maryland.

The church initially met in iconic Silver Spring buildings and businesses with assembly space, and by 1931 constructed its own Colonial Revival auditorium serving as its Sanctuary, and for Sunday School, and by 1950 a temporary Sanctuary, both additions to the 1925 Parsonage. These structures are the oldest religious church buildings remaining in the Silver Spring Central Business District. By 1956 plans were completed and work commenced on the reserved corner site for the permanent Sanctuary that exemplified a change in values and tastes in the booming Montgomery County suburbs towards acceptance of more modernist views and lifestyles. Constructed in an evolutionary architectural style transitioning from the traditional Colonial Revival characteristics exhibited in the Parsonage and its Sanctuary auditorium, to a highly stylized and simplified vocabulary with other modernist elements incorporated, this monumental church is one of the first Modernist churches built in Montgomery County.

¹³⁰ "Ronald Senseman a well-known designer of churches and public buildings took a leading part in designing the Nehru Memorial for New Delhi." *South Asia Tidings*, 11/1969, Volume 64, No. 11:4

¹³¹ *Review & Herald*, 11/6/1975: 20, with photo. "D. R. Watts, South India Union President, was the speaker at the dedication services of the Vellore Church on 3/29. The church was designed by R.S. Senseman, brother of L.A. Senseman, a psychiatrist who served with the Christian Medical College, Vellore [India]...." "The sanctuary seats nearly 140 persons."

¹³² In 1989, Senseman designed a subterranean medical facility at Georgia and Dennis Avenues., Silver Spring, Md., when County Planning officials warned developer doctors they would not approve another massive structure in the area, largely zoned residential. "The clinic houses a magnetic resonance imaging machine. "Builders Dig for Zoning Approval; Md. Medical Center Expands Underground," *Washington Post*, by Joel Glenn Brenner, 7/8/1989: E1.

Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. M: 36-61

Name Silver Spring Baptist Church
Continuation Sheet

Number 8 Page 17



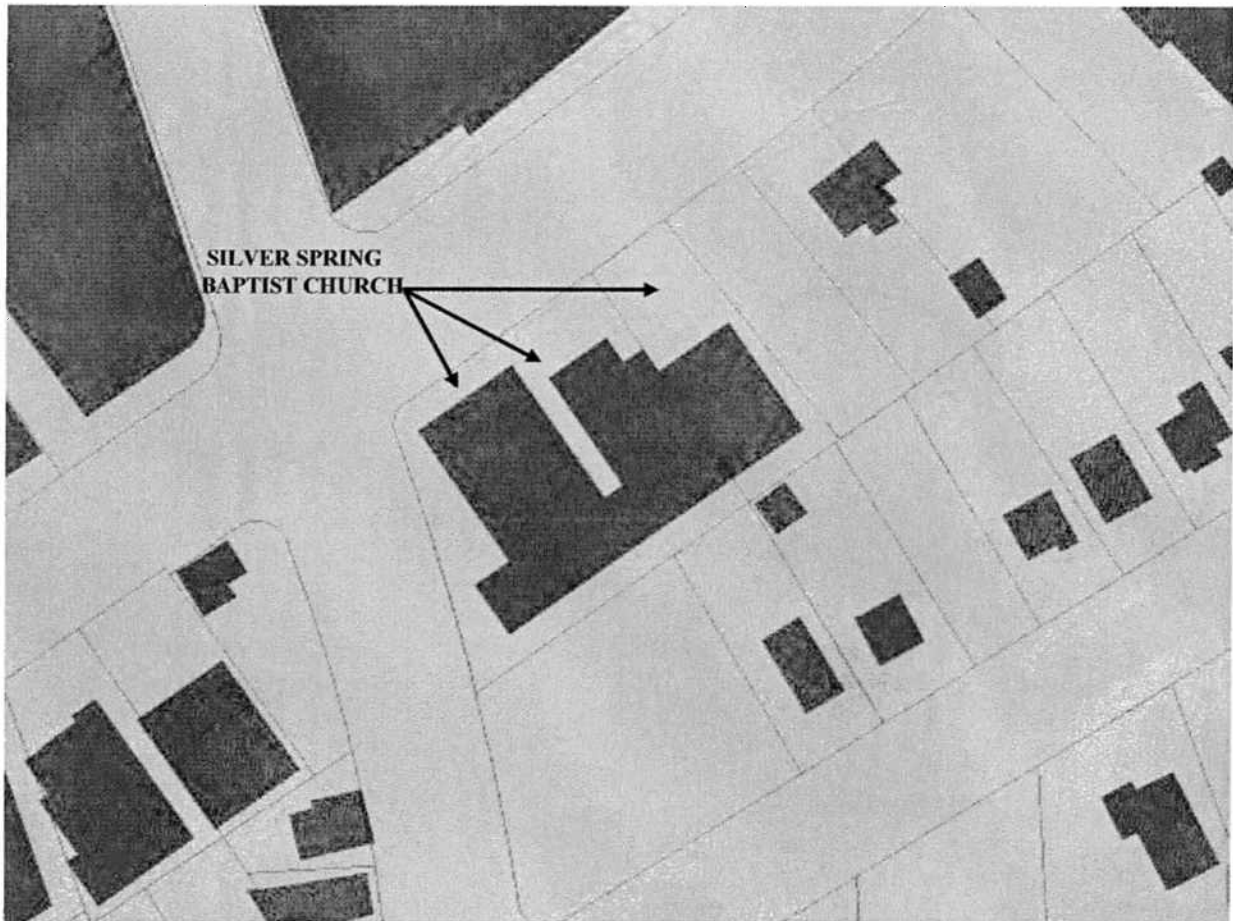
Location Map, Silver Spring Baptist Church, located at 830-832 Wayne Avenue, Silver Spring, MD (Source: M-NCCPC GIS 03.09.2010)

Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. M: 36-61

Name Silver Spring Baptist Church
Continuation Sheet

Number 8 Page 18



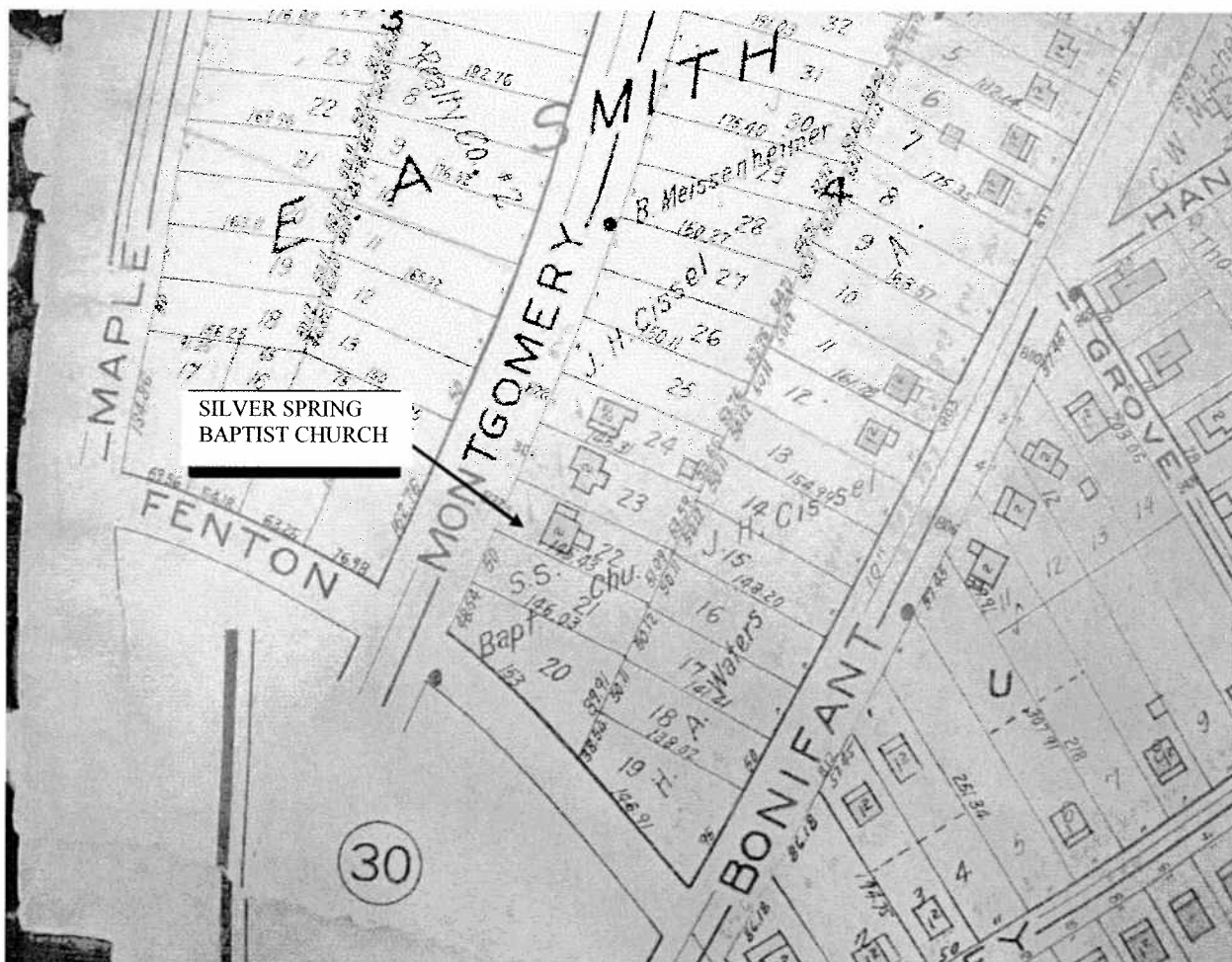
Site Map, Silver Spring Baptist Church, located at 830-832 Wayne Avenue, Silver Spring, MD (Source: M-NCCPC GIS 03.09.2010)

Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. M: 36-61

Name Silver Spring Baptist Church
Continuation Sheet

Number 8 Page 19



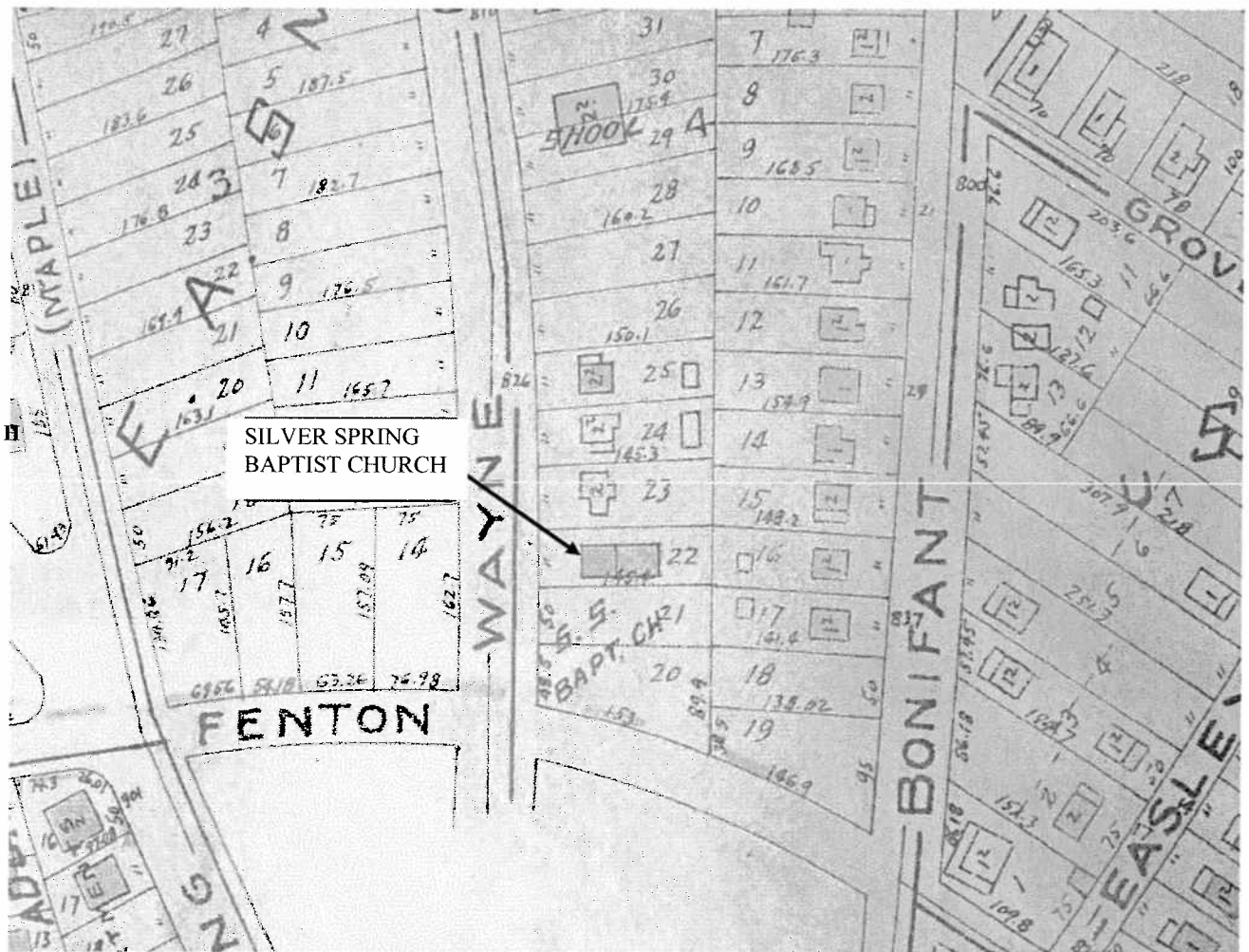
Excerpt 1931 F.M.H. Klingé Atlas of Real Estate in Montgomery County Maryland.

Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. M: 36-61

Name Silver Spring Baptist Church
Continuation Sheet

Number 8 Page 20



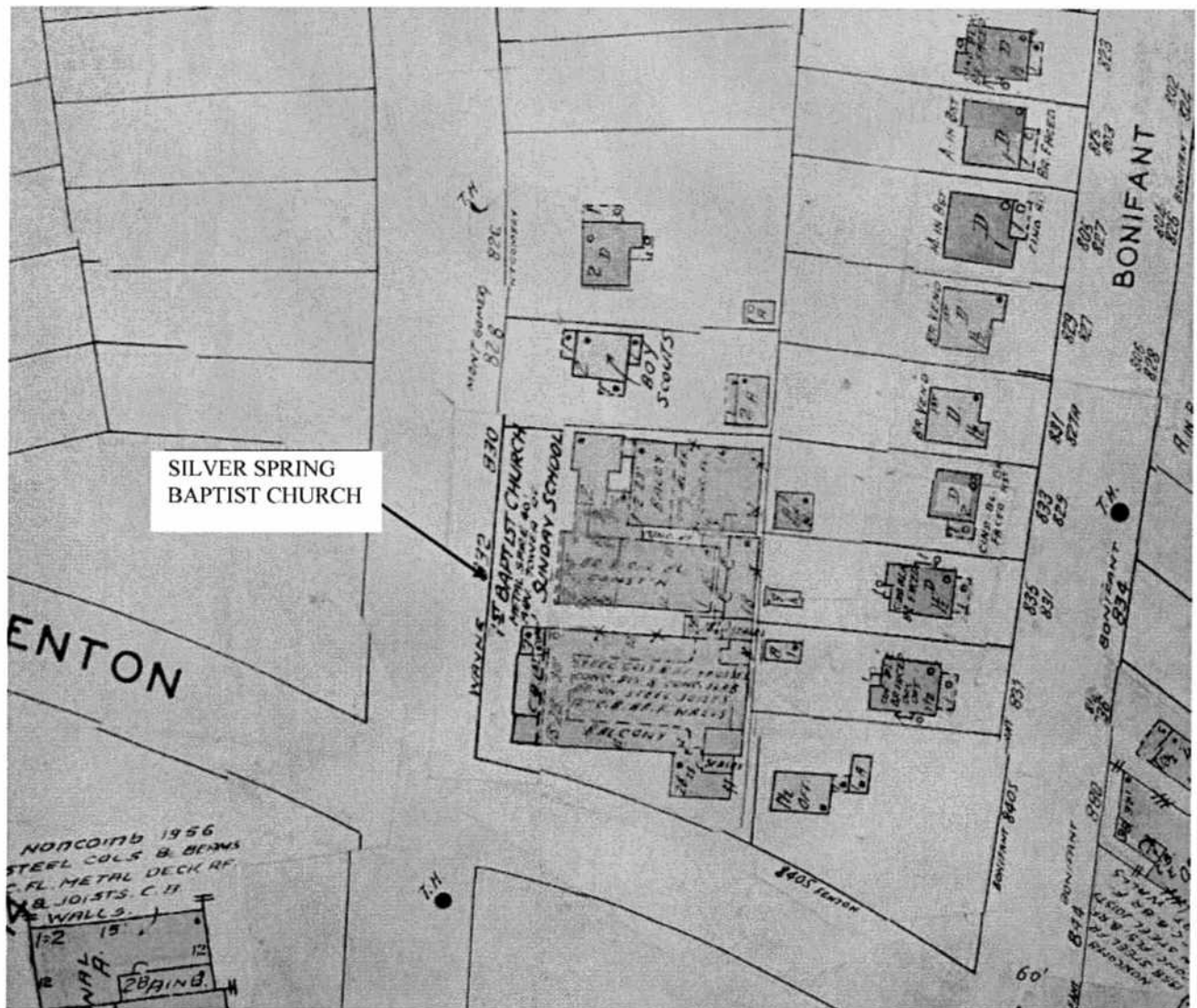
Excerpt 1941 F.M.H. Klingé Atlas of Real Estate in Montgomery County Maryland.

Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. M: 36-61

Name Silver Spring Baptist Church
Continuation Sheet

Number 8 Page 21



Excerpt 1927 Sanborn Fire Insurance Map, updated 1963

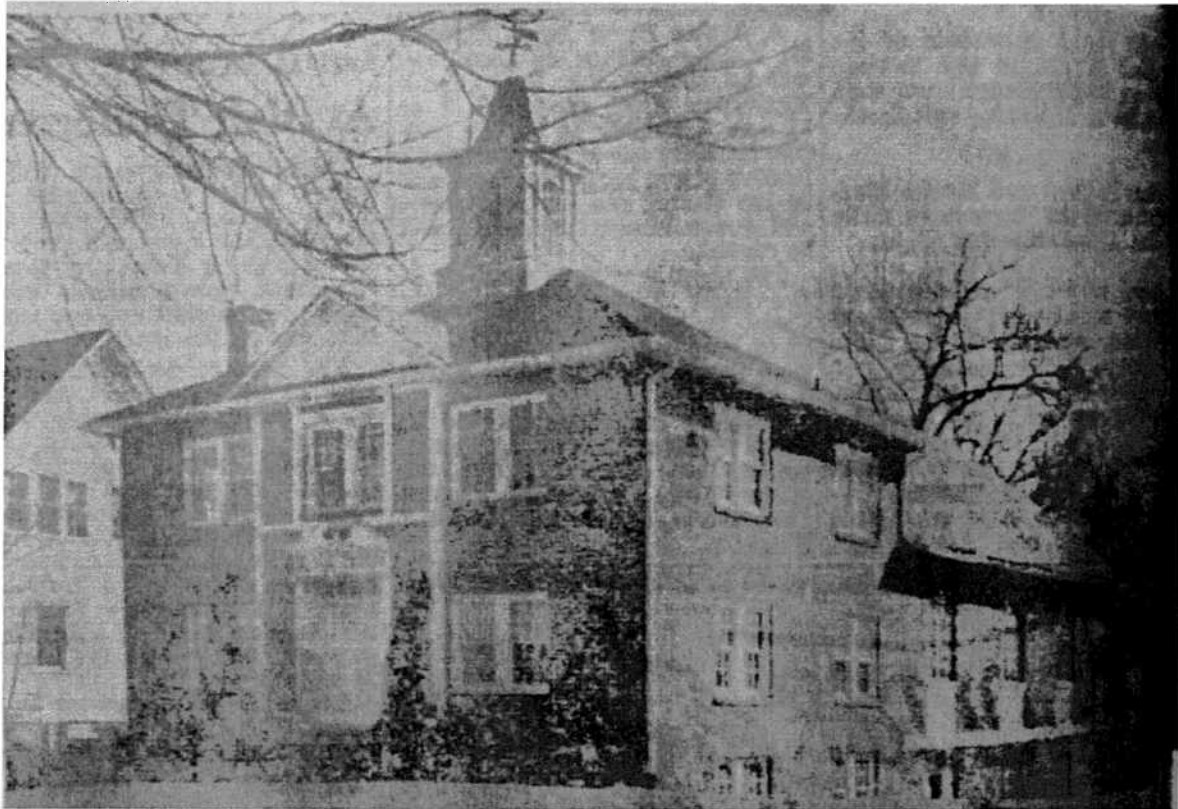
Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. M: 36-61

Name Silver Spring Baptist Church

Continuation Sheet

Number 8 Page 22



First Baptist Church of Silver Spring from "Silver Spring Church Week," Maryland News, February 10, 1950, p. C4.
1925 -1926 Parsonage, 1931 Sanctuary-Auditorium.

Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. M: 36-61

Name Silver Spring Baptist Church
Continuation Sheet

Number 8 Page 23



Silver Spring Baptist Church,
parsonage, north (front) façade
and partial west (side) façade,
Clare Lise Kelly, 02.19.2010



Silver Spring, Baptist Church
parsonage and addition, north
(front) facade and partial east
(side) façade, Lisa Mroszczyk,
03.10.10

Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. M: 36-61

Name Silver Spring Baptist Church
Continuation Sheet

Number 8 Page 24



Silver Spring Baptist Church,
parsonage, door surround detail,
Clare Lise Kelly, 02.19.10



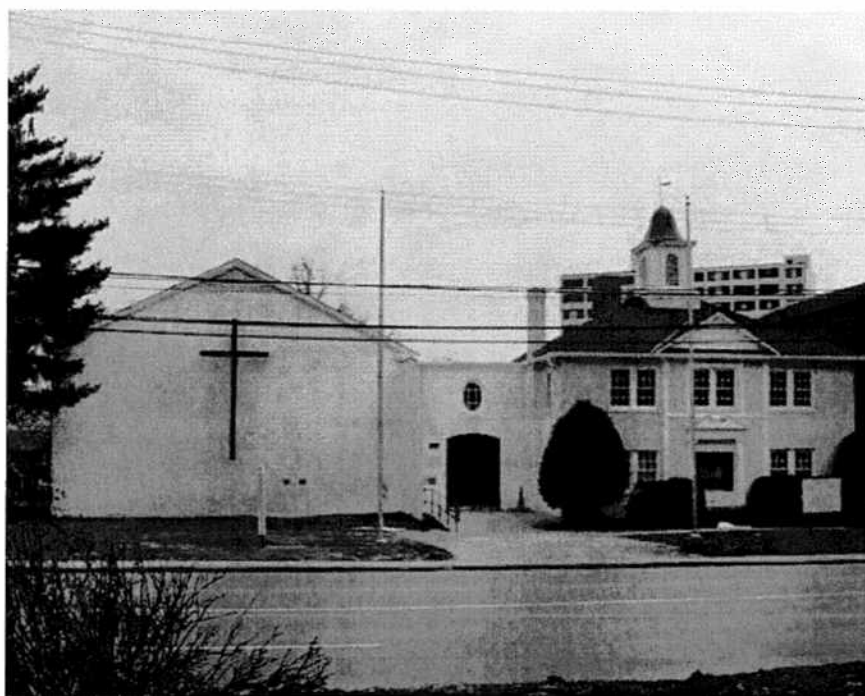
Silver Spring Baptist Church,
parsonage, cupola detail, Lisa
Mroszczyk, 03.10.10

Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

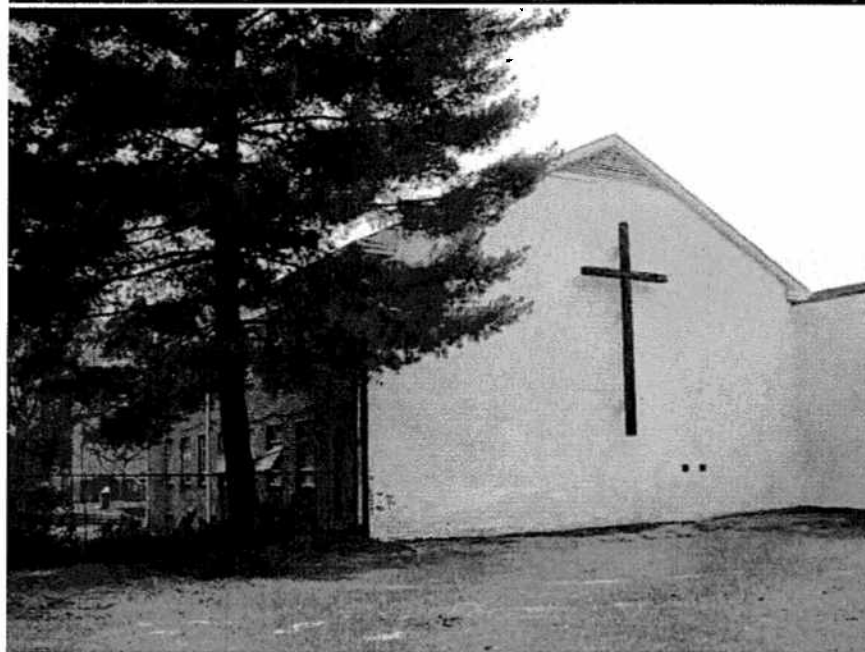
Inventory No. M: 36-61

Name Silver Spring Baptist Church
Continuation Sheet

Number 8 Page 25



Silver Spring Baptist Church,
parsonage and addition, north
façade (front), Lisa Mroszczyk,
03.10.10



Silver Spring Baptist Church,
temporary sanctuary, north
façade (front) and east (side)
facade, Lisa Mroszczyk,
03.10.10

Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. M: 36-61

Name Silver Spring Baptist Church
Continuation Sheet

Number 8 Page 26



Silver Spring Baptist Church,
view looking east, Lisa
Mroszczyk, 03.10.10



Silver Spring Baptist Church,
view looking south, Lisa
Mroszczyk, 03.10.10

Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

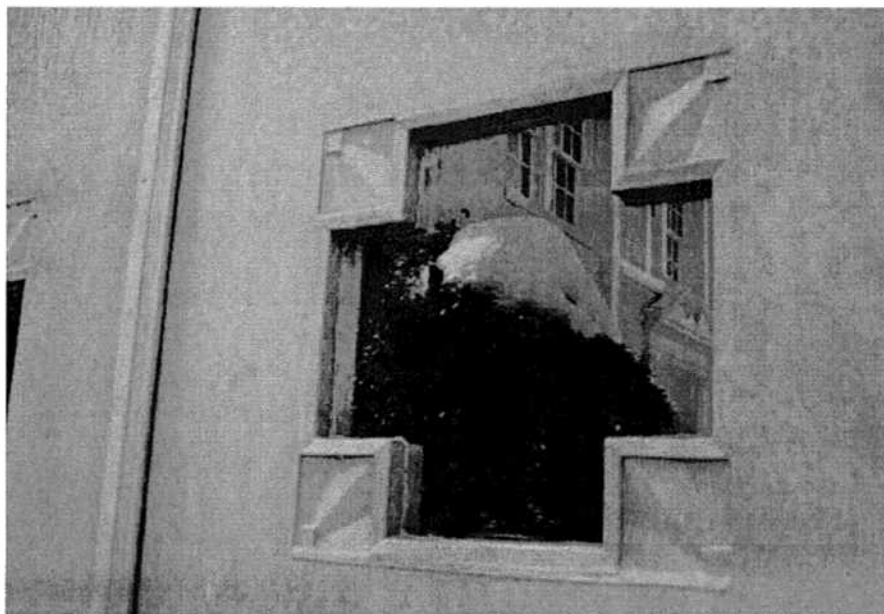
Inventory No. M: 36-61

Name Silver Spring Baptist Church
Continuation Sheet

Number 8 Page 27



Silver Spring Baptist Church,
doors/front façade, Lisa
Mroszczyk, 03.10.10



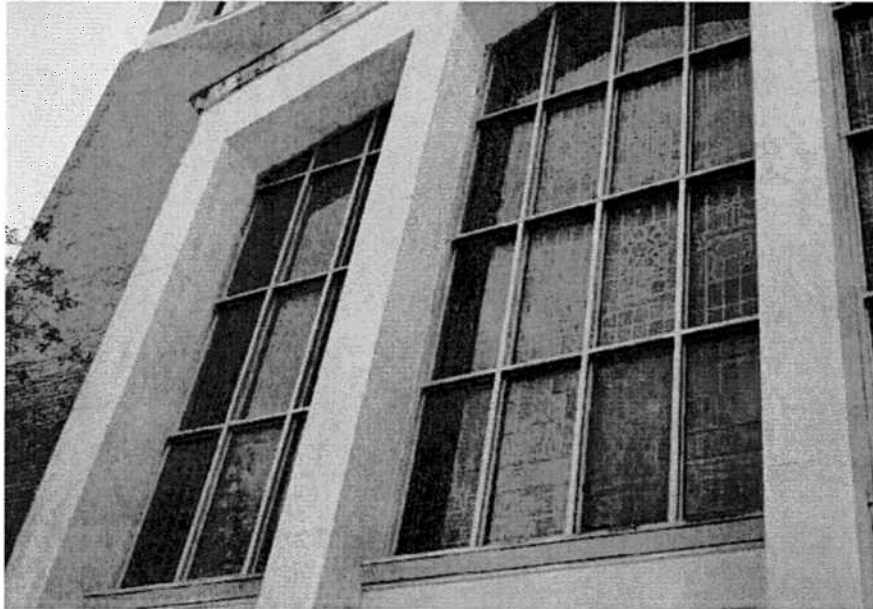
Silver Spring Baptist Church,
door detail, Clare Lise Kelly,
02.19.10

Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. M: 36-61

Name Silver Spring Baptist Church
Continuation Sheet

Number 8 Page 28



Silver Spring Baptist Church,
north (front) façade detail, Clare
Lise Kelly, 02.19.10



Silver Spring Baptist Church,
date stone, northeast corner,
Clare Lise Kelly, 02.19.10

Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. M: 36-61

Name Silver Spring Baptist Church
Continuation Sheet

Number 8 Page 29



Silver Spring Baptist Church 1956 Corner Stone Installation Ceremony, Ronald S Senseman, Architect,
Photographer Don Fuggitt, SSHS Archives

Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. M: 36-61

Name Silver Spring Baptist Church
Continuation Sheet

Number 8 Page 30



Silver Spring Baptist Church,
west (Fenton Street) façade,
Lisa Mroszczyk, 03.10.10



Silver Spring Baptist Church,
secondary entrance,
west facade,
Clare Lise Kelly, 02.19.10

Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. M: 36-61

Name Silver Spring Baptist Church
Continuation Sheet

Number 8 Page 31



Silver Spring Baptist Church,
west (side) façade detail, Clare
Lise Kelly, 02.19.10



Silver Spring Baptist Church, south
(rear) façade and partial west (side)
façade, Clare Lise Kelly, 02.19.10

Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

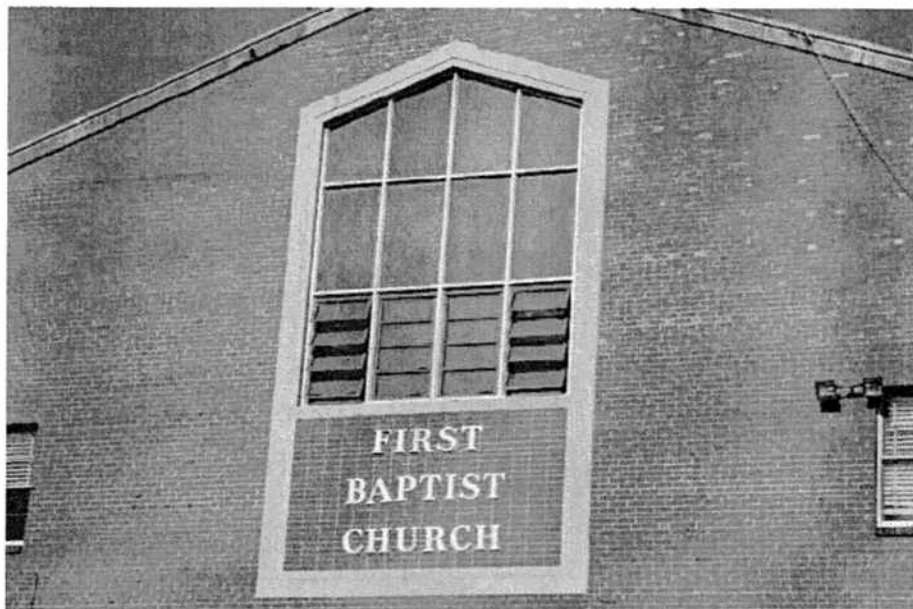
Inventory No. M: 36-61

Name Silver Spring Baptist Church
Continuation Sheet

Number 8 Page 32



Silver Spring Baptist Church,
partial south (rear) façade, Clare
Lise Kelly, 02.19.10



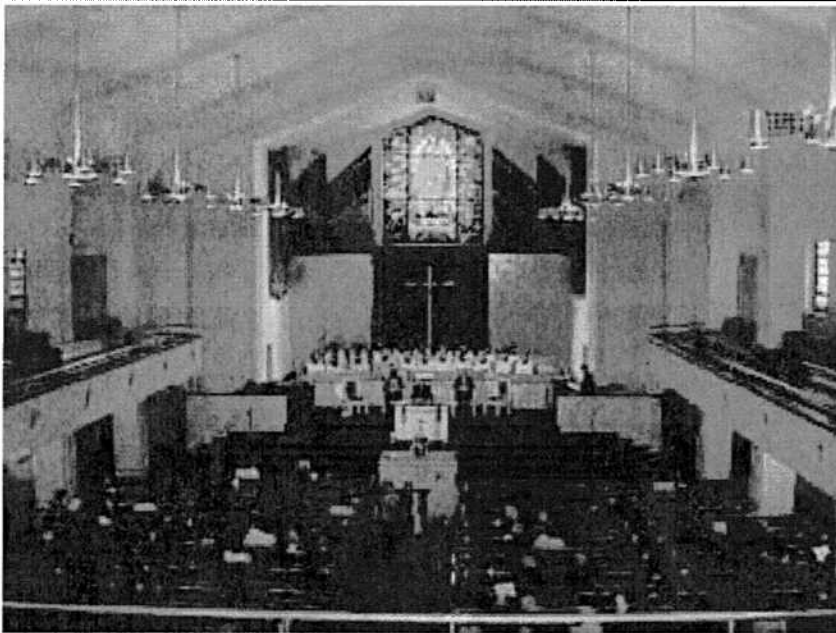
Silver Spring Baptist Church, south
(rear) façade detail, Clare Lise Kelly,
02.19.10

Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. M: 36-61

Name Silver Spring Baptist Church
Continuation Sheet

Number 8 Page 33



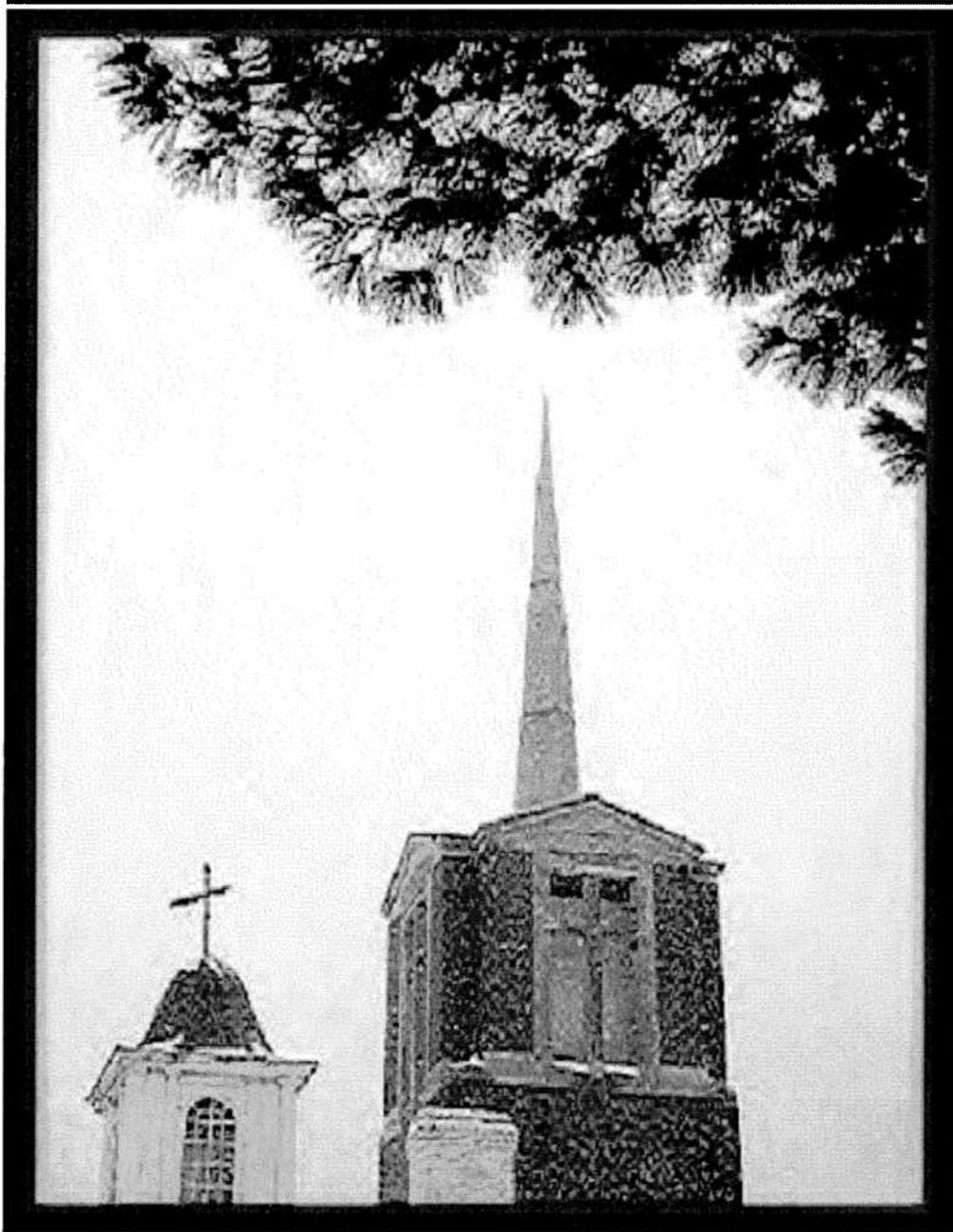
Senseman's 1956 First Baptist Church of Silver Spring Sanctuary, Above.
Below, Balcony with Stained Glass Windows & Bell Ringers, FBCSS Website 2010.

Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. M: 36-61

Name Silver Spring Baptist Church
Continuation Sheet

Number 8 Page 34



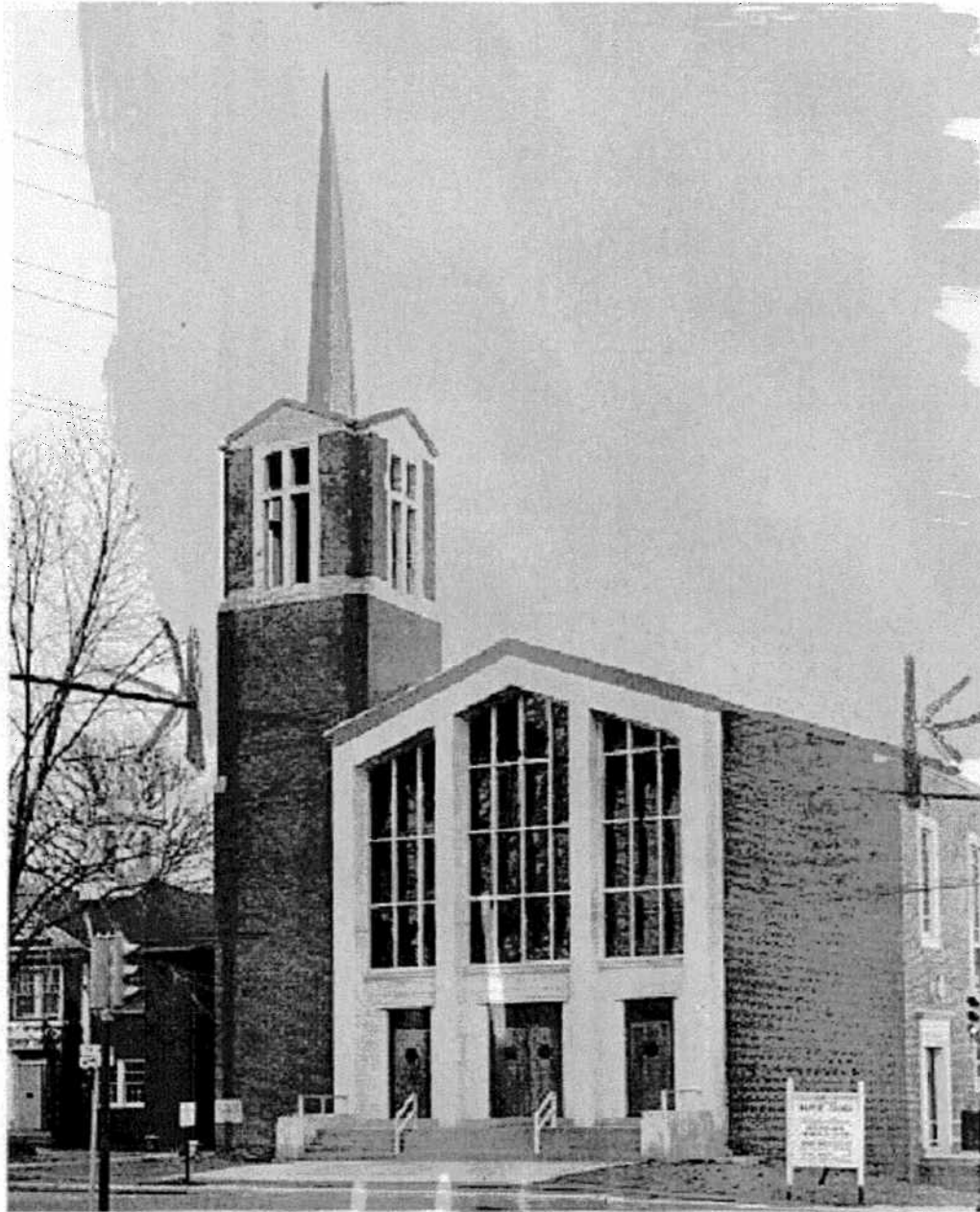
"2 Baptist Church Steeples, One Chimney, in Snow," 1956 Tower Rises 102 Feet, 1956 Steeple 40 Feet.
1926 Colonial Revival Steeple & Chimney Juxtaposed to Senseman's 1950's Modernism; SSSH Photo, 12/09.

Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. M: 36-61

Name Silver Spring Baptist Church
Continuation Sheet

Number 8 Page 35



"Church Dedication Tomorrow," The Evening Star, Wash., D.C., Sat., 3/9/1957: A-8, Star Staff Photo, Telephone Lines Removed, Photo Cropping Marks Visible.

**Maryland Historical Trust
Maryland Inventory of
Historic Properties Form**

Inventory No. M: 36-61

Name Silver Spring Baptist Church

Continuation Sheet

Number 8 Page 36



1951 Senseman's Takoma Park Seventh-Day Adventist Church, Gothic Revival, Takoma Park, Md., Historic District, Outstanding Resource, SSSH Photograph, 2010.

Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. M: 36-61

Name Silver Spring Baptist Church
Continuation Sheet

Number 8 Page 37



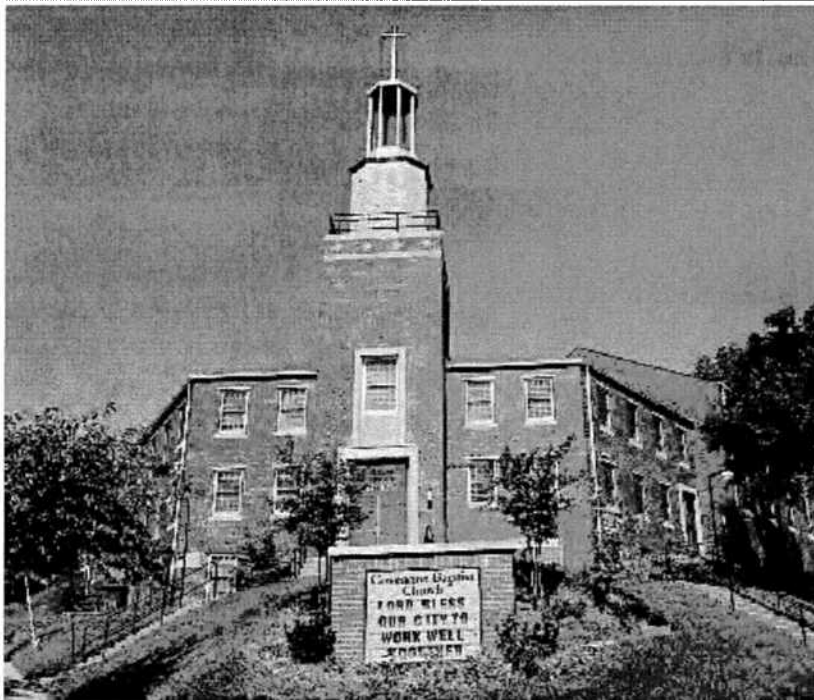
Senseman's First Baptist Church of Deanwood, N.W., D.C., 1960-1962, Modernized Gothic, Sanctuary, Education, Social Bldg., adjoining 1929-1938 African-American architect Roscoe I. Vaughn's Modified Gothic Sanctuary. Photo by E. L. Malvaney, 5/20/2010.

Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. M: 36-61

Name Silver Spring Baptist Church
Continuation Sheet

Number 8 Page 38



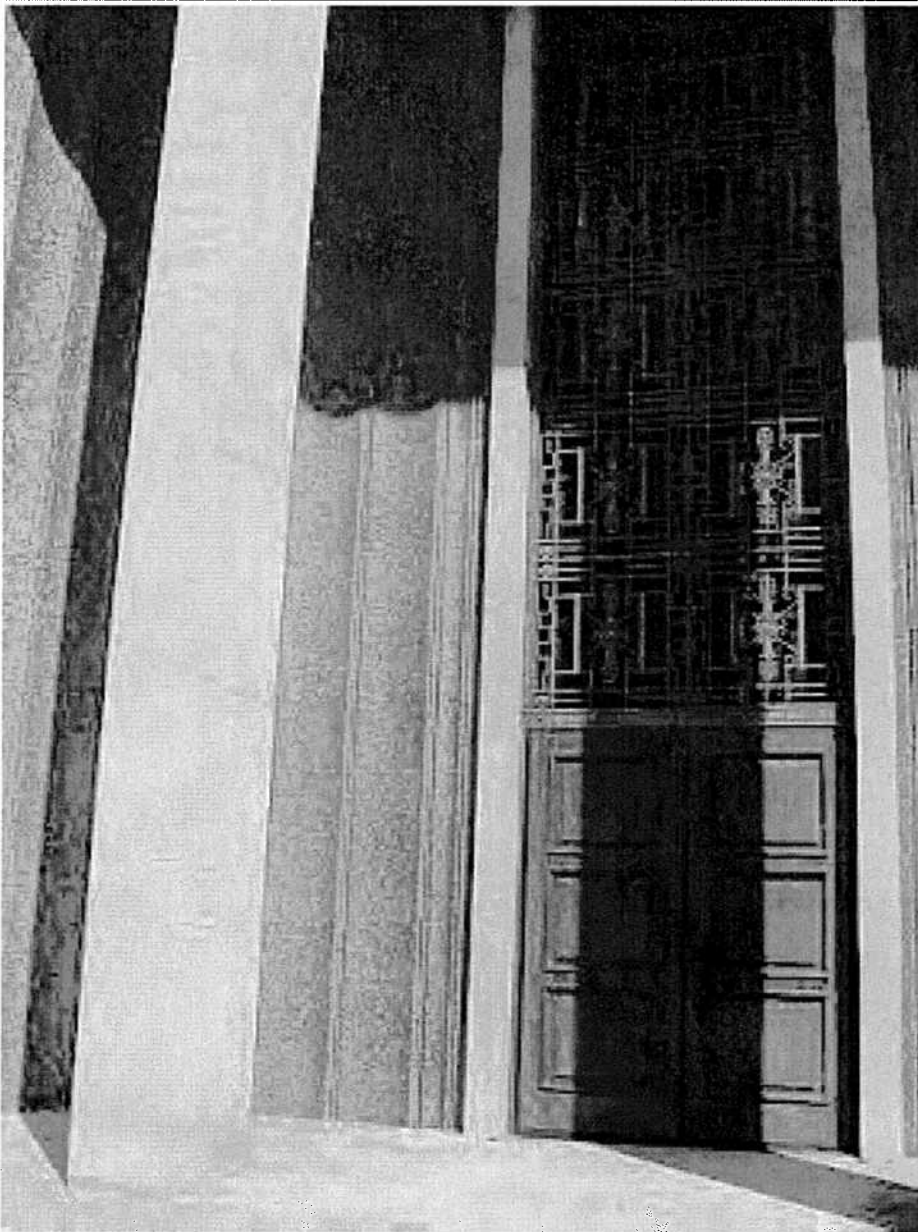
Senseman's Covenant Baptist Church, S.E., D.C., 1954-1957, Main Sanctuary & Education Building, Modernized Romanesque & Colonial Revival. CBC Website.

Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. M: 36-61

Name Silver Spring Baptist Church
Continuation Sheet

Number 8 Page 39



Senseman's 1954 Church of the Nazarene, Wash., D.C., now "The Mosaic Church."
Front entryway details, including multi-colored tile, metal filigree work, wooden doors,
limestone columns. SSHS Photo

Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. M: 36-61

Name Silver Spring Baptist Church
Continuation Sheet

Number 8 Page 40



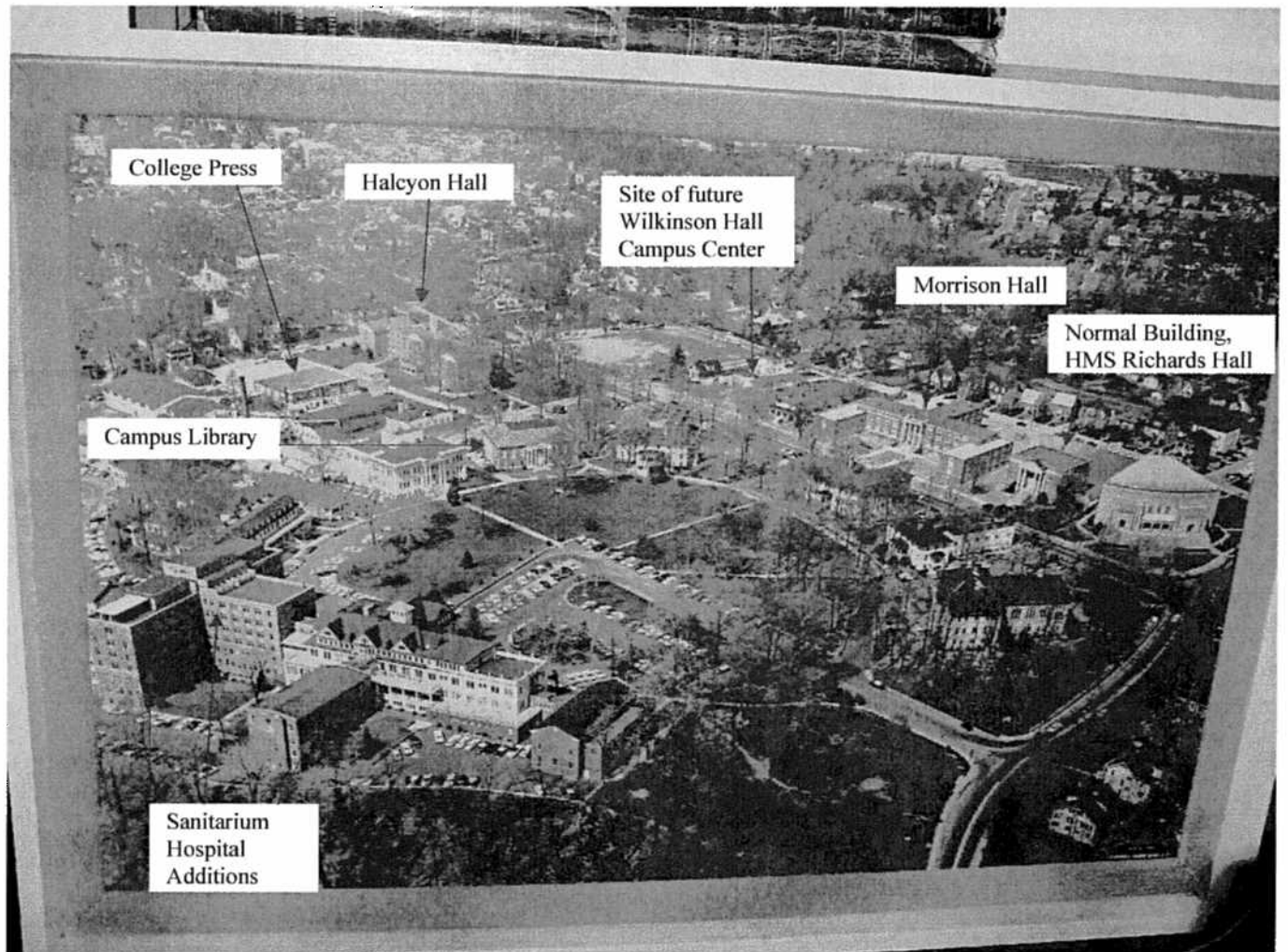
Senseman's 1936-1939 "Normal" Building, for Education and Teacher Training, named after H.M.S. Richards, "The Voice of Prophecy," Washington Adventist University, at Flower & Carroll Avenues, Takoma Park, Md., Completely Intact. SSHS Photo.

Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. M: 36-61

Name Silver Spring Baptist Church
Continuation Sheet

Number 8 Page 41



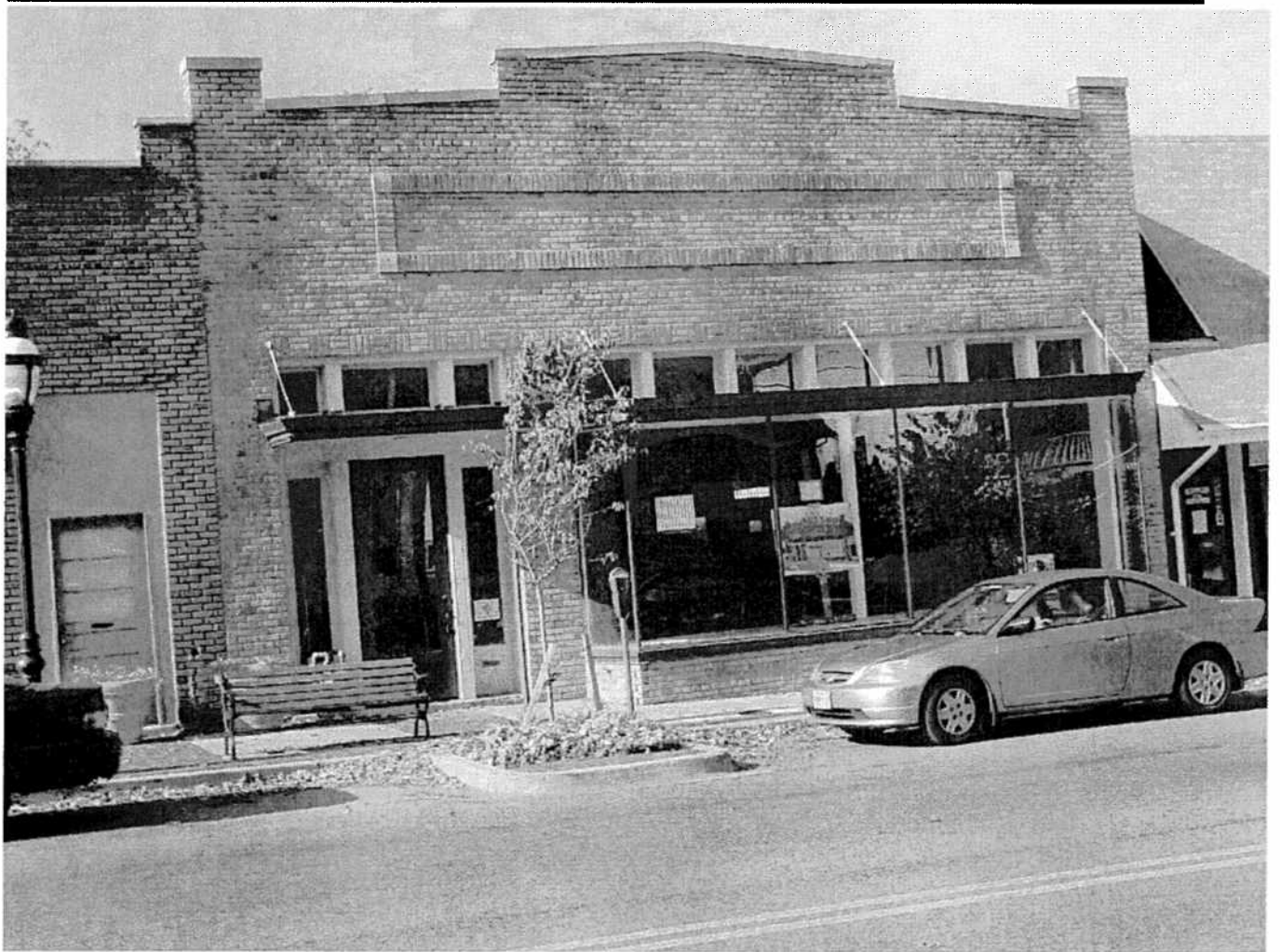
Aerial View: Senseman-designed buildings at Washington Adventist University, and Washington Adventist Hospital , Photo 1960c, In a variety of styles, spanning 1936 through early 1960s.

Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. M: 36-61

Name Silver Spring Baptist Church
Continuation Sheet

Number 8 Page 42



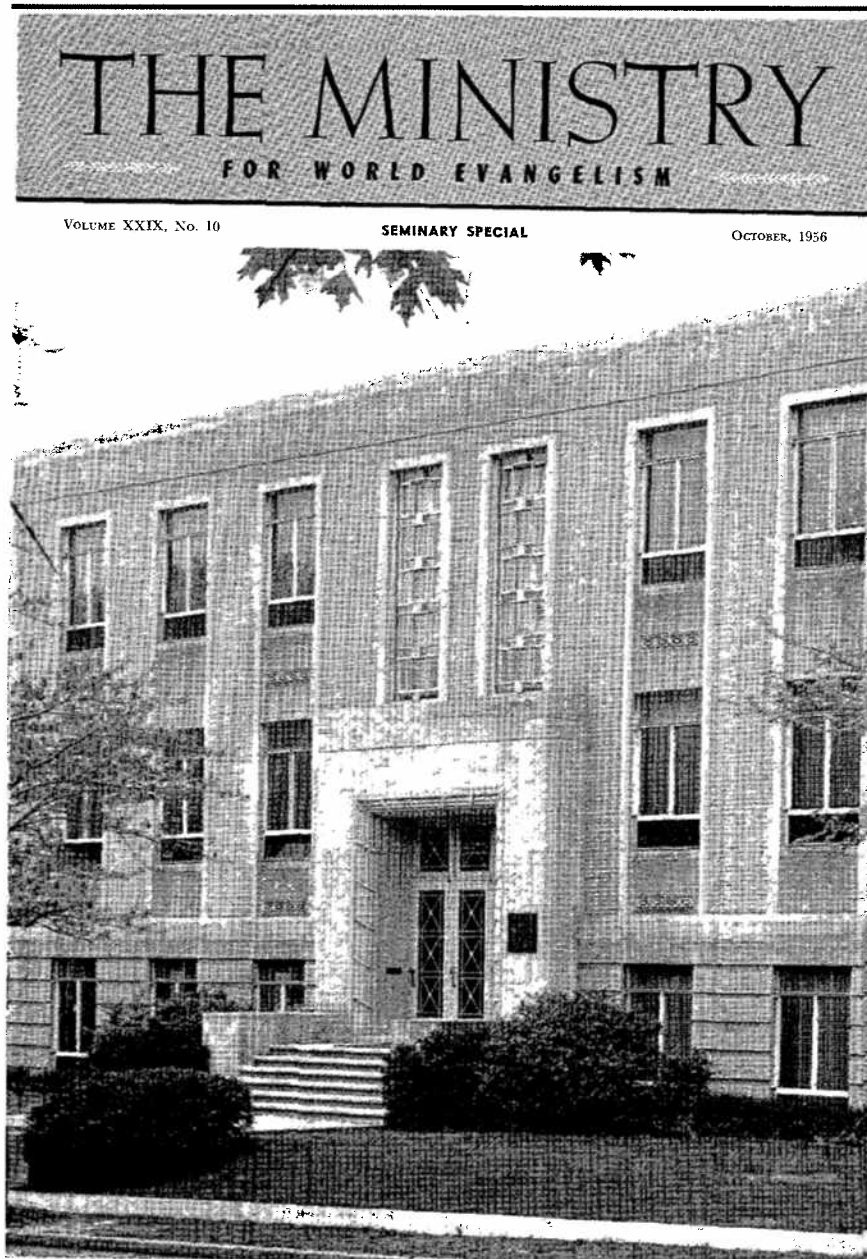
Senseman's 1931 Commercial Structure for a Piggly Wiggly grocery store, Takoma Park, Md., designed when he was 19 years old, and a student at Washington Missionary College, Takoma Park; subsequently Barcelona Nuts. 2009 to the present, Historic Takoma Inc. Headquarters. SSHS Photo.

Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. M: 36-61

Name Silver Spring Baptist Church
Continuation Sheet

Number 8 Page 43



Senseman's 1939 Modernist 7th Day Adventist Worldwide Headquarters Theological Seminary Bldg., Laurel Ave., Takoma, D.C.

Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. M: 36-61

Name Silver Spring Baptist Church
Continuation Sheet

Number 8 Page 44



Senseman's Modernist 1939 Worldwide Theological Seminary Building, Laurel Ave., Takoma, D.C.,
Now serving as Strayer University headquarters. SSHS Photograph 2010

Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. M: 36-61

Name Silver Spring Baptist Church

Continuation Sheet

Number 8 Page 45



Senseman's "Monumental" 1952 Montgomery County Council Office Building, Rockville, Md.
International Style & Art Deco, also in interior, SSHS Photo, 2010

Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. M: 36-61

Name Silver Spring Baptist Church
Continuation Sheet

Number 8 Page 46

Bands of panels bonded with Armstrong adhesive brighten pleated façade

Full Adhesive Bond, a Plastic Case, and Adhesive Reinforced, Adhesive, Va. Adhesive, Resin, Surface, Wash, Form, & Co. Concrete, Masonry, Lumber, Building, Washington, D. C. Panels made by Armstrong Company, 2001 Lister, Harris.

A band of laminated panels brightens this structure with decorative stripes of color. And the panels hold their place with almost no maintenance, because they're glued-to-stuff, to-walk-the-world-and-out.

In other panels, both interior and exterior, skin are bonded to concrete, masonry, plaster, and other types of Armstrong contact adhesives. The adhesives are bonded to the building one with another type. These 1/4-inch thick panels are strong and long-lasting.

Armstrong contact adhesives are used to form panels of almost any combination of one and skin materials. These adhesives have superior weathering and aging properties and high resistance to static load and heat. They contribute to creative design in architecture by bonding strength to patch faces with slate, granite, aluminum, and a variety of other attractive lines.

Write Armstrong for more information on using contact adhesives in laminated panels. Armstrong Cork Company, 2001 Lister Drive, Lancaster, Pennsylvania.

Armstrong ADHESIVES

Senseman's circa 1960s Park Arlington Motel, including Schrafft's Restaurant. Ebay Photo 2010.


Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. M: 36-61

Name Silver Spring Baptist Church
Continuation Sheet

Number 8 Page 47

September, 1949 SCHOOL BOARD JOURNAL 41



Street Front, Oak View Elementary School, Takoma Park, Maryland.—Russell S. Seaman, A.I.A., Architect,
Takoma Park, Washington, D. C.

