

1010-1

# **Grace Methodist Church**

CITY OF DALLAS

# GRACE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

NOMINATION REPORT FOR

POTENTIAL HISTORIC DESIGNATION

CITY OF DALLAS

DEPARTMENT OF URBAN PLANNING

STAFF REPORT TO:

HISTORIC LANDMARK PRESERVATION COMMITTEE

LANDMARK DESIGNATION TASK FORCE

MARCH 29, 1979

# SUMMARY AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Grace United Methodist Church, Junius at Haskell, in the East Dallas Community, was constructed in 1903. For 75 years it has served as a focal point of that area. As one of the oldest Methodist congregations in Dallas County and as the longest established Methodist congregations in East Dallas, it has lent stability and security to an area that has experienced rapid change.

Architecturally, Grace United Methodist Church represents one of the best examples of the Gothic Revival style in the Dallas area. While the overall building form and massing is simple, the exterior facade exhibits excellent ornamental stonework integrated into fine brickwork. The structure displays magnificent stained glass windows, with three larger windows dominating the arrangements. The exterior contains ornate stonework and grillwork and turrets are integrated into the building form and the steeple.

In summary, Grace Methodist serves as a strong social and physical focal point in an area in transition. As a landmark structure and a link with the past, the building is in excellent condition. The staff recommends historic landmark designation due to the architectural style and stained glass windows, and the fact that the building is a social and physical focal point in East Dallas.

# ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE

During the year 1903, the cornerstone was laid and the first unit of the present building was erected at a cost of \$55,000.00. W. A. Cann of St. Louis was the original architect. In 1925, Grace Church was remodeled and an educational unit added at a cost of \$85,000.00. The church was refurbished in 1966 and is scheduled to be painted next year.

For architectural style, Grace Church represents one of the purest examples of the Gothic Revival style in the Dallas area. Constructed primarily of brick and stone, the exterior contains excellent ornate grill work and stone masonry. The northwest facade exhibits rhythm in trim, detailing, and massing while the northeast facade is characterized by arches and soffit detailing. The structure is enhanced by its original stained glass windows, magnificent works that dominate the northwest and northeast facades. Made by the Kansas City Stained Glass Studios, there are 15 major pieces of stained glass in the sanctuary. The steeple is multi-turreted and smaller mini-steeple (turrets) define the corners of the structure.

The exterior of the church is in excellent condition, and the interior sanctuary is well maintained also. With high vaulted ceilings, massive pews, and elaborate stained glass windows, the sanctuary becomes the interior focal point. The ceiling of the northeast porch is of pressed tin and exhibits unusual detailing.

While the educational unit (added in 1925) does not display the stained glass, trim, grillwork, or turrets of the other facades, it was well constructed in the same brick and blends in with the original structure, both functionally and aesthetically.

# CULTURAL SIGNIFICANCE

At the session of the North Texas Conference held at Terrell, Texas in November of 1902, what was then known as Floyd Street Church, located at the corner of Floyd and Cantegral Streets, and Haskell Avenue Church at Haskell Avenue and Eastside, were combined into one charge, and Rev. P. R. Knickerbocker was appointed pastor. At a special session of the Quarterly Conference, held December 27, 1902, an order was passed authorizing the sale of the property of the aforesaid churches. On March 31, 1903, at the Second Quarterly Conference, the minutes have this record: "The committee appointed at the preceeding Quarterly Conference to select a name for the new church, corner of Haskell Avenue and Junius Street, report the name of same to be - Grace Church." The first service of the united congregation was held in a temporary tabernacle on the site of the present church. After 75 years of service, Grace Church is one of the oldest Methodist congregations in Dallas County. Membership has varied, but it reached 1,887 members in 1925 and now the congregation is numbered at 390, two of which are charter members. Members of the Grace Methodist congregation who have significantly contributed to the development of Dallas are as follows:

- R. S. Munger: developed the first deed restricted subdivision in Dallas, Munger Place, beginning in 1903.
- J. R. Temple: served as mayor of Dallas from 1947 to 1949, and was associated with the Southland Corporation.
- Dr. Jack Russian: helped organize Gaston Hospital.
- Roy Jenkins: at one time was the American Consul to Mexico.
- R. R. Gilbert: was president of the Federal Reserve.
- Maurice Cheek: lawyer who became assistant attorney general for Texas.
- W. Henry Lamar: at one time was the "Poet Laureate" of Texas.
- Mrs. R.L. Thornton: wife of Dallas mayor R. L. Thornton.