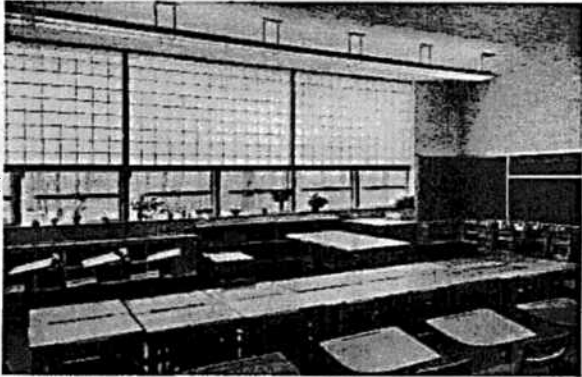
Planned for Elementary Education

Planned to house a growing elementary school enrollment and to serve as a neighborhood community center for a Washington suburban town, the Oak View Elementary School, at Takoma Park, Md., occupies a ten-acre site of typical rolling Maryland countryside. The building includes on one floor eight classrooms, a kindergarten room, and an all-purpose room, used temporarily as a classroom.

The building has been planned to provide space for a broad elementary educational program. Each classroom has adjoining it a coat-room, a large closet for materials, and separate toilets for boys and girls. Each room is equipped with a sink and work counter, blackboards, tackboards, bookcases, and cupboards. The rooms are painted with off-white ceilings; canary yellow outside walls; peach or green interior walls. The toilet rooms are painted white; office, light green; teachers' rooms peach; corridor, yellow.

The all-purpose room has adjoining it a kitchen, planned for 100 to 200 light lunches daily, and measuring 13 by 25 ft., with space for storage and a cafeteria serving counter, sink, refrigerator, and dishwashing equipment. Space is provided off the main room for chair and apparatus storage. A clever arrangement of folding doors and curtains permits the widest possible use of the movable platform in either the all-purpose room or the adjoining classroom. The principal's office, teachers' rooms, and the library are in the kindergarten-all-purpose room area. The library has shelves and a worktable—the distribution of books is made by the teachers from the classroom bookshelves.

The building has been located on the southwest corner of the site on the only level of the plot. The location permits of easy access from the street with a minimum of walks and driveways to the service entry and the parking space. The placement of the kindergarten at the south end provides extra sun for this room and will allow of the planned expansion



A typical classroom looking toward the directional glass block windows and showing the floor-mount lighting and the acoustic ceiling.

Oak View Elementary, School Board Journal, September 1949, Washington Board of Trade Award.

Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. M: 36-61

Name Silver Spring Baptist Church
Continuation Sheet

Number 8 Page 48

Theological Seminary Dedication

THE five new buildings to house the Seventh-day Adventist Theological Seminary was dedicated on the evening of January 21, at an impressive service which was marked by a spirit of sincerity and earnestness. There was a capacity audience of 325 in attendance, gathered in the simply designed, attractive chapel on the main floor and in the adjoining hall.

Professor M. E. Kern, president of the school, set forth in his dedicatory address the purposes and aims of the Seminary, which though it has been in operation since 1934, has up until now been conducted in temporary quarters.

"This school," he said, "was born of an ardent desire on the part of the chosen leadership of the church to strengthen the bulwarks of the movement, and hasten the completion of the task which God has committed to this people." He summed up the purpose of the Seminary as follows:

"1. To offer graduate courses in the two important fields of Bible and history, for the benefit of our college and academic Bible and history teachers and other educational workers, and thus strengthen our entire educational system by rendering effective assistance in the maintenance of our Bible-centric plan of education.

"2. By these courses in Bible and history, supplemented with courses in evangelism and Christian leadership, to bring special help to our ministers, missionaries, Bible workers, editors, and other workers, thus greatly strengthening our evangelistic forces in the world today.

"3. To stand in these perilous and propitious times as a bulwark of defense for the ten commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus."

W. E. Nelson, treasurer of the General Conference, gave a report of building operation and finances.

The cost of the building is \$87,237.29, which, added to \$20,000, the estimated worth of the lot, which was donated by the Review and Herald, makes the total value of the institution \$107,237.29. Sufficient funds are in hand to pay all building costs which have not already been settled. This money was raised by gifts from the General Conference, from overseas division fields, from institutions in the United States, and through personal donations. Professor Nelson made special mention of gifts to the library by C. C. Crisler, who died in China a few years ago, and I. H. Evans, of 1,000 books each.

In the closing talk of the service J. L. McElhany told of the relation of the Seminary to the General Conference. "This institution is here in response to a conviction on the part of a large number of our brethren . . . of a real need," he affirmed. He emphasized two points in this connection. First, he said, the Theological Seminary is helping to maintain the unity of our great movement by bringing to denominational headquarters workers from all over the world. This direct contact with the headquarters of our work is of inestimable value to these workers, especially, as has happened in a number of cases, if their fields later become isolated from contact with the headquarters because of war conditions. Secondly, Elder McElhany continued, this school is training Bible teachers for our academies and colleges. And he considers that properly qualified Bible teachers are the greatest single need of the denomination today.

I. H. Evans offered the dedicatory prayer, asking God's blessing on the teachers and the students of the institution. Two appropriate selections were rendered by a male quartet, "Bless This School" and "Thou Whose Temple Stands." The

service closed with that solemn song of dedication:

"Faith of our fathers! holy faith!
We will be true to thee till death!"

This new Theological Seminary building, located on a lot adjoining the General Conference headquarters office, in Takoma Park, D.C., is built to accommodate 150 students. It is modern in design, constructed of buff brick trimmed in Indiana limestone, and has metal door and window frames. The architect was Ronald Senseman.

There are three floors in the building. Let us enter through the large glass front doors and take a look around. Our steps hardly sound on the asphalt-tile floor. The walls are all of cream plaster.

First we shall go up the central stairway to the main floor, and through the large, swinging, wooden doors, into the chapel. To our left is the platform, which may also be entered through an anteroom. There are 184 seats on the floor of the chapel, and the balcony seats about 72 more people.

Now, as we go into the hall again, to the left we find the office of the president, Professor Kern, his secretary's office, and the registrar's office. Each teacher also has an office, located either on this floor or on one of the other floors. Across from the chapel are a large classroom, which will hold 120 students, and two smaller classrooms with a capacity of 30 or 35 each.

On the third floor are four classrooms. In addition, there is a room known as the "prayer room," to be used by the students, not for study, but for private devotion.

A seminar room is located in the basement, but the main part of this floor we find occupied by the library. And as the library is the real heart of a school, this has been planned carefully with a view to serving the needs of the students with the greatest efficiency and dispatch. The light, roomy reading room will accommodate 56 students at the large study tables. The reference shelves, magazine racks, and central charging desk were made, we learn, by the Washington Missionary College woodwork shop.

Back of the charging desk are the bookshelves. They are of metal and are adjustable, to accommodate different sizes of books. The stacks are on two levels, connected by a stairway. There is space here for 40,000 books. There are not, of course, that many books here at the present time, but sufficient room has been left for expansion of the library. Behind the stacks are desks for research workers.

As we complete our tour of the building and think of our workers who will come here from year to year to gain a deeper insight into the truths which hold us as a people together, it is with the earnest prayer that God may richly bless the work carried on within its walls.

RUTH CONARD.

THE ADVENT REVIEW



New Seventh-day Adventist Theological Seminary building, Takoma Park, Washington, D.C.

2

7th Day Adventist Theological Seminary Worldwide Headquarters Bldg. Dedication, "The Advent Review," Vol. 118, No. 7, 2/13/1941, P. 2 ; 1939-1941.

Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. M: 36-61

Name Silver Spring Baptist Church
Continuation Sheet

Number 8 Page 49

Atlantic Union GLENER

Bermuda - Maine - New Hampshire - Vermont - Massachusetts - Connecticut - Rhode Island - New York

Vol. II

SOUTH LANCASTER, MASSACHUSETTS, MARCH 11, 1952

No. 11

Recent Expansion at College

Members of the board, constituency, faculty, and students, as well as our faithful members throughout the union, are justly proud of the new modern spacious administration building at Atlantic Union College.

Seven years ago the foundation was laid for this building, but problems of securing adequate funds delayed active work on the building until 1949. Since then construction, under the supervision of Mr. J. D. Zwemer as construction superintendent, has gone forward steadily, and we are now nearing the completion of this new building on the Atlantic Union College campus.

The building provides for a library with room for 60,000 volumes and seating space for approximately 150 students. There are 17 classrooms, approximately 20 executive offices, and 12 teacher offices. In addition to that, there are vaults, the College Store, which is 30' x 54', utility rooms, and a large auditorium with a seating capacity of 1,250 people.

The building has been constructed with a minimum of experienced mechanics and twenty to thirty students, who have worked on the building ever since the work was begun.

Recently Mr. Ronald S. Semmes, the architect of the building, visited the college campus and was much pleased with the progress of the work and the general high quality of all the



various processes that enter into the construction of a large building.

The building has more than an acre of floor space, and provides for a classroom capacity that will be adequate for a number of years since it could accommodate up to 1,000 students.

Advantages to be realized through the construction of the new building are that it provides adequate, well-lighted classrooms and library, and makes available space that has been used for the housing of dormitory men. The dormitory that has been used for college men is now being used by South Lancaster Academy to care for the boarding students of the Southern

and Northern New England Conferences.

The value of the building has been estimated variously at three-quarters of a million to a million dollars, when completed. It is a beautiful building and will add much to the conditions under which young people at Atlantic Union College will pursue their college program.

As for the operating costs of the institution, the building is well constructed and should be easy to heat and keep clean, and aside from the original investment, the operating cost should be lower than that of any other building on the campus.

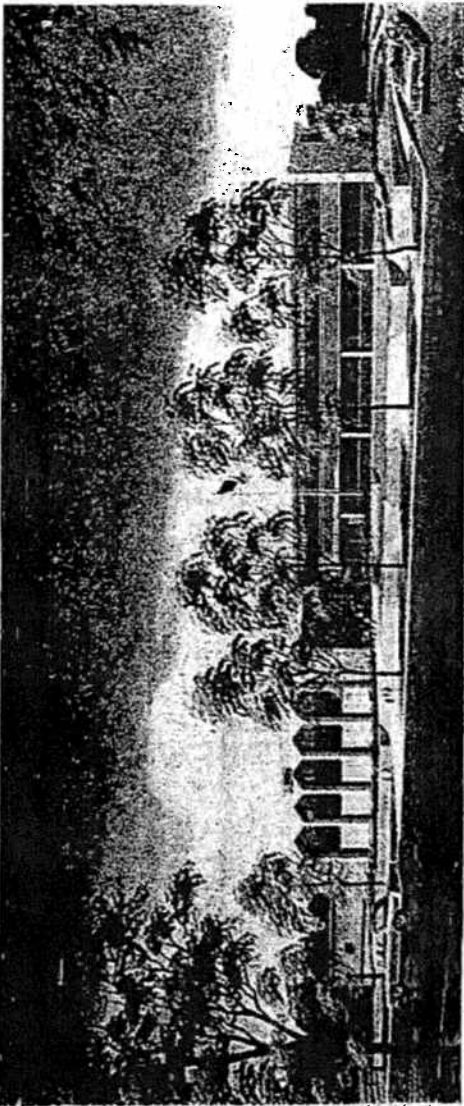
Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. M: 36-61

Name Silver Spring Baptist Church
Continuation Sheet

Number 8 Page 50

New Eugene Meyer School
The Washington Post, Times Herald (1959-1973); Dec 23, 1961.
ProQuest Historical Newspapers The Washington Post (1877 - 1993)



New Eugene Meyer School

Shown is an architect's drawing of the new Eugene Meyer Elementary School to be built on part of the old Garfield Hospital site at 11th and Clifton sts. NW. Construction work (delayed because of the District's revenue shortfalls) is scheduled to begin Jan. 15. School officials hope to have the building ready for occupancy by February of 1963. The new school is designed to house 1878 students, most of them now attending classes in the overcrowded Morgan, J. F. Cook, Henry Wilson, Monahan and Bruce buildings. It will have 34 classrooms, a multi-purpose room equipped for special shop, art, science and foreign, cafeteria and play room. Beneath the large room is an antiseptic basement which school officials believe can be used for storage of school supplies. It is the first and largest school building in the District planned for completely new construction. The new school is named for the late Eugene Meyer, Chairman of the Board of The Washington Post Company. It will cost about \$12 million. Architect is Ronald A. Stegeman.

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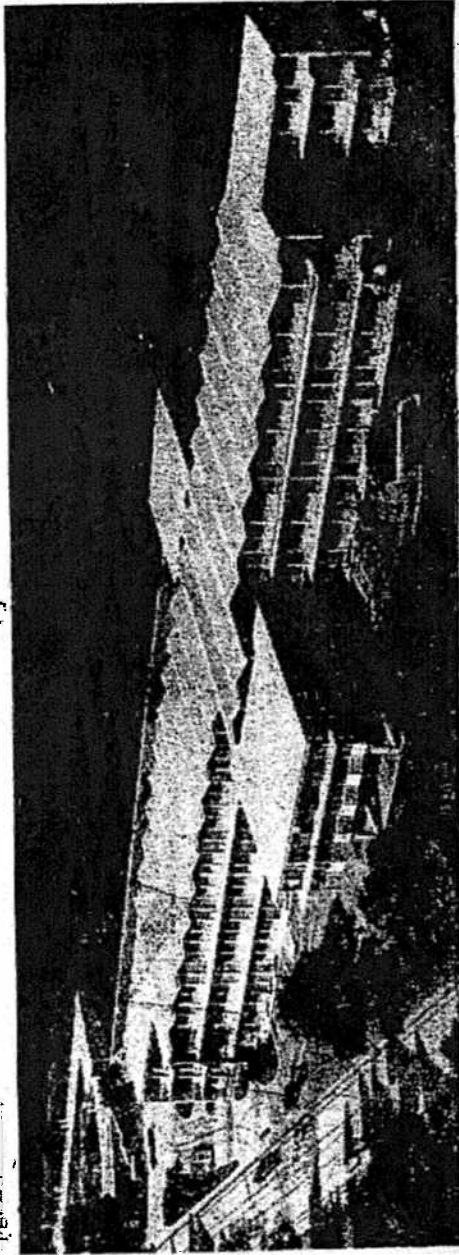
Inventory No. M: 36-61

Name Silver Spring Baptist Church
Continuation Sheet

Number 8 Page 51

Work Started on \$1.5 Million Motel

The Washington Post, Times Herald (1959-1973); Jun 17, 1961;
ProQuest Historical Newspapers The Washington Post (1877 - 1994)
pg. D4



Work Started on \$1.5 Million Motel

Work now is under way on this \$1.5 million Park Arlington Motel at Court House rd. and Arlington Blvd. Completion is scheduled late this year by Stewart Binnum, builder and part owner, who said that the motel will have two large meeting rooms for convention banquets and that Schrafft's will operate restaurant facilities. Exterior of the 3-story, contemporary motel, designed by

Ronald Senseman AIA, will be colorful glass and porcelain panels, rubble stone and face brick with fibroned wrought iron railings and terra-cotta-gill work. The folded plate roof adds to the contemporary flavor. One hundred and ten rooms will be built into the original structure, with site room available for expansion. There will be a large swimming pool, cabana club and recreation room.

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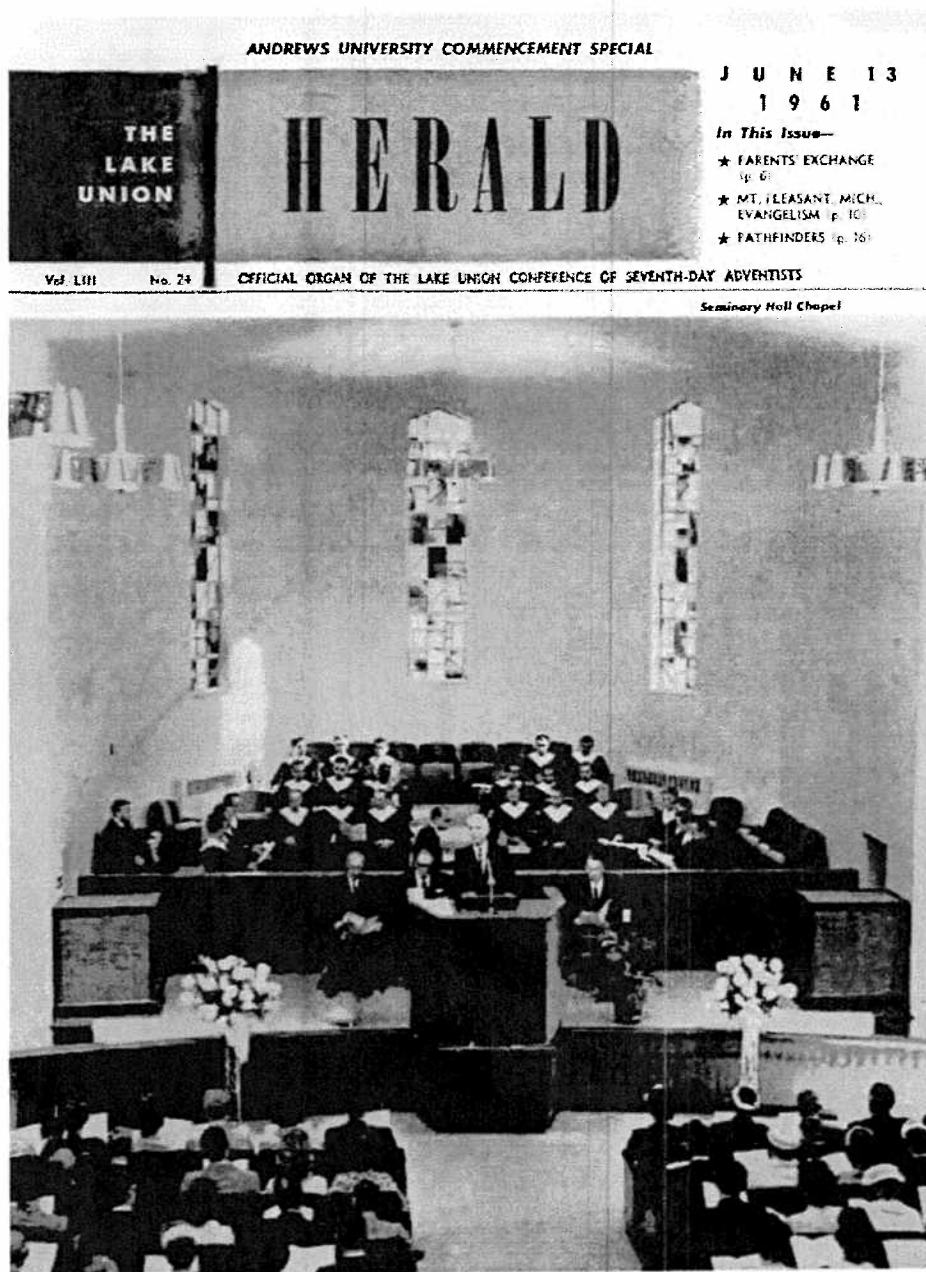
"Work Started on \$1.5 Million Motel ["Park Arlington," Va.], Wash Post, 6/17/1961, P. D 4 [Stewart Bainum project].

Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. M: 36-61

Name Silver Spring Baptist Church
Continuation Sheet

Number 8 Page 52



Andrews University Seminary Building, Seminary Hall Chapel, Dedication, Mich., The Lake Union Herald, Vol. LIII, No. 24, 6/13/1961, Cover.

Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. M: 36-61

Name Silver Spring Baptist Church
Continuation Sheet

Number 8 Page 53



Degrees and diplomas were awarded to 180 graduates. On the left Paul F. Bork, receives his bachelor of divinity degree from President Kitzschke while Fritz Gasp steps into position to receive his degree with high honors. Following the formal presentation graduates lined the walk in front of the church in receiving congratulations.

noble influence on this college will be felt for many years to come."

The honorary degree, Doctor of Letters, was conferred upon the commencement speaker, Professor Tippert. In describing his life of devoted service to his God, his church, and to his students, Dr. C. E. Wenger, reading the citation written by Dr. P. T. Gibbs, said, "A perfectionist, a master of the art of art—that of being kind—his has been the guiding influence that

has guided us in innumerable enterprises."

The 1961 graduates may look back to their commencement as a milestone not only in their growth, but also in the history of their alma mater. For Andrews University, the beginning year came to a successful end; for the graduates, it was the commencement of a new phase in their quest for knowledge.

ed to relocate the senior university in Berrien Springs, Mich., to affiliate with Emmanuel Missionary College. The name Andrews University was chosen by the board in 1960 in memory of J. N. Andrews—scholar, preacher, author, and the first Adventist foreign missionary. The institution now enjoys an enrollment of more than 200 students in the graduate division, Dr. Kitzschke stated.

Seminary Hall is the official name for the new home of the S.D.A. Theological Seminary. Facing north, the building measures 104 by 50 feet. A chapel and library wing, 152 feet, extends to the south. Below it is a classroom-auditorium, seating 125. The three-story building, costing \$250,000, contains 16 teachers' offices, 7 classrooms and administrative offices which will house university ad-

We Dedicate This Building

"We do not regret the cost, the labor, or the investment that has been placed in this building," declared Eld. R. R. Figuhr at the dedication of Seminary Hall Sabbath afternoon, June 3.

Here those who will come after us will investigate truth and become firmly grounded. For this purpose it has been brought into existence; for this purpose it is being dedicated today."

The history of the Seminary goes back to 1934 when it was established on the campus of Pacific Union College under the name Advanced Bible School. Two years later the General

Conference set up a permanent institution in Washington, D.C., named the Seventh-day Adventist Theological Seminary. In 1941 a new building was erected for it.

In 1959 the Autumn Council authorized the establishment of a university for the purpose of offering graduate studies in other areas. A year later the Seminary was combined with the new institution named Eastern University.

After a fruitless search for an adequate campus in the Washington, D.C., area, the Autumn Council of 1958 vot-



Union Conference President Jerry D. Smith, left, and Graduate School Dean C. E. Wenger chat with General Conference President R. R. Figuhr by the lectern in the chapel of the new Seminary building.

LAKE UNION HERALD

Entered as second-class matter in the Post Office, Berrien Springs, Mich., Postpaid weekly. All other years appearing the weeks of July 4 and December 29 by the Chicago Press. Berrien Springs, Mich. Yearly subscription price, \$1.00.

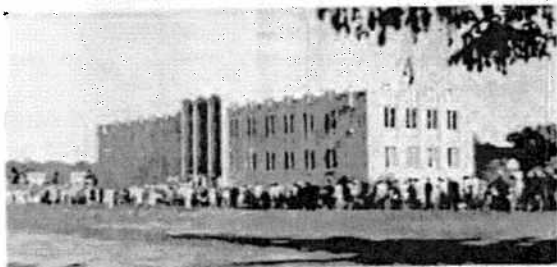
POSTMASTER: Send all notices to LAKE UNION HERALD, Box 1, Berrien Springs, Mich.

Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. M: 36-61

Name Silver Spring Baptist Church
Continuation Sheet

Number 8 Page 54



More than 1,000 persons were on hand for the dedication of the new Seminary Hall.

administrators until the proposed Administration building is constructed.

To the east of Seminary Hall, facing the church, ground has been broken for the university library. Directly north of Seminary Hall, forming a hollow square with the church, Seminary Hall, and the library, will be the Administration building.

During the week following the dedication, teachers and administrators moved into the building in time to initiate it for the summer session.

In accepting the building after it had been presented by Dr. Richard Hubbard on behalf of the board, Dr. William Murdoch expressed the sentiments of all who have planned and all who will occupy the building when he said, "It is our consensus of opinion that those who enter will be endowed from heaven to go out to finish God's work. With God's help we do not plan to fail, but to succeed."



Ronald Seesman, left, Seminary Hall architect; K. F. Antis, university general manager; and H. H. Hubbard, building contractor, pause before the stained glass entry windows as they discuss various aspects of the building.

June 13, 1961, Vol. LIII, No. 24

Faith for Today Nears 180-Station Mark

Recent new TV station additions have brought the latest Faith for Today station count to a new high of 177 outlets, a substantial number beyond the highest previous station count since the program's inception in 1950.

The new program week is viewed first of all as God's impress upon the hearts of television station management. God has blessed a vigorous program of station contacts made by the station relations director, Ernest Wenzel, and TV secretaries of the local and union conferences.

Key to the progress is the unique appeal of Faith for Today's tested format which has already resulted in 11 years of continuous broadcasting. Another vital factor is enthusiastic support to Faith for Today given by church administrators, pastors, and lay.

Expressions of appreciation from viewers to station management have been most helpful in keeping present TV channels.

A revised TV station log appears as follows:

FAITH FOR TODAY

(LAKE UNION)

ILLINOIS			
Marionville	WSEI	5	Sun. 12:30 p.m.
Peoria	WYCI	12	Sun. 5:45 a.m.
INDIANA			
Fort Wayne	WANE	13	Sun. 8:50 a.m.
Indianapolis	WIDM	4	Sun. 10:50 a.m.
Lafayette	WFSM	14	Sun. 4:00 p.m.
Merrill	WLRG	49	Sun. 12 noon
South Bend	WBJV	24	Sun. 11:00 a.m.
MICHIGAN			
Calhoun	WMTV	11	Sun. 12 noon
Easton	WNYZ	7	Sun. 10:00 a.m.
Grand Rapids	WGOO	3	Sun. 8:50 a.m.
Napleton	WSPM	5	Sun. 9:15 a.m.
WISCONSIN			
Green Bay	WFRV	5	Sun. 11:30 a.m.
LaCrosse	WRFY	8	Sun. 11:55 a.m.

H. E. HASS

Director of Public Relations
Faith for Today

Leaders of Tomorrow

Kobeletch Katonda, a sophomore at Emmanuel Missionary College, comes to us from Africa. Last year he came to us in the Detroit area, where he did an exceptionally fine work. He served as an officer of the Colporteur Club at the college and will again be working this summer in the Lake Region, carrying the message to those in darkness.

The following experience was sent to us by Brother Katonda:

There are souls out in the world who do not know the Saviour, yet for their sake alone Jesus would have left the heavenly courts to die on Calvary.

As a college student I feel that every summer is a time for me to be instrumental in leading these men to the Saviour. I know of no better way of doing this than going from door to door, planting our truth-filled volumes in the homes. The Lord has promised to lead us to the very people that are looking for the truth.

Last summer as I was canvassing, I met an insurance man, who was desirous of selling me one of his life insurances. After he had talked to me all about it, I asked him:

"Is your life insured?"

"Yes," he replied, "I have had a life insurance for a long time."

"Does your insurance protect your life in such a way that you can't die?" I asked.

"No," he said, "How can it?"

Then I told him about the kind of insurance I had that protects life here and the life hereafter. Being interested in his future life, he bought the volume, *Your Bible and You*.

A few days later he called me asking for three more copies of the same volume. When I went to deliver these books to him, I found that he had three friends each of whom wanted a copy for himself.

The more contacts I make every day while canvassing, the more I feel that there are many people that live without knowing Him and die without a hope. Who will go out for the rescue of these souls? I think anyone who wants to hear these beautiful words, "Well done, thou good and faithful servant. . . . Enter thou into the joy of thy Lord."

Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. M: 36-61

Name Silver Spring Baptist Church
Continuation Sheet

Number 8 Page 55



Andrews University Administration Building, Under Construction, 1964, Mich., The Lake Union Herald, Vol. 56, No. 44, 11/10/1964, p.1.

Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. M: 36-61

Name Silver Spring Baptist Church
Continuation Sheet

Number 8 Page 56



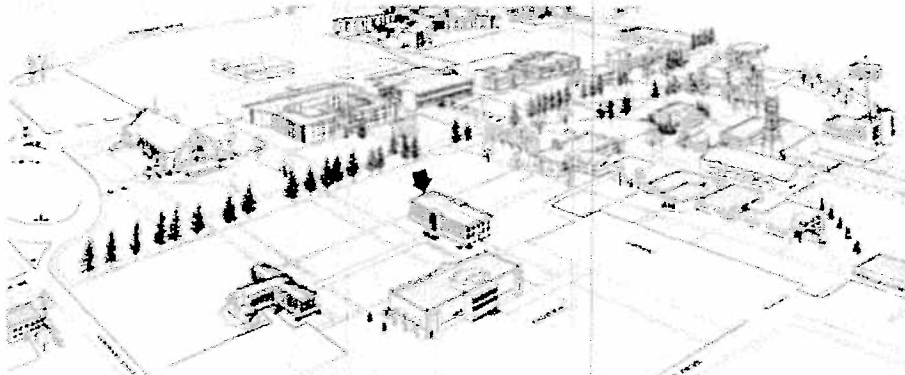
Andrews University Administration Building, Dedication, 1966,
Mich., The Lake Union Herald, Vol. LVIII, 5/3/1966, Cover.

Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. M: 36-61

Name Silver Spring Baptist Church
Continuation Sheet

Number 8 Page 57



The arrow points to the location of the new Administration Building on the campus.

Andrews University Administration Building

By CHARLES E. HUNCH, Ph.D.
Vice-President, Academic Administration

ANDREWS UNIVERSITY which presently consists of the College (formerly Emmanuel Missionary College), the School of Graduate Studies, and the Seventh-day Adventist Theological Seminary will soon be cutting the ribbon to the new, nearly completed and newly constructed Administration Building. This structure, financed by the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists, was designed by Ronald Sorenson, architect, and is being built under the direction of H. H. Hubbard, supervisor of construction. Present plans are for the building to be completed sometime during the summer of 1966.

Dr. Richard Hammill, president of the university, and V. E. Gardner, vice-president for financial affairs, have worked very closely with the builder and the interior decorator for this new structure. The 40,000 square feet of space will be occupied immediately after its completion according to a moving schedule which has been outlined by the administrative officers. President Hammill has stated that the operation of the university will be greatly facilitated by the new building. At the present time administrative offices are located in several areas and in many instances the cramped quarters do not make for an efficient operation of the university program.

Elder R. R. Fugate, chairman of the Board of Trustees, and Elders C. L. Torrey and G. A. Blake of the treasury



Charles E. Hunch

department of the General Conference have maintained close liaison with the university officials in the preparation of this project and have given their whole-hearted support toward making its fruition a reality. Total costs for construction and furnishings are estimated at over \$700,000.

The new building comprises a quadrangle which consists of the White Memorial Library, Seminary Hall, and the Pioneer Memorial Church. It will have two main entrances, one to the north facing the present administration building called Netherly Hall, and one to the south facing Seminary Hall. Plans for the landscaping have already been approved, and the planting of trees is taking place at the present time.

Located on the top floor, or second story of the building, will be the offices of the president, vice-president for academic administration, dean of the college, dean of the school of graduate studies, and the office for public relations and development. On the other half of this floor will be several committee areas, including a board of Trustees room which will be large enough to seat up to 60 persons. These rooms will be used for various faculty council and committee meetings, as well as for the regular meetings of the trustees, and the sub-committees of the board.

On the main floor, or the first floor, will be located the office for the vice-president for financial affairs, the controller-treasurer of the university, managers of the physical plant, and student services, and the accounting office. Facing the lobby from this wing of the building will be the advisors' offices, whose continued activity assures the continuation of a part of its income so vital to its balanced fiscal operation.

Just opposite the advisors' offices, across the lobby, will be a series of six stations with open counters where students will be able to register and obtain information that may pertain to their academic program. Behind this will be located the registrar and his assistants, and the director of

COVER: Author's rendition of the new Administration Building at Andrews University, Berne, Springs, Mich.

Continued on Inside Back Cover

Andrews University Administration Building, Dedication, 1966,
Mich., The Lake Union Herald, Vol. LVIII, 5/3/1966, 2 pps.

Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. M: 36-61

Name Silver Spring Baptist Church
Continuation Sheet

Number 8 Page 58

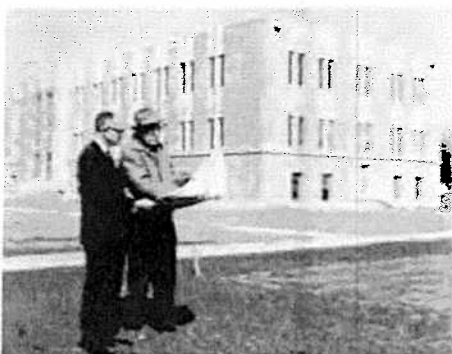
admissions. In addition there will be rooms for transcript evaluation as well as for photocopying a first proof ready to issue course records and a large clerical working area.

On the ground floor will be found the central day booking, copying, and mailing services for the university. The recently created data processing department, which is playing an increasingly important role in the academic as well as business operation of the school, will find its place here with much needed room for the present. It is also hoped that by the opening of school in September, the self-contained TRX sub-board will have been moved from its present location to the new building. This task in itself will take several months of work before the new communications board will become operative.

As the university gears itself for fuller year-round operation under the new quarter system, which becomes effective in the summer of 1967, the need for additional living becomes paramount. This has been taken into consideration in the last few buildings constructed on the campus and has been included in the plans for the university Administration Building.

Andrews University is appreciative of the fine support it has received from its constituency and supporting organizations. Within another year, the new wing on Larson Hall, the ladies' residence hall, and the swimming pool and gymnasium extension are to be completed. Yet, the purchase of other needs are concurrently being recognized by the administration. A new science hall, to replace not only crowded but outdated facilities, and an auditorium, communication, fine arts center are already being given serious thought.

Your prayers and continued support are valued as the university strives in fulfilling the goals and needs by which it is challenged.



President Richard Hammill and Contractor H. H. Hubbard look over blueprints for the new Administration Building at Andrews University in front of the new building.

National Science Foundation Awards Grants

The National Science Foundation has awarded grants totaling \$13,700 to Andrews University for the operation of two in-service institutes in mathematics during the 1966-67 academic year.

For teachers of arithmetic in grades 4, 5, and 6, the course "Contemporary Mathematics for Elementary Teachers" will

be offered. This course carries six semester hours of graduate credit toward the master of arts in elementary education. Participants will study the real number system and the foundations of arithmetic. Included in the program will be closed-circuit television presentations of actual classroom teaching situations. Dr. E. J. Specht, chairman of the mathematics department, will direct this institute. Working with him will be Robert Meach, supervisory instructor in mathematics at Andrews University, Andover. There will be openings for forty participants, who will be eligible for book and travel allowances.

An in-service institute in mathematics for secondary school teachers will also be offered. This course, "Contemporary Mathematics for Secondary Teachers II," carries six hours of graduate credit toward the degree of master of arts in teaching, and will emphasize topics in geometry. It is designed to broaden the background of mathematics teachers in grades 7 to 12. There will be openings for 25 participants in this institute directed by Dr. Ray A. Jorgensen, associate professor of mathematics.

Further information and application forms for either of these institutes may be obtained by writing to the appropriate director:

Department of Mathematics
Andrews University
Berrien Springs, Mich. 49304

Church Music Workshop June 10 to 12

A workshop for church musicians will be held on the campus of Andrews University from June 10 to 12. The workshop is planned for those with little or no formal music education. Special sessions will be conducted for Sabbath School and church pianists and organists, choir directors, song leaders, and those working with Sabbath School and MY orchestras.

Time will be spent in a study of hymns and their use in the services of the church and in evangelism. Special help will be given to those directing adult and junior choirs. The art of accompanying and improvising on the piano and organ will be studied and demonstrated by experts in the field. Guidance will be given in the selection of appropriate piano and organ music for worship services.

In addition to the regular Andrews University music faculty, Prof. H. B. Hansson, chairman of the La Sierra College music department, will assist at the workshop. Professor Hansson is editor of the S.D.A. *Church Hymnal* and is an expert in the field of hymnology as well as in performance at the organ. Elder Roy Allan Anderson, secretary of the Ministerial Association of the General Conference, will be present. Elder Anderson is a student of the history and the use of hymns, particularly in evangelism.

A feature of the workshop will be an organ rental by Dr. C. W. Becker of the Andrews University music faculty on the new Casavant organ. Prof. Gerald Ferguson, tenor, and Mr. Hansman will provide a vesper service on Sabbath evening.

Those interested in more information on the church music workshop should write to Dr. Paul Hansel, Chairman, Music Department, Andrews University, Berrien Springs, Mich. 49304.

Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. M: 36-61

Name Silver Spring Baptist Church
Continuation Sheet

Number 8 Page 59

News Notes *from the world divisions*

North American

Atlantic Union

- Efron Mizilho, pastor of the Prospect Spanish church in the Bronx, New York, reports a total of 97 baptisms through August, 1975. He has 700 names of interested people, many of whom will be ready for baptism in coming months. As a result of his meetings, a new company is being organized in the Plimpton area of New York City and will hold services in the auditorium of the Bronx Manhattan church school. Two other companies of Spanish-speaking believers have also started this year, one in East New York, and the other in the Dykeman section of Manhattan.
- Two new elementary schools began operation this fall in New York, in Paliski and Wellsville.
- The Middletown, New York, church hosted a Family Life Seminar on September 12 and 13. Members of six surrounding churches attended.
- Pastor and Mrs. Frieder Schmid, assigned the task of spearheading the work in Riverhead, New York, saw the fruits of their labors when on Sabbath, September 6, church services were held for the first time in that city. Approximately 45 persons gathered to begin the Sabbath services.

Canadian Union

- Footings have been poured, and the main lodge is ready for framing at the new British Columbia Conference campsite.
- Four It Is Written Revelation Seminars conducted by George Vandemao were held in September in Toronto, Hamilton, and Ottawa, Ontario, and Montreal, Quebec.
- The Alberta Conference ACT team, under the direction of Irma Handa and Don Weller, conducted a booth in one of Calgary's main shopping malls, with hundreds enrolling for the Five-Day Plan to Stop Smoking, cooking classes, and the Way Out pro-

Central Union

- Once a week the Park Avenue church in St. Louis, Missouri, has been giving free blood pressure checks and diabetes tests as a Community Services feature.
- A Leroy Moore is the new director of La Vida Mission, Farmington, New Mexico, a mission in the Colorado Conference that works with the Navajo Indians.

Columbia Union

- Lloyd Erickson, from the Manitoba-Saskatchewan Conference, is the youth and temperance director of the Nebraska Conference. George White, former pastor of the Northside church in Lincoln, Nebraska, is the new conference Sabbath school and lay activities director.
- Recently five converts were baptized into the Bellevue, Nebraska, church.
- Ronald Malloch is pastor of the Torrington-Whitefish-Lark, Wyoming, district.
- Rufus Lloyd has arrived in Hutchinson, Kansas, to pastor the Hutchinson and Newton churches and the McPherson company.
- Shenandoah Valley Academy, New Market, Virginia, has an opening enrollment of 340, the highest in the past ten years. Takoma Academy, Takoma Park, Maryland, has its highest enrollment ever—520.
- Approximately 30 Bible studies are being given in the Manassas, Virginia, community by members of the church to their friends and relatives.
- A new 51-by-138-foot facility added to the Manassas church was opened this fall. The facility contains a gymnasium, several classrooms, and additional space into which the growing church can expand.



VELLORE, INDIA, CHURCH IS DEDICATED

D. R. Watts, South India Union president, was the speaker at the dedication services of the Vellore church on March 29.

The church was designed by R. S. Senseman, brother of L. A. Senseman, a psychiatrist who served at the Christian Medical College, Vellore. Later the design was modified by Surender Babu, engineer for the South India Union.

Situated on the same site as the church are a large youth recreation center, a pastor's study, and Sabbath school rooms. The sanctuary seats nearly 140 persons.

The pastor of this 120-member church is C. P. Honaha. His assistant pastor is M. M. George.

JAYAKARAN S. JOB
Public Relations Secretary
Vellore Church

Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. M: 36-61

Name Silver Spring Baptist Church
Continuation Sheet

Number 8 Page 60



By W. G. C. Murdoch
Dean, Theological Seminary, Andrews University



"When you come to Andrews, you are people from all over Andrews University students - students from 25 countries and

ADVENTIS

The motto of the Seventh-day Adventist Theological Seminary is "From all the world into all the world." This motto well describes the student body in 1963. A recent check indicates that students have come to the Seminary from the ends of the earth. Twenty-four countries outside the United States are represented in the student group, spanning the northern lands of Scandinavia to the southern tip of Australia.

The Seventh-day Adventist Church has a world mission. In the providence of God the Seminary was established to prepare workers to fulfill this mission. It is our task to announce the good news of Christ's offer of salvation to all the world. No other generation has ever been entrusted with such an important and able message.

Men to Match the Message

While it is true that God uses all who are fully consecrated to His service, yet those who have disciplined their minds by diligent and sustained study become much sharper tools in His hands. We recognize that factual information by itself is not enough. There must be a corresponding development of a noble Christian character. True education is concerned with the kind of person the individual is and not alone with what he knows.

For 24 years the Seventh-day Adventist Theological Seminary has been striving to impart such an education. There is an ever-increasing number of our ministers and ministerial students from our colleges taking advantage of the full theological Bachelor of Divinity course. Last year 65 obtained this degree, the largest number ever to attain this distinction in one year. Many others completed shorter courses and also have entered the work. If needs, however, are great and qualified laborers are so few.

The Availability Gap

What is the availability gap? Last year our overseas Divisions plan calls with the General Conference for 217 different workers to various missionary positions. Although number of the General Conference staff members spent days and months searching for mission recruits, only 143 appointments were made in these 217 positions. The unavailability



Overseas, an Andrews University missionary, Y. Y. Zyhuskie, conducts a prayer service for a Korean mission school for a week to attend a youth congress.



Fostered by an Andrews Seminary student, Clarence Swartz, a new church has been organized in Costa.

Top Photo: Senseman's SDA Theological Seminary Worldwide Headquarters Bldg. 1960, John Nevins Andrews University, Berrien Springs, Mich., Entrance & Façade, Modern, Columbia Union Visitor, 4/4/1968, P. 12.

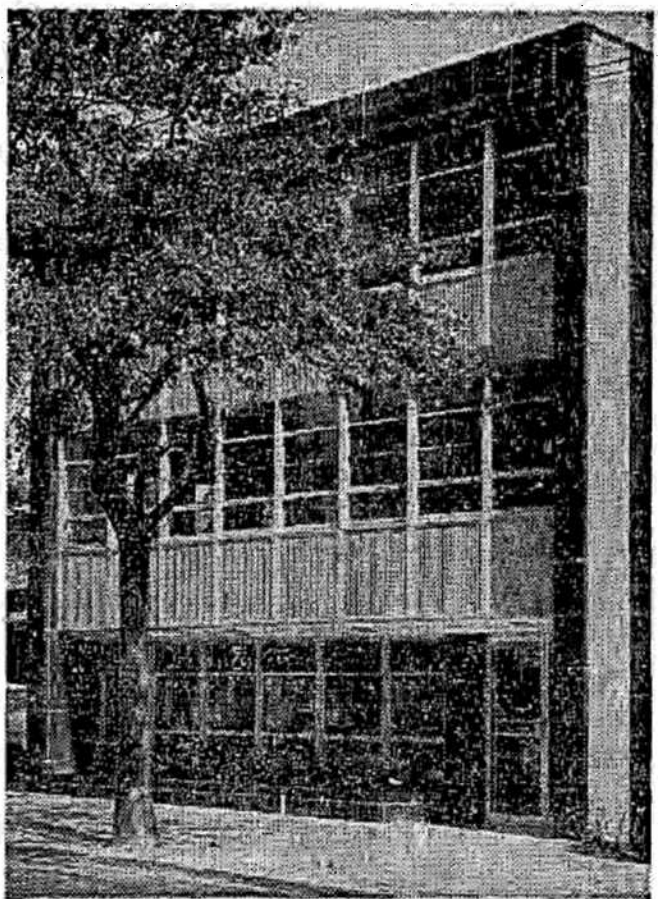
Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. M: 36-61

Name Silver Spring Baptist Church
Continuation Sheet

Number 8 Page 61

*The Washington Post and Times Herald (1954-1959): Oct 10, 1954;
ProQuest Historical Newspapers The Washington Post (1877 - 1994)
pg. R.13*



A New Building for Georgia Ave.