Grace United Methodist has been a church of service to the city and community, and continues to do so. The church sponsors the "39" group, providing meals and activities for senior citizens, housing for kindergarten and Latin American services, the "Lord's Pantry" and "Clothes Closet" to give food and clothing to the needs, and is the meeting place of Neighborhood C of the East Dallas Neighborhood Design committee. During World Wars I and II the ladies organization rolled bandages for the Red Cross, provided weekly parties for the soldiers at Fort Dix and conducted cooking schools.

While Grace Methodist is not the oldest congregation in East Dallas, it is the oldest continuing congregation. Several other Methodist churches were "spin-offs" of Grace (St. John's, Munger and Highland Park) and these new churches reduced the congregation size at Grace. Grace United Methodist considers itself a regional church in the City of Dallas, drawing its members from all parts of the city. The church plans to stay in its present location and become a community church, aiding, in the revitalization of its surrounding neighborhoods.

# PRESERVATION MERIT

- A. Character, interest, or value as part of the development, heritage or cultural characteristics of the City of Dallas, State of Texas, or the United States. X
- B. Location as the site of a significant historical event.
- C. Identification with a person or persons who significantly contributed to the culture and development of the city. X
- D. Exemplification of the cultural, economic, social, or historical heritage of the city.
- E. Portrayal of the environment of a group of people in an era of history characterized by a distinctive architectural style.
- F. Embodiment of distinguishing characteristics of an architectural type or specimen. X
- G. Identification as the work of an architect or master builder whose individual work has influenced the development of the city.
- H. Embodiments of elements of architectural design, detail, materials, or craftsmanship which represent a significant architectural innovation.
- I. Relationship to other distinctive buildings, sites, or areas which are eligible for preservation according to a plan based on historic, cultural, or architectural motif.
- J. Unique location of singular physical characteristics representing an established and familiar visual feature of a neighborhood, community, or the city.
- K. Archeological value in that it has produced or can be expected to produce data affecting theories of historic or prehistoric value.
- L. Value as an aspect of community sentiment or public pride.

# RECOMMENDATION

The Landmark Survey Task Force requests the Historic Landmark Preservation Committee to deem this proposed landmark meritorious of historic recognition as outlined in city ordinance 19-A. Date:

Further, this task force endorses the preservation criteria, policy recommendations, and landmark boundary as presented by the Dept. of Urban Planning staff.

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Chairman, Landmark Survey Task For

# PRESERVATION ANALYSIS

## STRUCTURE

- 1. Surface Materials
- 2. Fenestration and Portals
  - a. style, type
  - b. o/w ratio
  - c. rhythms
  - d. placement
- 3. Trim and Detailing
  - a. style
  - b. unique trim or detailing
  - c. structural members
- 4. Roof
  - a. style, form
  - b. slope
  - c. materials
- 5. Design Concepts
  - a. stylistic demands
  - b. functional concepts
- 6. Utilities
  - a. design
  - b. placement
- 7. Signs
  - a. style, design
  - b. placement
- 8. Exterior Connections
  - a. design
  - b. penetration points

## SITE

- 1. Prohibited Structure Areas
  - a. approach
  - b. view corridors
  - c. site feature protection
  - d. vertical additions
- 2. Ingress/Egress
- 3. Adjacent R.O.W.'s
  - a. existing treatment
  - b. proposed changes
- 4. Foliage
  - a. existing plant removal
  - b. new plant selection
  - c. site design
- 5. Site Fixtures
  - a. furniture
  - b. sculpture, art
  - c. paths
  - d. utility units
  - e. signs
- 6. Lighting
  - a. exteriors
  - b. grounds

## COLOR

- 1. Materials
- 2. Trim and Details
- 3. Roof
- 4. Utilities
- 5. Signs
- 6. Site Fixtures
- 7. Accent Color