This is the new three-story and basement office building for Park Offices, Inc., at 7705 Georgia ave. nw., designed by Ronald S. Senseman, A.I.A. Architect Senseman has specified unusual details such as a new plastic wall covering which gives a permanent wearing surface free of maintenance, and ceilings of perforated and corrugated aluminum with a blanket of insulation which gives both thermal and acoustical correction. Senseman offices will take up the third floor of the building.

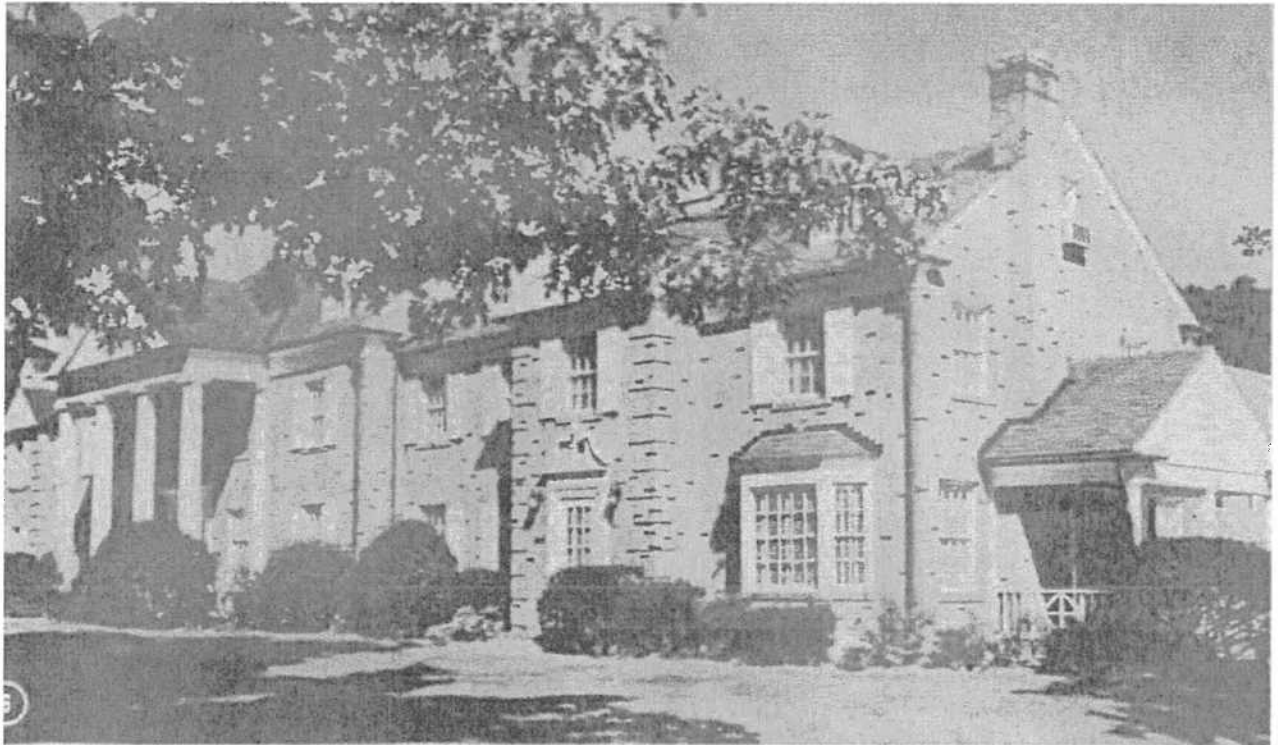
Senseman's colleague and builder Stewart Bainum's offices were on the first and second floors.

Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. M: 36-61

Name Silver Spring Baptist Church
Continuation Sheet

Number 8 Page 62



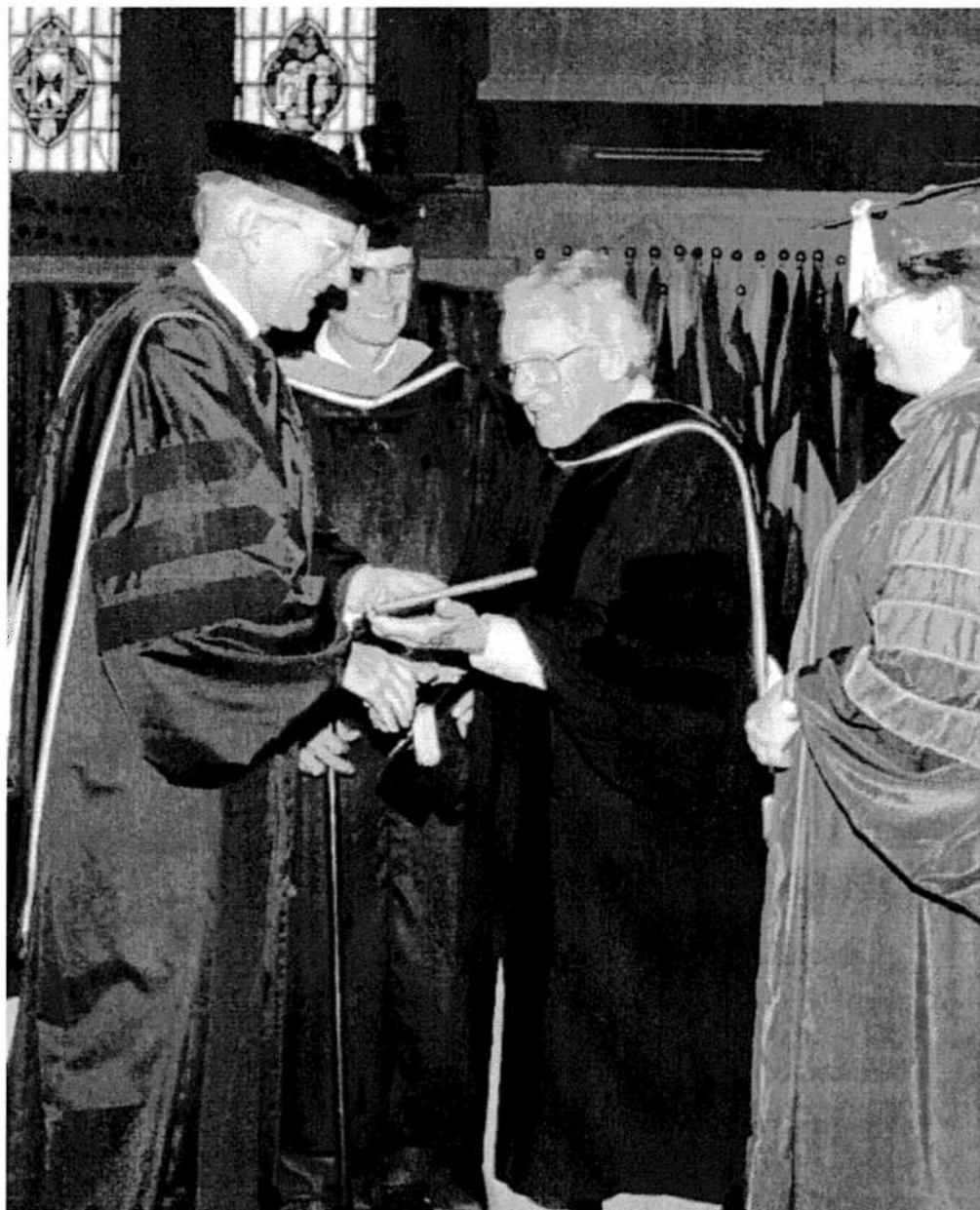
Senseman's Leland Memorial Hospital, "central and most high style" structure in the West Riverdale National Register Historic District, and P.G. County's first hospital, 1936-1942 (EHT Traceries, MHT Nomination form, 12/23/2001).

Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. M: 36-61

Name Silver Spring Baptist Church
Continuation Sheet

Number 8 Page 63



Ronald S. Senseman, FAIA, receiving his Honorary Ph.D. in Fine Arts from John Nevins Andrews University, Berrien Springs, Mich., in 1999, at the age of 86. *FOCUS Magazine*, Andrews U, 1999.

Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. M: 36-61

Name Silver Spring Baptist Church
Continuation Sheet

Number 8 Page 64

ADVOCATE

21 1930

WEDNESDAY, DEC. 17, 1930

Entered as Second-class Matter
at Bethesda, Maryland.

SUBSCR

Proposed Baptist Church for Silver Spring

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Montgomery Avenue view of the Silver Spring Baptist Church, according to plans drawn by George E. Merrill, of New York City. The unit on the left will be erected first and the completed project will cost approximately \$100,000.

The building will be of brick and will follow the colonial theme of architecture in keeping with the history of Maryland and the spirit of the Baptist denomination which was founded in Rhode Island in the early American period.

"Proposed Baptist Church for Silver Spring," Rendering, *Maryland News Advocate*, 12/17/1930: 1, Caption below:

"Montgomery Avenue view of the Silver Spring Baptist Church, according to plans drawn by George E. Merrill, of New York City. The unit on the left will be erected first and the completed project will cost approximately \$100,000."
"The building will be of brick and will follow the colonial theme of architecture in keeping with the history of Maryland and the spirit of the Baptist denomination which was founded in Rhode Island in the early American period."

Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. M: 36-61

Name Silver Spring Baptist Church
Continuation Sheet

Number 8 Page 66

POTOMAC VALLEY CHAPTER OF MARYLAND THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS

912 THAYER AVENUE, SILVER SPRING, MARYLAND



EXECUTIVE OFFICE

September 9, 1964

Jury of Fellows
American Institute of Architects
1735 New York Avenue, N. W.
Washington 6, D. C.

Re: Nomination for Fellowship - Ronald S. Senseman, A.I.A.

Gentlemen:

I am pleased to report that at the Executive Committee meeting of the Potomac Valley Chapter of Maryland, American Institute of Architects on Wednesday, September 2, 1964 the following Resolution was passed unanimously:

BE IT RESOLVED that the Executive Committee of the Potomac Valley Chapter of Maryland, American Institute of Architects vigorously reaffirms the nomination of Ronald S. Senseman, A.I.A., for elevation to Fellow of the Institute for Service to the Institute and Design.

The nomination of Mr. Senseman was originally made by the Committee last year and all of the information pertinent to this nomination is on file at the Institute.

Should you require additional information, please feel free to call upon us.

Sincerely yours,

Handwritten signature of Dennis W. Hadden in cursive.

Dennis W. Hadden, A.I.A.
President - Potomac Valley Chapter of Maryland
American Institute of Architects

cc: Mrs. Amalie B. Dobres

Mr. Benjamin P. Elliott, A.I.A.

RECEIVED
SEP 15 1964
POTOMAC VALLEY CHAPTER
OF MARYLAND
AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS

SEP 15 1964

SEP 15 1964
WASHINGTON

9-15-64

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Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. M: 36-61

Name Silver Spring Baptist Church
Continuation Sheet

Number 8 Page 67



THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS
ORDER OF FELLOWS

No. NR 1036

Received Oct. 1 1963

Voted On April 9 1964

Voted On April 19 65

Voted On [unclear] 1966

Granted [unclear] 1966

No. M 1036

NOMINATION FOR FELLOWSHIP

CASE RECORD

Ronald Sylvester

1. Name of Nominee: Senseman, Ronald Sylvester Date of Nomination: August 7 1963
2. Address of Nominee: 7705 Georgia Ave., NW - Washington 12, D. C.
3. Nominee's firm: Ronald S. Senseman, AIA
4. Nominee's principal place of business: same as #3 above
5. Nominee's Chapter: Potomac Valley Chapter, AIA
6. Nominee's State Organization: none
7. Nominee admitted to Institute: August 15, 1944
8. Nominee has been in good standing in Institute from: 8 15 44 to: Jan. 1 1964
9. Nominee's age: 51 Birthplace: Collingswood, New Jersey
10. Nominators: Executive Committee, Potomac Valley Chapter
 - (1) Theodore R. Corwin, Jr.
 - (2) Dennis W. Madden
 - (3) John W. Lawrence
 - (4) Jack C. Cohen
 - (5) John E. Moore
 - (6) Andrew MacIntire
 - (7) Harold L. Esten
11. Achievement: SERVICE TO INSTITUTE - DESIGN

*Services of Council 244
Building Services 244*

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Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form


Inventory No. M: 36-61

Name Silver Spring Baptist Church
Continuation Sheet

Number 8 Page 68

ALA FORM 100 (1951) Nomination No. _____

CONFIDENTIAL



THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS

**Nomination for Fellowship
by Chapter**

revised

The Jury of Peers, AIA
The American Institute of Architects
1735 New York Avenue, Northwest
Washington, D.C.

Date September 26, 1963
Revised October 22, 1963

The Executive Committee of this Chapter, at a duly called meeting on August 7, 1963
(DATE OF MEETING)

has nominated RONALD SYLVESTER SENSEMAN (NAME OF NOMINEE) a member of this Chapter, for Fellowship in the Institute. We enclose evidence of the qualifications of the nominee for the fellowship in which the nomination was based and certify the resolution is as follows:

"Whereas, this Executive Committee believes Ronald Sylvester Senseman (NAME OF NOMINEE) a member of this Chapter, has made an notable a contribution to the advancement of the profession because of his achievement in Service to the Profession, Public Service, (NAME OF CATEGORY) and end Science of Construction (NAME OF CATEGORY) FOR WHICH NOMINATION IS PERMITTED: DESIGN, SERVICE OF CONSTRUCTION, LITERATURE, EDUCATION, SERVICE TO THE PROFESSION, PUBLIC SERVICE;

"Whereas, said nominee has been in good standing in this Chapter for 100 (NUMBER OF YEARS) years past the date, therefore be it

Resolved, That The Potomac Valley Chapter of Maryland (NAME OF CHAPTER) Chapter AIA does hereby nominate RONALD SYLVESTER SENSEMAN (NAME OF NOMINEE) for Fellowship in The Institute, and the President and Secretary be and they are authorized and directed to prepare the nomination papers and forward them to The Jury of Peers of the Institute and to do all things proper to forward said nomination."

Signature of Members of Executive Committee

John E. Moore President
John W. Lawrence President
Harold Lovell Secretary

Edwin F. Bell Director
Ernest A. DeWitt Director
John C. DeWitt Director
William H. Mason Secretary

THE NOMINATORS SHOULD SEE THAT DATA IS SENT TO THE JURY OF PEERS IN SUPPORT OF THIS NOMINATION. ALL SUCH COMMUNICATIONS SHALL BE PRIVILEGED AND NO COPIES SHOULD BE GIVEN TO OTHERS.

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Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. M: 36-61

Name Silver Spring Baptist Church
Continuation Sheet

Number 8 Page 69

MSA FORM NA 1081

NOMINEE'S ACHIEVEMENT IN ARCHITECTURAL DESIGN

(Part I of this page must be executed in all cases regardless of category for which nomination is made to conform in photographic exhibits which will be submitted.)

I. Works

TYPE <small>(a) Commercial (b) Monumental (c) Domestic (d) Special</small>	IDENTIFICATION OF WORK	LOCATION OF WORK		COMPLETED CONSTRUCTION WORK (Year)	PHOTOGRAPHS SUBMITTED TO JURY OF EVIDENCE
		(City)	(State)		
A	Park Arlington Apts.	Arlington, Virginia		1963	1
B	Montgomery County Office Building	Rockville, Maryland		1952	1
A	Slow-Away Motel	Ocean City, Maryland		1958	1
A	Fink Office Building	Arlington, Virginia		1961	1
D	Bothune Jr. High Sch.	Prince George's County Maryland		1962	1
A	Park Arlington Hotel	Arlington, Virginia		1961	1
D	Springvale Home for the Elderly	Silver Spring, Md.		1965	1
D	Sligo Parochial School	Takoma Park, Maryland		1964	1
D	St. Martin's Evangelical Lutheran Church	Annapolis, Maryland		1963	1
D	Wytheville S.D.A. Ch.	Wytheville, Virginia		1964	2

2. Describe nominee's notable work in design, to bring out the particular achievements the nominator believes have notably contributed to the advancement of the profession.

Mr. Senseman's philosophy, in connection with the design of his structures is that: "It is not the architect's prerogative to create a building that expresses his identity; rather it is the responsibility of the architect to the client to provide him with a facility that will function as it should and express the aesthetic desires of the client; the building should, in its aesthetic appeal, reflect the purpose for which it was intended to serve; it is also the architect's grave responsibility that the completed project be economically feasible."

Most of the buildings designed by Mr. Senseman have incorporated this philosophy wherein the structure and design are synonymous. This is particularly well illustrated in the blue schools that he has designed and built in Levittown, New Jersey, which incorporate the lightweight steel construction frame (see Science of Construction).

* Part I above must be executed in all cases regardless of category for which nomination is made to conform in photographic exhibits which will be submitted.

Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. M: 36-61

Name Silver Spring Baptist Church
Continuation Sheet

Number 8 Page 70

Donald K. Thorson

THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS

The American Institute of Architects, 1735 Georgia Avenue, N. W., Washington 25, D. C. • Founded 1899

April 12, 1966

Mr. Donald Sylvester Thompson, FAIA
7705 Georgia Avenue, N. W.
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Mr. Thompson:

The American Institute of Architects desires to confer upon you the honor Fellowship and membership in the College of Fellows, in accordance with the action of the Jury of Fellows at its recent meeting, for your notable contribution in service to the Profession.

The purpose of this letter is to request your presence at the 1966 AIA Convention of the Institute to be held in Denver, Colorado, June 26-July 1, 1966.

Those who have been advanced to Fellowship will receive their certificates and medals at the Annual Dinner on the evening of Friday, July 1, 1966, in the Grand Ballroom, Denver Hilton Hotel. Transportation will be with appreciation arranged and it is highly desirable that each of the newly advanced Fellows be present.

The Officers of the Institute and the Jury of Fellows join in the request that you send to receive this honor in person. Please send your response to the Institute at an early date.

A memorandum from the Department of Public Services regarding the public announcement of your advancement to Fellowship is enclosed.

Sincerely yours,

Donald K. Thorson, FAIA
Secretary

DKT/g

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Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. M: 36-61

Name Silver Spring Baptist Church
Continuation Sheet

Number 8 Page 71



Photo by Silver Spring Historical Society

9. Major Bibliographical References

Inventory No. M: 36-61

See Attached

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of surveyed property .73 acres
Acreage of historical setting .73 acres
Quadrangle name _____

Quadrangle scale: _____

Verbal boundary description and justification

The property is bounded by Fenton Avenue to the west and Wayne Avenue to the north and consists of lots 20, 21, 22 and 23 on block 4 as shown at Jordan's and Smith's Addition to Silver Spring Park (plat 301) dated 06/01/1925.

11. Form Prepared by

name/title	Marcie Stickle and George French		
organization	Silver Spring Historical Society	date	11/24/10
street & number	PO Box 1160 or 8515 Greenwood Ave, #8	telephone	301-585-3817
city or town	Silver Spring	state	MD

The Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust
Maryland Department of Planning
100 Community Place
Crownsville, MD 21032-2023
410-514-7600

Maryland Historical Trust

Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. M: 36-61

Name Silver Spring Baptist Church
Continuation Sheet

Number 9 Page 1

MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Books & Documents & Collections:

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Bruegmann, Robert, ed. Modernism at Mid-Century: The Architecture of the United States Air Force Academy. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1994.

Cavicchi [Kelly], Clare Lise. Places from the Past: The Tradition of Gardez Bien in Montgomery County, Maryland. Silver Spring: Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission, 2001.

Christ-Janier, Albert and Mary Mix Foley, Modern Church Architecture: a guide to the form and spirit of 20th century religious buildings. New York: Dodge Book Dept., McGraw-Hill, 1962.

Columbia Historical Society of Washington D.C., Records of the, 1966-1968, Rosenberger, Francis Coleman, Editor.

Dwyer, Michael F. "Old Silver Spring Commercial Area," Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission, MIHP Form #36/7, June 2, 1975.

Eig, Emily EHT Tracerics, Inc., *Silver Spring Branch Office of the Perpetual Building Association: 8700 Georgia Avenue, Silver Spring, Md., 2007*, Nomination for Historic Designation of the Perpetual Building Association Building, Silver Spring, Md.

Treichsman, Laura, EHT Tracerics Inc. "West Riverdale Historic District" at www.mht.maryland.gov/nr

Ellwood, Robert S. 1950. Crossroads of American Religious Life. Louisville: Westminster John Knox Press, 2000.

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Koyl, George S., ed. American Architects Directory, First and Second Edition. New York: R.R. Bowker Company, 1955 and 1962.

Loveland, Anne C. From Meetinghouse to Megachurch: A Material and Cultural History. Columbia: Univ. of Missouri Press, 2003.

MacMaster, Richard K. and Ray Eldon Hiebert. A Grateful Remembrance: The Story of Montgomery County, Maryland. Rockville, Maryland: Montgomery County Government and the Montgomery County Historical Society, 1976.