# LAND USE ANALYSIS

Proposed zoning change:

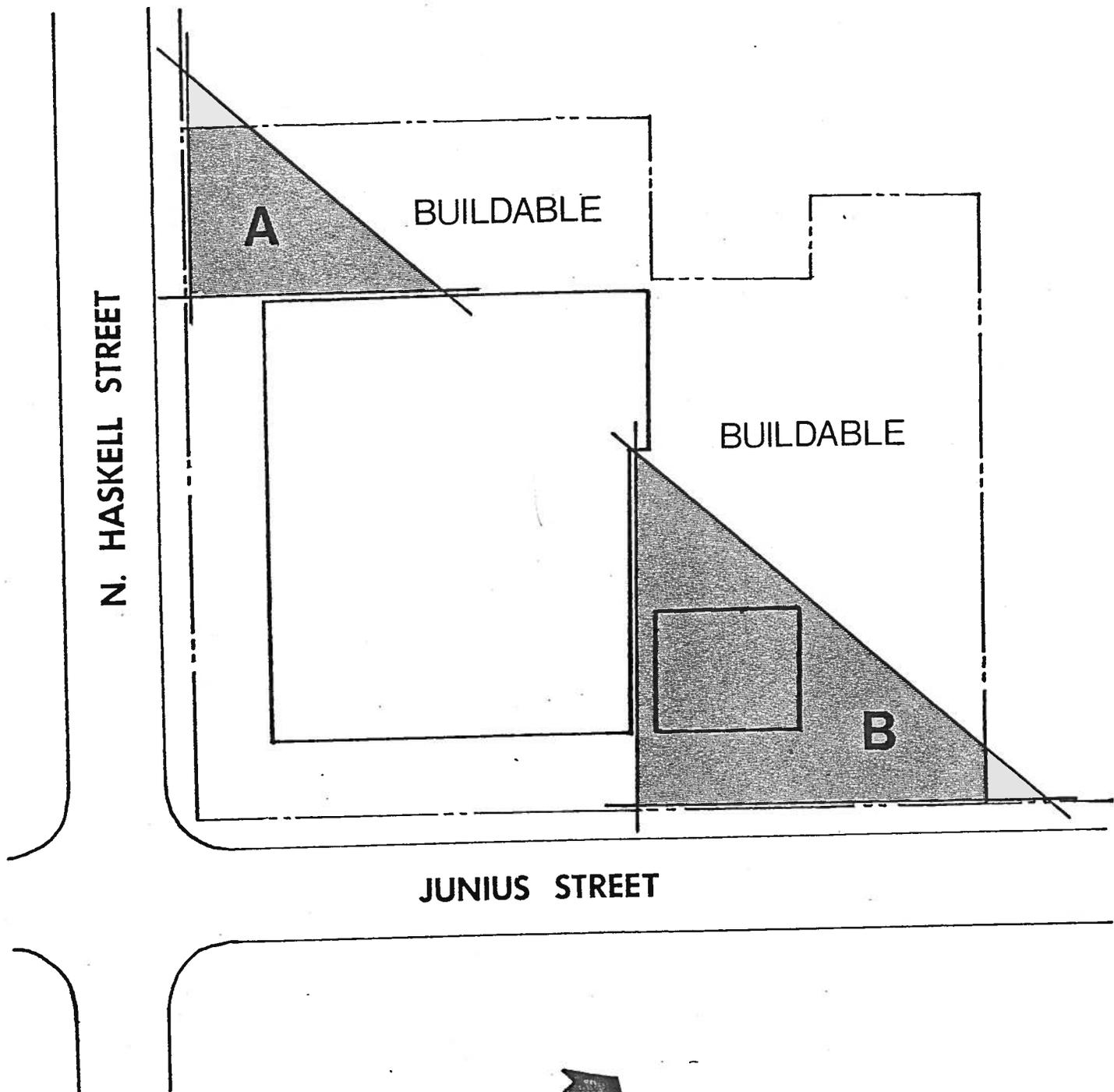
from: L. C. & P. D.