McCoy, Jerry A. and the Silver Spring Historical Society, Historic Silver Spring, Images of America, Arcadia Series, 2005.

Mroszczyk, Lisa, and Kelly, Clare Lise. M-NCPPC Planning Dept. HPC Staff Draft MIHP Form. "Silver Spring Baptist Church," Inventory # 36-61, 2010.

Saint Michael the Archangel Parrish: 1930-2000, Silver Spring, Maryland, Olan Church Directories June 2001.

Scott, Pamela, *Places of Worship in the District of Columbia*, www.cbcdwc.org/about-us/history.html, 2000.

Senseman, Ronald, AIA Archives, <http://www.aia.org/about/history/AIAS076705>

Maryland Historical Trust

Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. M: 36-61

Name Silver Spring Baptist Church

Continuation Sheet

Number 9 Page 2

Senseman, Ronald, FAIA, Collection, John Nevins Andrews University, Berrien Springs, Michigan.

Silver Spring-Central Business District Survey: Montgomery County Historic Preservation Commission Archives, 2002.

Torgerson, Mark Allen. An Architecture of Immanence: Architecture for Worship and Ministry Today. Grand Rapids, Mich.: William B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, 2007.

Wirz, Hans & Richard Striner. Washington Deco: Art Deco Design in the Nation's Capital. Wash., D.C.: Smithsonian Institution Press, 1984.

Journals, Magazines, Newspapers, Articles, Websites:

Atlantic Union Gleaner, 3/11/1952, Vol. LI, # 11

Seventh Day Adventist Conference Archives, 2010, including: *Columbia Union Visitor*, June 2, 1966, 11/29/1956, Vol. 61, # 48, 8/14/1947, Vol. 52, # 33, May 28, 1964, Vol. 69, # 22, 2/22/1951, 8/21/1958, Vol. 63, No. 34; *Lake Union Herald*, 6/13/1961 Vol. LII, # 24; *Review & Herald*, 7/19/1962, 11/6/1975, 1945," Vol. 121, No. 42; *Sligonian*, 12/23/1931, 8/30/1940, Vol. 25, # 19; *South Asia Tidings*, 11/1969, # 11, Vol. 64.

Senseman, Ronald S. "Building a Church." *Advent Review and Sabbath Herald*. Volume 129, No. 1-11 (1952).

Evening Star, 4/14/1951, 3/9/1957.

Silver Spring Standard-Montgomery Independent, Th., 4/30/1942.

Washington Post (& Times Herald), including, May 2, 1925, June 16, 1925, January 31, 1926, July 14, 1926, March 18, 1928, October 19, 1930, June 28, 1931, August 30, 1931, January 8 and December 17, 1939, July 31, 1945, March 17, 1949, April 1, 1950, May 25, 1950, August 12, 1950, April 28, 1951, November 17, 1952, October 10, 1954, January 1, 1955, June 12, 1955, September 2 and 18, 1955, June 17, 1956, February 16, 1957, March 10, 1957, August 3, 1957, Sep 4, 1960, June 1, 1961, May 21, 1966, July 8, 1989, February 6, 2001.

Funeral Service Program, 2/7/2001, "Celebrating the Life of Ronald S. Senseman, Oct. 19, 1912, to Feb. 3, 2001."

Progressive Architecture, July 1950.

First Baptist Church of Silver Spring Website 2010. <http://fbcss.org/history.html>, [last accessed 2010].

Shepherd's Table Website, www.shepherdstable.org; Woodside Church, <http://www.woodsideumc.org/about-us/our-history.html> <http://www.sligoadventistschool.org/> photo at top,

Gournay, Isabelle, Professor of Architecture, University of Maryland, Research, 10/14/2005. Senseman File. Correspondence.

2002 CBD survey form

**MARYLAND HISTORIC TRUST
DETERMINATION OF ELIGIBILITY FORM**

NR Eligible Yes No

Property Name First Baptist Church Sunday School/Inglisia Bautista Inventory Number CBD-118
 Address 832 WAYNE AVE City SILVER SPRING Zip Code 20910
 County Montgomery USGS Topographic Map Washington West
 Owner SILVER SPRING BAPTIST CHURCH Is property being evaluated as a district? Yes

Tax Parcel Number 0 Tax Map Number JN33 Tax Account ID Number 1046281
 Project Silver Spring Central Business District Survey Agency MNCPPC

Site Visit by MHT Staff Yes No Name _____ Date _____

Is Property Located in Historic District Yes No

If the property is within a district
 District Inventory Number _____
 NR-Listed District Yes Eligible District Yes District Name _____
 Preparer's Recommendation: Contributing Resource Yes No Non Contributing but eligible in another context Yes

If the property is not within a district (or the property is a district)
 Preparer's Recommendation: Eligible Yes No

Criteria A B C D Considerations A B C D E F G None

Documentation on the property/district is presented in: Montgomery County Tax Records, Klinge 1941, Sanborn, 1927, 1955, 1959.

Description of Property and Eligibility Determination: *(Use continuation sheet if necessary and attach map and photo)*

This building, constructed in 1950, according to a date stone on the front façade, is a brick, 2-story Colonial Revival (Georgian Revival) structure with hip roof and central roof cupola. It is 3-bays wide and has 6/6 paired double-hung windows. The original Georgian Revival front entrance has been permanently closed, and access is from a west side brick addition with an entrance foyer. As a religious property, this building is not eligible for the National Register, as religious properties are not generally eligible.



MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST REVIEW	
Eligibility recommended	Eligibility not recommended
Criteria: <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/> B <input type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> D	Criteria: <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/> B <input type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> D <input type="checkbox"/> E <input type="checkbox"/> F <input type="checkbox"/> G <input type="checkbox"/> None
Comments: _____	

Reviewer, Office of Preservation Services	Date
Reviewer, NR Program	Date

832 Wayne Ave



MARYLAND HISTORIC TRUST
DETERMINATION OF ELIGIBILITY FORM

Continuation of Sheet No. 1

Prepared by: David Berg & Natalie Mach

Date Prepared: October 17, 2002



Source: USGS Quadrangle Washington West DC US, MD US, VA US, 1:24,000, 1983

2005 emails between SSHS and
former HPC members

David S. Rotenstein

From: David Rotenstein [david.rotenstein@earthlink.net]
Sent: Friday, November 11, 2005 11:21 AM
To: 'Marcipro@aol.com'; 'sshhistory@yahoo.com'; 'mareardon3@yahoo.com'; 'woodsdepk@earthlink.net'
Subject: RE: S.S. Baptist Church Meeting Aftermath!
Attachments: SilverSpring.pdf

Hi Marcie,

Speaking strictly as a professional architectural historian/historian and Silver Spring resident:

1. I would be really encouraged if someone would contact Meredith Hooker (Gazette reporter who attended the meeting) and underscore to her that there has not been any formal evaluation of the property's historical significance. It might be worthwhile to coordinate with Isabelle Gournay to see if she would be willing to speak to the property's/architect's significance;
2. A formal documentation of the property (e.g., MIHP form) illustrating its significance would be really helpful to frame the historic preservation arguments;
3. A rebuttal (with supporting documentation) to the developer's assertion that a 9-story building or above is the only mixed-use option viable at this site.
4. I wouldn't want to be one of the adjoining/nearby property owners on Bonifant. Look at the attached satellite photo (Google Earth) of the church and vicinity. This was shot during a winter afternoon; note the shadows thrown off by the existing buildings. You can visually extrapolate what a 90-foot tower or two would do under similar environmental circumstances.

I wasn't impressed by the developer or his presentation.

David.

From: Marcipro@aol.com [<mailto:Marcipro@aol.com>]
Sent: Friday, November 11, 2005 11:01 AM
To: david.rotenstein@earthlink.net; sshhistory@yahoo.com; mareardon3@yahoo.com; woodsdepk@earthlink.net
Subject: S.S. Baptist Church Meeting Aftermath!

David, Hi! What are your observations? Your analyses? Your thoughts? Thanks! Marcie et al., SSHS, 301-585-3817

David S. Rotenstein

From: caroline.alderson@gsa.gov
Sent: Wednesday, November 09, 2005 2:00 PM
To: david.rotenstein@earthlink.net
Subject: RE: Fw: S.S. First Baptist Church Mtg., 11/10/05, Meet 7:15 p.m. at Fenton & Wayne

David,

Sure does, when I walk past the site, I see a 1950s church, nice in itself as a monument in the center of town, but it does dominate the site. Church spires add to the richness of downtown's like Silver Spring, I hate to see the downtown purged of them, regardless of whether they make the designation cut. Have they sold the property already, with specific development expectations, like Comsat?

Caroline

Caroline Alderson
Program Manager, Center for Historic Buildings (PMAH)
Office of the Chief Architect, GSA Public Buildings Service
1800 F Street NW, Suite 3341
Washington, DC 20405
tel 202-501-9156 fax 202-501-3393

"David Rotenstein" <david.rotenstein@earthlink.net>

To caroline.alderson@gsa.gov
cc
Subject RE: Fw: S.S. First Baptist Church Mtg., 11/10/05, Meet 7:15 p.m. at Fenton & Wayne

11/09/2005 07:13 AM

Caroline,

I'm planning to go. It would be a shame to lose this Silver Spring corner to another HR condo but I'm not sure (based on my cursory stares at the church buildings while passing by or stopped at the light) that it merits designation. The art deco (late use, for sure) highlights on the 1950s block are intriguing but there'd need to be more of a compelling reason besides this and the architect. I need to look more closely at the original 1920s chapel. Overall, I've seen worse examples of older churches with 1950s-1960s additions but I've seen many better ones. And then there's the thorny 50-year threshold issue with the addition.

Also, since this likely is going to be a reactive application for designation, it strikes to close to the COMSAT mess

At any rate, I'll likely bring this up at the meeting next week.

David.

From: caroline.alderson@gsa.gov [mailto:caroline.alderson@gsa.gov]
Sent: Tuesday, November 08, 2005 5:15 PM
To: David Rotenstein
Subject: Re: Fw: S.S. First Baptist Church Mtg., 11/10/05, Meet 7:15 p.m. at Fenton & Wayne

Thanks, David,

Tearing down the old church? How sad. I would be hard pressed to get there at 7:30, since I'm off at 7 Thursday and I promised we'd get Chapter one in Takoma's Pictorial History completed by the end of the week. (Arcadia is funding publication and we have to meet this milestone for an extension on the rest.)

Not listed or in a district so we'd have no say, I guess?

Are you going?

Caroline

Caroline Alderson
Program Manager, Center for Historic Buildings (PMAH)
Office of the Chief Architect, GSA Public Buildings Service
1800 F Street NW, Suite 3341
Washington, DC 20405
tel 202-501-9156 fax 202-501-3393

"David Rotenstein" <david.rotenstein@earthlink.net>

11/08/2005 09:54 AM

To Caroline.alderson@gsa.gov
cc
Subject Fw: S.S. First Baptist Church Mtg., 11/10/05, Meet 7:15 p.m. at Fenton & Wayne

Please respond to
"David Rotenstein" <david.rotenstein@earthlink.net>

Caroline,

Marcie Stickle (Silver Spring Historical Society) asked that I forward this to you.

David.

-----Forwarded Message-----

You are invited to:
First Baptist Church, 8415 Fenton St.
Silver Spring, Md
November 10, 2005, 7:30 p.m.

To review and discuss
A New Development Proposal

Developer, Church, and County staff
will be there to answer your questions

Features in this new proposal:

- * More open space
- * 27% reduction in total units
- * Parking entrance on Wayne Ave.
- * Church entrance on Fenton near Wayne
- * Less traffic impact on Bonifant Street
- * Accessible public space

SSHS President **Jerry McCoy** adds another point: * Demolishing the 1924 and 1956 Churches !

SSHS Preservation Chair **Mary Reardon** writes about a major concern of ours:

We are afraid the **Planning Commission is prepared to grant a zoning variance for a project that involves demolishing the [Ronald Senseman] church (along with the original 1924 church)**. Though the developers have probably reduced the height of the project from the original 90 feet, they will still ask for more than the currently allowable 60 feet. Since it's down from 90, the community might accept it.

First Baptist Church of Silver Spring
 Designed by Architect Ronald S. Senseman, 1912-2001, &
 Constructive Means Readily Available for Church to Meet its Challenges
 By Marcie Stickle, Silver Spring Historical Society Member
 SSCAB Neighborhood Committee Meeting, April 18, 2005

Of great interest, is that the First Baptist Church of Silver Spring, completed 1956, was designed by the distinguished, prolific and **award-winning architect Ronald S. Senseman**, 1912-2001, originally from New Jersey, who arrived in the D.C. area in 1930, including residing in Silver Spring, where he was living in 2001 at the age of 88, at the time of his death.

Senseman undertook significant projects from individuals, educational institutions, the church, and government. Among his myriad (2,000) works, he designed at least 9 schools in Levittown, N.J., the **Chapel** at Andrews Air Force Base, Va., the Navy War College, Newport, Rhode Island, our **Montgomery County (Council) Office Building**, Rockville, Md., with its graceful Art Deco vestibule, and other Art Deco features; more than 50 churches, 150 schools, a number of hospital facilities, and hotels and motels.

A Seventh Day Adventist, he earlier studied and later taught architecture at **Columbia Union College**, in Takoma Park, Md., where he also did design work on the College. He received his architectural degree from **Catholic University**.

Senseman was an **American Institute of Architect's Fellow**, a **prestigious AIA award of recognition from his AIA peers**; **President of AIA's Maryland Division**; and founder and first President of its Potomac Valley Chapter. He was a registered architect in 12 states! He was a member of the **Silver Spring Board of Trade, and Montgomery County Chamber of Commerce**.

Senseman's awards include but are not limited to an **honorary doctorate** from the **Seventh Day Adventist Andrews University** in Michigan, where he also did design work, and where a special **collection of his papers is housed**; an outstanding achievement award from **Catholic University**; and from the Washington Board of Trade, including one for his Oakview Elementary School, and from the AIA, 1950; Viers Mill Elementary School; and Rolling Terrace Elementary School, 1951, in Silver Spring.

[His interests included deep sea fishing and racing his own small planes; he traveled to 75 countries.]

While SSHS does not oppose the Church's plans to take economic advantage of its property, we do not support its current plans which include demolition of their landmark original 1924 rectory/hall and 1956 sanctuary.

The **1924 rectory is an early and rare surviving example of Colonial Revival architecture.** The 1956 church is a unique hybrid of International and Art Deco style architecture. Together these 2 structures have graced the Silver Spring streetscape and have served as landmarks for half a century and more. The Church's metal steeple is 40 feet in height!

Please NOTE that the newer 1956 Church was built adjacent to the original 1924 Church. There is a beautiful **aesthetic and practical synergy created**; also showing respect for Silver Spring's history. This can be repeated again, by retaining and working with these two wonderful **irreplaceable structures**. It can be done, all visions achieved, and challenges met.

The original Church held its first service in 12/7/24, in the original rectory/hall, with nine members. In 1957, the congregation exceeded 1200 persons.

The \$425,000 (air conditioned) Church was dedicated 3/10/57, with Dr. Frank K. Brasington, pastor since 1948, delivering the dedication sermon. Services were first held in the sanctuary Feb. 17. Others participating were Rev. Wessley Loftis, pastor from 1927-47; Dr. W. S. Abernethy, pastor emeritus of Calvary Baptist Church; and D.M. Chandler Stith, executive secretary of the D.C. Baptist Convention ("Evening Star," 3/9/57).

The Church's Pastor and its congregation can meet its challenges and achieve its visions in constructive and creative ways:

In 2003 the **National Trust for Historic Preservation** included "**Urban Houses of Worship**" on its America's 11 Most Endangered Historic Places. The Trust contends that these monuments to faith, many of which are architectural landmarks as well as community anchors, are falling victim to changing demographics, limited capital budgets, and soaring real-estate values. See:

<http://www.nationaltrust.org/11Most/2003/urbanworship.html>.

Since **2003 under the current Administration, Churches CAN receive Federal Preservation dollars**; and State and County.

The National Historic Trust offers a vital solution through the efforts of **Partners for Sacred Places**:

"the only national, non-sectarian nonprofit organization dedicated to helping congregations and their communities sustain and actively use older and historic sacred places,"
www.sacredplaces.org, partners@sacredplaces.org,
A Partners' cutting edge program is "**New Dollars/New Partners**"

We spoke with **Partners for Sacred Places** today, Mon., 4/18, and they are very pleased and eager to talk with the Pastor and other Church officials, to provide myriad alternatives to help you achieve your visions and meet your challenges, without entire demolition of irreplaceable structures. They **welcome** your phone call and/or email. Please contact:

Bob Jaeger, Executive Director, 215-567-3234, Ext. 12, bjjaeger@sacredplaces.org, 215-567-3235

(Fax),
Diane Cohen, 215-567-3234, Ext. 11, dcohen@sacredplaces.org,
partners@sacredplaces.org, www.sacredplaces.org,
Wendy Nicholas, National Trust for Historic Preservation,
wendy_nicholas@nthp.org, Director, Northeast Regional office, 617-523-0885

Partners' "**Advocacy Initiatives**" take the message of Sacred Places at Risk to civic leaders, funders, and policymakers urging government, philanthropy, and religion to adopt policies and practices that provide new resources to older religious properties. One example of this advocacy is "**Ten Sacred Places to Save**," a new national list of historic houses of worship with daunting capital repair needs exceeding their congregations' financial means, endangering both buildings and the vital community programs they house.

Also, the Church can contact Gwen Wright, Historic Preservation Commission Coordinator, 301-563-3400,
301-563-3412 (FAX), gwen.wright@mncppc-mc.org; and Josh Phillips, Preservation Maryland, Preservation Services Director, at JPhillips@PreservationMaryland.org, 410-685-2886, Ext. 303.
They are glad to provide you with the "how-to's" of resources available to you.

The Silver Spring Historical Society is also pleased to work with you.

Marcie Stickle, 301-585-3817, MarciPro@aol.com
Silver Spring Historical Society Member
8515 Greenwood Ave., Takoma Park, MD 20912

* * * * *

Isabelle Gournay, Univ. of Md., research, 10/14/05:

Senseman was certainly a major player in the post-war suburban MD design scene.
His office trained many architects. Very prolific and entrepreneurial.
Here is the info we collected on him

SENSEMAN, Ronald Sylvester (Collingswood, NJ? 2000) 1934 Silver Spring
B.Arch Catholic University
Charter President PVC-AIA, 1956
developer as well
Republican nominee, Maryland House of Delegates, 1958
resides in Burnt Hills Mills, Silver spring
Robert A. WEPPNER AIA in charge of design
Anthony F. HARRER AIA
Edwin F. PENFIELD, AIA
Forest HANOWELL
Morris MERRITT
Joanna PANAGOS interior decorator c.1960

Quality Motels, Towson, College Park, Silver Spring, Arlington
nursing homes
Washington Sanatorium and Hospital
Fasanko Car Dealership, College Park, 1948 (presently laudromat)

Rolling Terrace Elementary School, Takoma Park, c.1951 (WP, April 15,
1951, R1 Winner, Biennial Architectural Excellence Competition, 1951)
* .Forest Grove Elementary School, 9805 Dameron Drive Silver Spring,
1952 (DC Guide)

Progressive Architecture 31 (July 1950), 56-58
* Saint John Evangelical Lutheran Church, Ellicott City, construction begun 1954 (News American 10/28/54- 338/5)
* First Baptist Church of Silver Spring, 1956
Viers Mill School, Montgomery County, c.1956
office 7705 Georgia Avenue, silver spring, c.1956
Hospital, Curacao, c.1958
* Marino House, Annapolis Road (First Place Award-Potomac AIA 1956) (Work of MD Architects 1957)
Wheaton Presbyterian Church
Wheaton Senior High School (AIA-Baltimore 1957)
Eastern Suburban Junior High School
Walter Johnson Jr. High School, Old Georgetown Road, Bells Mill Road, Bethesda
Fairmount Heights Junior High School
group of schools in Levittown, NJ
Stow-A-Way Motel, Ocean City, c.1957 (Award of Merit-Potomac Valley AIA 1958)
* Ascension Lutheran Church, Landover Hills, c.1959 (Architects Report Winter 1959)
* Park Towson Motel, Towson, 1959
PVA 4 (October 1, 1959)
* Wheaton Nursing Home (PVA 3/1962)
Stardust Motel, Ocean City, c.1962
Quality Courts motel, Pikesville, BC, c.1968 (News American)
* Robert Frost Elementary School, Prince George's County, c.1968 (see Washington Post, January 29, 1968)
Jack Cohen interviewed IG 10/24.02 / Ronald Senseman was investor with one of the motel companies / Manor ???

* * * * *

See Calvary Baptist Web site, www.calvarydc.com/consruction.html, this project is a role model:

Calvary Baptist was designed by Adolph Cluss, who designed the Smithsonian Institute buildings, Sumner School, Eastern Market, and other!

Something great is taking place on the corner of 8th and H Streets in N.W. Washington!

Diagram of The Sanctuary, Woodward Building, Green Building

Calvary has a major reconstruction, renovation, resotation of its historic buildings underway. Construction began early in 2003 and is expected to be completed early in 2005. The Clark Construction Group has the general contract and the work is being done under the supervision and direction of the Trammell Crow Company,

see the rest on their Web site!

Thanks, Marcie

David S. Rotenstein CV

DAVID S. ROTENSTEIN

352 W. Parkwood Rd.
Decatur, GA 30030
(240) 461-7835 – Mobile/Work
E-mail: david.rotenstein@earthlink.net
Website: <http://www.historian4hire.net>

EDUCATION

UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA	Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
Ph.D., Folklore and Folklife	December 1996
Dissertation: "From Farm To Factory: Craft Dynasties and Leather Tanning in Nineteenth Century Pennsylvania"	
M.A., Folklore and Folklife	December 1992
GEORGIA STATE UNIVERSITY	Atlanta, Georgia
B.A., Anthropology	December 1986

CURRENT POSITION

Historian for Hire <<http://www.historian4hire.net>> Silver Spring, Maryland
Principal 2001 - present
Historic preservation and general history consulting practice. I have worked in various areas including environmental compliance, corporate history, and litigation support research.

Key Accomplishments

- Provided technical services and expert testimony to clients in local, state, and federal regulatory proceedings.
- Conducted 70 oral history interviews with current and former bank presidents, government officials, and development company executives for a Washington, D.C., company history.
- Interviews, photography, and production for a corporate annual report video documenting housing programs for chronically homeless women in the District of Columbia.
- Created the only public history blog included in the new TBD.com network.
- Served two full terms on the Montgomery County, Maryland, Historic Preservation Commission (two years as vice-chair; final year as chairman).
- Appointed to the Montgomery County Zoning Advisory Panel as an expert in historic preservation.
- Presented papers derived from research at regional and international professional conferences.
- Wrote articles in diverse academic, professional, and popular publications, including *LA: The Journal of the Society for Industrial Archeology*, the National Trust for Historic Preservation *Forum News*, and the *2010 Philadelphia Folk Festival Program Book* (lead feature article).
- Elected to the Society for Industrial Archeology Board of Directors (2010-2013 term).
- Appointed H-Urban Web editor.

Client references are available upon request.

CERTIFICATION

Register of Professional Archaeologists (RPA No. 10139)

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

National Council on Public History (Consultants Committee, 2003-2005)
Society for Industrial Archeology (Board of Directors, 2010-2013)
National Trust for Historic Preservation Forum
Vernacular Architecture Forum

PROFESSIONAL APPOINTMENTS

Montgomery County, Maryland, Historic Preservation Commission (Commissioner, 2004-2007; Vice-Chair, 2007-2009; Chairman, 2009-2010)

Montgomery County, Maryland, Zoning Advisory Panel (2009-2011)

HONOR SOCIETIES

Lambda Alpha National Anthropology Honor Fraternity

ONLINE PUBLICATIONS

2010-present. Contributor, Greater Greater Washington blog. <<http://greatergreaterwashington.org/>>
2010-present. Web editor, H-Urban discussion list. <<http://www.h-net.org/~urban/>>
2009-present. Author, Historian for Hire blog. <<http://blog.historian4hire.net>>

ENCYCLOPEDIA ENTRIES

2005. Meatpacking Industry. In *The Encyclopedia of New York State*, edited by Peter Eisenstadt and Laura Eve Moss, 965-666. Syracuse, New York: Syracuse University Press.

2005. The Tanning Industry in New York State. In *The Encyclopedia of New York State*, edited by Peter Eisenstadt and Laura Eve Moss, 1527-28. Syracuse, New York: Syracuse University Press.

2005. Zadock Pratt. In *The Encyclopedia of New York State*, edited by Peter Eisenstadt and Laura Eve Moss, 1237-38. Syracuse, New York: Syracuse University Press.

2006. Tanning. In *Encyclopedia of Appalachia*, edited by Rudy Abramson and Jean Haskell Speer, 539-540. Johnson City: University of Tennessee Press.

2006. Jay Gould. In *Encyclopedia of Appalachia*, edited by Rudy Abramson and Jean Haskell Speer, 488. Johnson City: University of Tennessee Press.

2006. Drovers and Livestock Drives. In *The West Virginia Encyclopedia*, edited by Ken Sullivan, 203-204. Charleston: The West Virginia Humanities Council.

2006. Tanneries. In *The West Virginia Encyclopedia*, edited by Ken Sullivan, 699. Charleston: The West Virginia Humanities Council.

ARTICLES

2010. Model for the Nation: Sale, Slaughter, and Processing at the East Liberty Stockyards. *Western Pennsylvania History*, Winter 2010-2011: 36-47.

2006. Towers for Telegrams: The Western Union Telegraph Company and the Emergence of Microwave Telecommunications Infrastructure. *IA, The Journal of the Society for Industrial Archeology* 32, no. 2: 5-22. < <http://www.historycooperative.org/journals/sia/32.2/rotenstein.html>>

2002. Hudson River Valley Cowboys: The Origins of Modern Livestock Shipping. *The Hudson Valley Regional Review* 19, no. 1: 1-15.

1998. Tanbark Tycoons: Palen Family Sullivan County, New York Tanneries, 1832-1871. *The Hudson Valley Regional Review* 15, no. 2: 1-42.

1998. Leather Making on the Banks of Honey Run: The Faust Family of Pennsylvania Tanners, 1850 to 1925. Historical Society of Montgomery County, Pennsylvania. *Bulletin of the Historical Society of Montgomery County* 31, no. 2: 132-72.

1997. Ethnography, Journalism and Literature: Ethnographic Text and Southern Author Harry Crews. *Southern Folklore* 54, no. 1: 40-50.

1997. Leather Bound: Nineteenth Century Leather Tanners in Allegheny City. *Pittsburgh History* (Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania), 1.

1992. The Helena Blues: African-American Folk Music and Cultural Tourism in Helena, Arkansas. *Southern Folklore* 49, no. 2: 133-46.

1987. The Historical Archaeology of Two Rural Blacksmith Shops. *Tennessee Anthropologist* 12, no. 2: 119-27.

1987. Traditional Culture in the Twentieth Century: The Historical Archaeology of a Rural Blacksmith's Shop. *The Florida Anthropologist* 40, no. 2: 124-36.

1986. Preliminary Investigations at an Early Woodland Site in Floyd County, Georgia. *Early Georgia* 14, no. 1: 85-95.

NEWSLETTER ARTICLES

2010. Silver Spring's 1939 World's Fair Home. *Trans-Lux* (newsletter of the Art Deco Society of Washington), 28, no. 3 (December): 10-15.

2010. The Undisclosed Location Disclosed: Continuity of Government Sites as Recent Past Resources. Newsletter of the Recent Past Preservation Network, *RPPN Bulletin* 1, No. 3: 3-8. <http://recentpast.org/newsletters/Summer2010/Undisclosed_Location_Summer2010.pdf>

2005. HAER Documents Western Union Relay Site. *Society for Industrial Archeology Newsletter* 34, no. 3: 16. <<http://www.sia-web.org/sian/images/sianv34/sianv343.pdf>>.

2005. New Federal Policies Endanger Historic Engineering Sites. *Society for Industrial Archeology Newsletter* 34, no. 3: 17. <<http://www.sia-web.org/sian/images/sianv34/sianv343.pdf>>.

2004. Towering Issues and the FCC. National Trust for Historic Preservation. *Forum News* (Washington, DC) 10, no. 6, July/August: 1-2, 6.

2004. Communications Towers: An Endangered Recent Past Resource. Newsletter of the Recent Past Preservation Network, *RPPN Bulletin* 2, no. 1. <<http://recentpast.org/bulletin/vol2no1/Newsletter2.pdf>>

2004. Looking Out For the FCC's Towers. Newsletter of the Forest Fire Lookout Association, Inc. *Lookout Network* 15, no. 1: 12-13.

2003. Radio Towers: New Federal Policies Threaten the Legacy of America's Communications Industry. *Society for Industrial Archeology Newsletter* 32, no. 3: 1-2. <<http://www.sia-web.org/sian/images/sianv32/sianv323.pdf>>

1999. "Ketchup vs. Wool": The Nation's Last Wool Pullery. *Society for Industrial Archeology Newsletter* 28, no. 3: 8-9. <<http://www.sia-web.org/sian/images/SIANVol283.pdf>>

1997. A CRM Parable. *California History Action* 15, no. 2: 7.

1996. GIS and Folklore and Folklife: One Application. *American Folklore Society News* 25, no. 6: 19-20.

CONFERENCE PAPERS

2010 "The Greatest Publicity Stunt Available to Developers: Washington's 1939 World's Fair Home." 2010 Vernacular Architecture Forum Conference, Washington, D.C., 22 May.

2009. "Washington's World's Fair Home: Selling the Suburbs." 2009 Conference on Washington, D.C., Historical Studies, 14 November.

2009. "Cowboys in the City: Eastern Stockyards and the Urban Fabric." 2009 Vernacular Architecture Forum Conference, Butte, Montana, 13 June.

2007. "Capital Craftsman: John Skirving in Washington." 2007 Conference on Washington, D.C., Historical Studies, 2 November.

2006. "2,000 Wires at Once": The Western Union Telegraph Company's First Generation Microwave Relay Network: Prelude to the Third Industrial Revolution, 1945-48. Society for Industrial Archeology annual meeting, St. Louis, Missouri, 3 June.

2004. "Blight or Site: Preservation and 20th Century Communications Facilities." Poster session, Transportation Research Board annual meeting, Washington, D.C., 12 January.

2001. Hudson River Valley Cowboys: The Origins of Modern Livestock Shipping. Researching New York conference, State University at Albany, 16 November.

2001. The Bellows that Fueled the Fire: A Survey of Pittsburgh's Leather Industry, 1800-2000. Society for Industrial Archeology annual meeting, Washington, D.C., 12 June.

2000. Pulled Out of Pittsburgh: The Pittsburgh Wool Company. Paper presented with Christopher Marston, Society for Industrial Archeology annual meeting, Duluth, Minnesota 3 June.

1996. The Children of Gysbert Peelen: A Craft Dynasty Bound By Leather. American Folklore Society annual meeting, Pittsburgh, 19 October 19.

1989. Folklore and Archaeology: What's the Connection? American Folklore Society Centennial Meeting, Philadelphia, 19 October.

1989. Archaeology and Folklore: What Became of Henry Glassie's Common Anxieties and Common Hopes? Society for Historical Archaeology annual meeting, Baltimore, Maryland, 9 January.

1988. Blacksmithing in the Twentieth Century: The Historical Archaeology of Two Rural Shops in Georgia. Society for Historical Archaeology annual meeting, Reno, Nevada, 16 January.

1987. Spatial and Temporal Considerations in Assessing Urban Site Significance. Society for Historical Archaeology annual meeting, Savannah, Georgia 10 January.

INVITED PRESENTATIONS

2008. Chasing Tanbark From The Catskills To Canadensis: The Palens and Northrops, 1800 to 1876. Fifteenth anniversary meeting and banquet of the Monroe Township Historical Society. Canadensis, Pennsylvania, 17 August.

2003. Telecommunications Facilities on and off Tribal Lands: Historic and Heritage Preservation Issues. Presentation to the National Congress of American Indians, "Connecting for the Future Part II: Issues in Tribal Telecommunications & Information Technology." Washington, D.C., 27 February.

2000. The Pittsburgh Leather Industry: A History. Pittsburgh Wool Program, Sen. John Heinz History Center, Historical Society of Western Pennsylvania, Pittsburgh, 5 November.

1999. "*A Family of Tanners*": Kinship and Craft in American Leather Tanning, 1800-1900. Colloquium, Department of Anthropology, University of South Carolina, 11 November.

1997. Leather Bound: The Nineteenth-Century Tanners of Allegheny City. Sen. John Heinz History Center, Historical Society of Western Pennsylvania, Pittsburgh, 19 April.

1997. The Palens: Catskills Tanners. Presentation at the Zadock Pratt Museum, Prattsville, New York, 6 September.

1991. Blues Lyrics. Temple University, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. 19 November.

PREVIOUS RESEARCH AND TEACHING EXPERIENCE

MONTGOMERY COLLEGE

Rockville and Takoma Park, Maryland

Department of Anthropology

January 2004 - 2009

Lecturer, Cultural Anthropology

Prepared course syllabus. Prepared and delivered lectures on course materials. Led discussions of course readings with students. Taught students the basics of cultural anthropological methods and theory. Critiqued student writing. Evaluated student progress.

Contact: Dr. Eugenia Robinson, Dept. Chair. Montgomery College, Department of Sociology, Anthropology and Criminal Justice, 224 Humanities, 51 Mannakee Street, Rockville, MD 20850. Phone: (240) 567-7513.

NATIONAL PRESERVATION INSTITUTE

Alexandria, Virginia

Instructor, NEPA and NHPA Compliance for
Telecommunications and Broadcast Facilities

May 2001 – October 2004

Prepared and delivered day-long seminars to attorneys, engineers, and cultural resource management professionals on compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act and National Historic Preservation Act for undertakings by Federal Communications Commission licensees.

Contact: Ms. Jeri Gibber, Executive Director. National Preservation Institute, P.O. Box 1702
Alexandria, VA 22313. Phone: (703) 765-0100.

UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA

Columbia, South Carolina

McKissick Museum

1999-2000

Chief Curator of Folklife and Research

Responsible for management of the South Carolina Folklife Resource Center, exhibition research and development and professional staff research support. Also responsible for Museum Web site design and content management. Supervised student assistants and supported University faculty and staff as necessary.

Contact: Ms. Lynn Robertson, Executive Director. McKissick Museum, University of South Carolina, Columbia, SC 29208. Phone: (803) 777-7251.

CARNEGIE MELLON UNIVERSITY

Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

Department of History

Spring 1999

Adjunct Visiting Professor, History of Jazz and Blues

Prepared course syllabus. Prepared and delivered twice-weekly lectures on course materials. Led discussions of course readings with class of 25 undergraduate students. Taught students the history of African American vernacular music. Critiqued student writing. Evaluated student progress.

Contact: Dr. Steven Schlossman, Chair. Department of History, Carnegie Mellon University, 240 Baker Hall, Pittsburgh, PA, 15213. Phone: (412) 268-2880.

UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA

Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Department of Folklore & Folklife

Spring 1998

Lecturer, History of Jazz and Blues

Prepared course syllabus. Prepared and delivered weekly lectures on course materials. Led discussions of course readings with class of 30 undergraduate and graduate students. Taught students the history of African American vernacular music. Critiqued student writing. Evaluated student progress. Supervised two graduate student assistants.

PREVIOUS PRIVATE AND PUBLIC SECTOR EXPERIENCE

URS Corporation Bethesda, Maryland
Acting Group Manager-Cultural Resources/Historic Preservation Project Manager 2000 - 2001

Responsible for designing and conducting Section 106/NEPA compliance surveys, marketing, scheduling, budgets, and report writing, and personnel management. Principal client manager for cultural resource management projects; responsible for State Historic Preservation Office consultations; prepared memoranda of agreements (MOAs). Principal Investigator for history, architectural history, and archaeology projects. Specialization: Telecommunications facilities environmental studies.

Contact: Mr. Greg Deaver, Vice-President/Office Manager, URS Corporation, 200 Orchard Ridge Drive, Gaithersburg, MD, 20878. (301) 258-6554

Skelly and Loy, Inc. Monroeville, Pennsylvania
Principal Investigator, Historical Archaeology & Architectural History 1994-1995

Responsibilities included research and project design, proposal preparation, project management, artifact analysis and report preparation. Also conducted historic resource surveys and completed HABS documentation projects. Projects completed included the Phase I historical archaeological survey of U.S. Route 9, Jefferson County, West Virginia, Data Recovery at the Fred Richards site (36Bk588), Berks County, Pa., and the historic resource survey and National Register of Historic Places determination of eligibility of the U.S. Route 250 project, Cameron, Marshall County, West Virginia.

CHRS, Inc. North Wales, Pennsylvania
Senior Archaeologist / Principal Investigator 1988-1989, 1991-1994

Personnel manager for archaeology staff. Duties include field and archival research, project management, artifact analysis, and report writing. Developed database systems for historical artifact analysis. Designed standardized forms for recording field data. Began employment with CHRS while completing coursework at the University of Pennsylvania.

Georgia Department of Transportation Atlanta, Georgia
Archaeologist 1984-1987

Part-time during undergraduate studies. Responsible for curating artifacts, laboratory analysis, report writing, and field research. Prior to completing B.A., I had completed National Register of Historic Places Determinations of Eligibility, written research reports accepted by state and federal agencies, and presented the results of research in several published papers and at professional conferences.

Short-term Cultural Resource Management Project Employment

- **National Park Service, Historic American Engineering Record (HAER).** Historian (GS-9), Pennsylvania Historic Bridge Recording Project I. Responsible for research and the preparation of HAER documentation of ten historic bridges in Pennsylvania. Using legal instruments, engineering and architectural data and primary historical materials, I prepared reports on bridges throughout Pennsylvania, from 1820s stone arch bridges to twentieth century steel arch and truss and concrete arch structures. 1997.
- **John Milner Associates, Inc.** Archaeological technician, Iroquois Gas Transmission Line, New

York and Connecticut. 1991.

- **Historic Property Associates, Inc.** Archaeologist and historian for archaeological assessments for the City of St. Augustine, Florida, in compliance with municipal historic preservation ordinance. Conducted historic resource surveys of Green Cove Springs, Fla. and Lake Wales, Fla. and prepared urban planning documents for historical and archaeological resources. 1990.
- **SJS Archaeological Services, Inc.** Archaeological supervisor for projects in Philadelphia vicinity during graduate school. 1987-1988.
- **Robert Johnson Archaeological Consultant.** Project Archaeologist. Supervised and reported results of 18,000-acre archaeology survey in St. Johns County, Fla. under contract with ITT-Rayonier, Inc. 1987.
- **Garrow and Associates, Inc.** Archaeological technician. Georgia Power survey along 150-mile electricity transmission line project.

Journalism Experience

1990-2000

Freelance writer/stringer

The Philadelphia Inquirer, The Daily News (Atlanta, Georgia), The Charlotte Observer (Charlotte, N.C.), The Pittsburgh Post-Gazette, Knight –Ridder Newspapers (entertainment newswire).

CONTRACTED TECHNICAL REPORTS

Since 1987 I have authored 175+ reports, including National Register of Historic Places evaluations, effects assessments, historic contexts, historic structure reports, and Historic American Building Survey (HABS) and Historic American Engineering Record (HAER) reports.

A complete list of reports is available on request.

PUBLICATIONS AND REPORTS AVAILABLE ONLINE

1995. Kanawha River Lock & Dam No. 11, Equipment House, West side, U.S. Route 35, Clendenin District, Mason County, WV. *U.S. Department of the Interior, Historic American Building Survey (HABS), No. WV-287-B.* Washington, D.C. Prints and Photographs Division, Library of Congress. <[http://memory.loc.gov/cgi-bin/query/r?ammem/hh:@field\(DOCID+@lit\(WV0433\)\)](http://memory.loc.gov/cgi-bin/query/r?ammem/hh:@field(DOCID+@lit(WV0433)))>

1995. Kanawha River Lock & Dam No. 11, Lockmaster's House, West side, U.S. Route 35, Clendenin District, Mason County, WV. *U.S. Department of the Interior, Historic American Building Survey (HABS), No. WV-287-B.* Washington, D.C. Prints and Photographs Division, Library of Congress. <[http://memory.loc.gov/cgi-bin/query/r?ammem/hh:@field\(DOCID+@lit\(WV0434\)\)](http://memory.loc.gov/cgi-bin/query/r?ammem/hh:@field(DOCID+@lit(WV0434)))>

1997. Washington Crossing Bridge, Spanning Allegheny River at Fortieth Street, Pittsburgh, Allegheny County, PA. *U.S. Department of the Interior, Historic American Engineering Record (HAER), No. PA-447.* Washington, D.C. Prints and Photographs Division, Library of Congress. <[http://memory.loc.gov/cgi-bin/query/r?ammem/hh:@field\(DOCID+@lit\(PA3565\)\)](http://memory.loc.gov/cgi-bin/query/r?ammem/hh:@field(DOCID+@lit(PA3565)))>

1997. Maclay's Mill Twin Bridge (East & West), Spanning Conodoguinet Creek at Maclay's Mill Road, Mowersville vicinity, Franklin County, PA. *U.S. Department of the Interior, Historic American Engineering Record (HAER), No. PA-457.* Washington, D.C. Prints and Photographs Division, Library of Congress. <[http://memory.loc.gov/cgi-bin/query/r?ammem/hh:@field\(DOCID+@lit\(PA3575\)\)](http://memory.loc.gov/cgi-bin/query/r?ammem/hh:@field(DOCID+@lit(PA3575)))>

1997. Charleroi-Monessen Bridge, Spanning the Monongahela River at State Route 2018, North Charleroi, Washington County, PA. *U.S. Department of the Interior, Historic American Engineering Record (HAER), No. PA-467*. Washington, D.C. Prints and Photographs Division, Library of Congress.
<[http://memory.loc.gov/cgi-bin/query/r?ammem/hh:@field\(DOCID+@lit\(PA3586\)\)](http://memory.loc.gov/cgi-bin/query/r?ammem/hh:@field(DOCID+@lit(PA3586)))>

1997. Pithole Stone Arch Bridge, Spanning Pithole Creek at Eagle Rock Road (State Route 1004), Pithole, Venango County, PA. *U.S. Department of the Interior, Historic American Engineering Record (HAER), No. PA-466*. Washington, D.C. Prints and Photographs Division, Library of Congress.
< [http://memory.loc.gov/cgi-bin/query/r?ammem/hh:@field\(DOCID+@lit\(PA3585\)\)](http://memory.loc.gov/cgi-bin/query/r?ammem/hh:@field(DOCID+@lit(PA3585)))>

1997. Allegheny Portage Railroad, Lilly Culvert, Spanning Burgoon Run at State Route 53, Lilly, Cambria County, PA. *U.S. Department of the Interior, Historic American Engineering Record (HAER), No. PA-452*. Washington, D.C. Prints and Photographs Division, Library of Congress.
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