to: no change

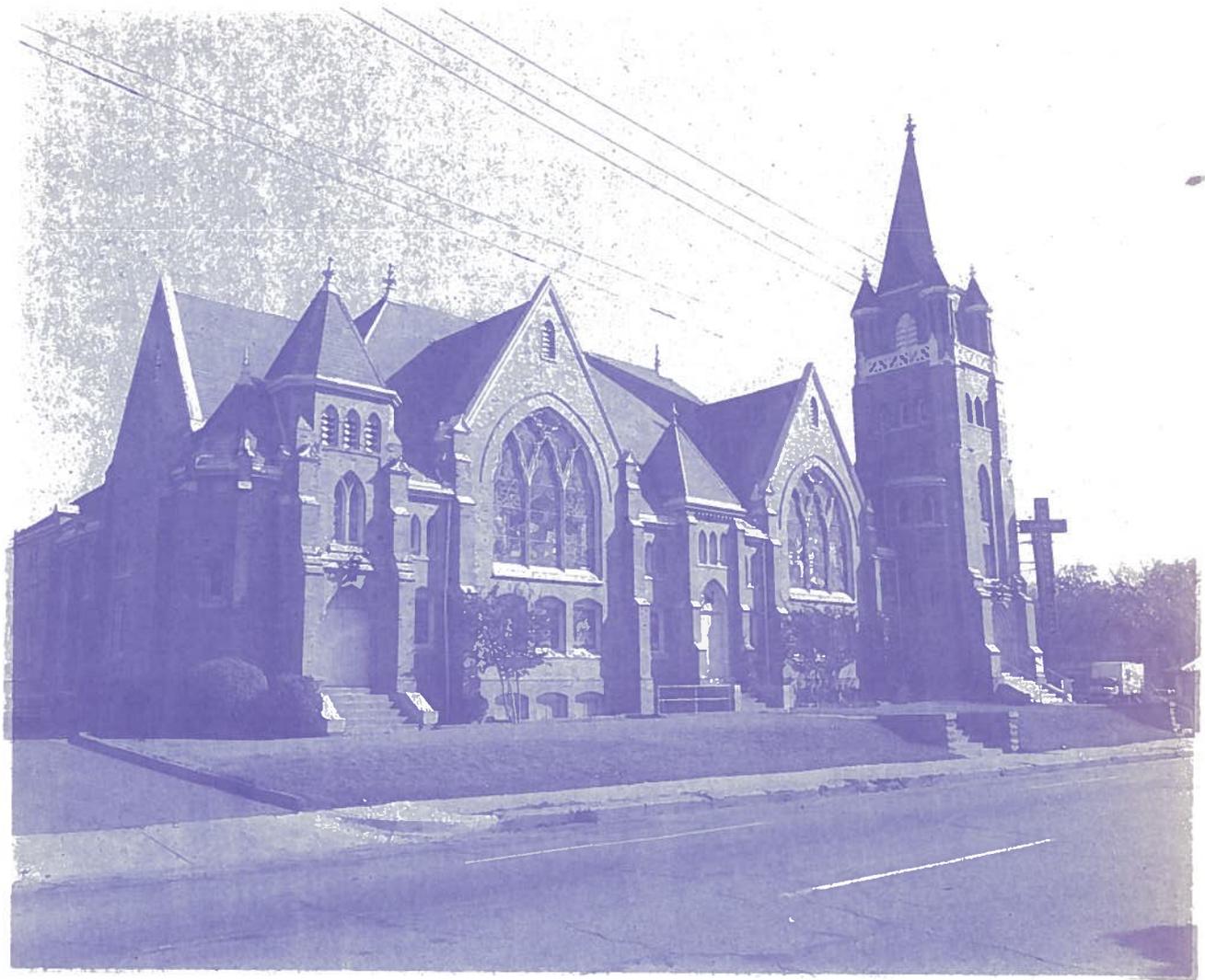
Recommended use variances:

none

# NO BUILD AREAS



## EXHIBIT A



**SOUTHWEST FACADE  
HASKELL AVENUE**

**EXHIBIT B**



**SOUTHEAST FACADE  
JUNIUS STREET**

**EXHIBIT C**