

Seattle Landmark Briefing:

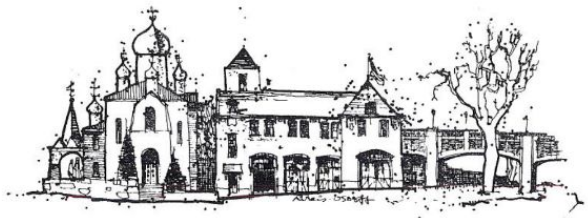
***First African
Methodist
Episcopal Church***

1522 14th Ave, Seattle, WA 98122



Source: Susie Philipsen

Michelle Bacca
2 September 2026



City of Seattle
Department of Community Development/Office of Urban Conservation

Landmark Nomination Form

Name First African Methodist Episcopal Church Year Built 1912
(Common, present or historic)

Street and Number 1522 Fourteenth Avenue East

Assessor's File No. 022200-0010

Legal Description Plat Name Anderson's Block 9 Lot 3,4,5
Supplemental

Background

Description: Present architectural characteristics and characteristics

First A.M.E. Church was designed by A. Dudley and built in 1912 in a combination of brick and frame construction on a concrete foundation. The original portion of the church consists simply of a two-story high rectangular mass with a gabled roof and a square belfry tower incorporated at the southwest corner. In the late 1920's, a two-story wing was added at the north side of the church which linked the entrance facade.

For the most part, the church is neo-gothic, with the exception of the lower portion, located in the tower, and addition to the western side in the form and detailing of the tower roof. The entrance facade is framed by small buttresses and is surmounted by a square belfry and a gabled roof. The small addition to the west portion of the church is a two-story high, with a small, round-arched doorway providing direct access to the lower level. It is located at the far left side. The central portion has been altered but still incorporates a shallow gothic arch window with the original stained glass. A round-arched doorway provides the access to the tower at the right of the main facade. The floor construction is brick, with the finishing of some rectangular windows at both the sanctuary level, and the lower level. All glazing in the sanctuary are filled with material stained glass, with several panels remaining to be installed.

Statement of significance

Seattle's First A.M.E. Church is of important historical and sociological significance as the first black church to have been established in the city. The congregation was established between 1885 and 1890, and according to church records was incorporated in 1890. The present edifice replaces an earlier frame structure which had been used to the present site from a lot immediately to the north in 1906. During the 1910s, the present structure is architecturally similar to many other churches built in Seattle during the first decades of the twentieth century for "establishment" protestant denominations. Although its design is not architecturally significant, it is significant as one of Seattle's oldest and most substantial church structures originally built for and continuing to serve a black congregation. The church represents a most important element of the black community's heritage and continues to play an important social role.

Photographs



Sourced by: Office of Urban Conservation Staff

Address: 400 Duane St./Seattle, WA 98104 Phone: 625-4501

Date: 4-10-88

Approved: _____ Date: _____



Landmark _____

Built: 1912, 1955, 1988

Nominated: 8/20/1980

Designated: 10/1/1980 [Criteria C]

City Ordinance #11928: 9/24/1984



Source: Michelle Bacca

“While this edifice possesses no unusual architectural significance (other than a remarkably large choir), it stands as the preeminent physical symbol of the black church in Seattle... [and] symbolizes... the long-standing economic and social aspirations of blacks in Seattle.”

— **Office of Urban Conservation Staff, *1980***

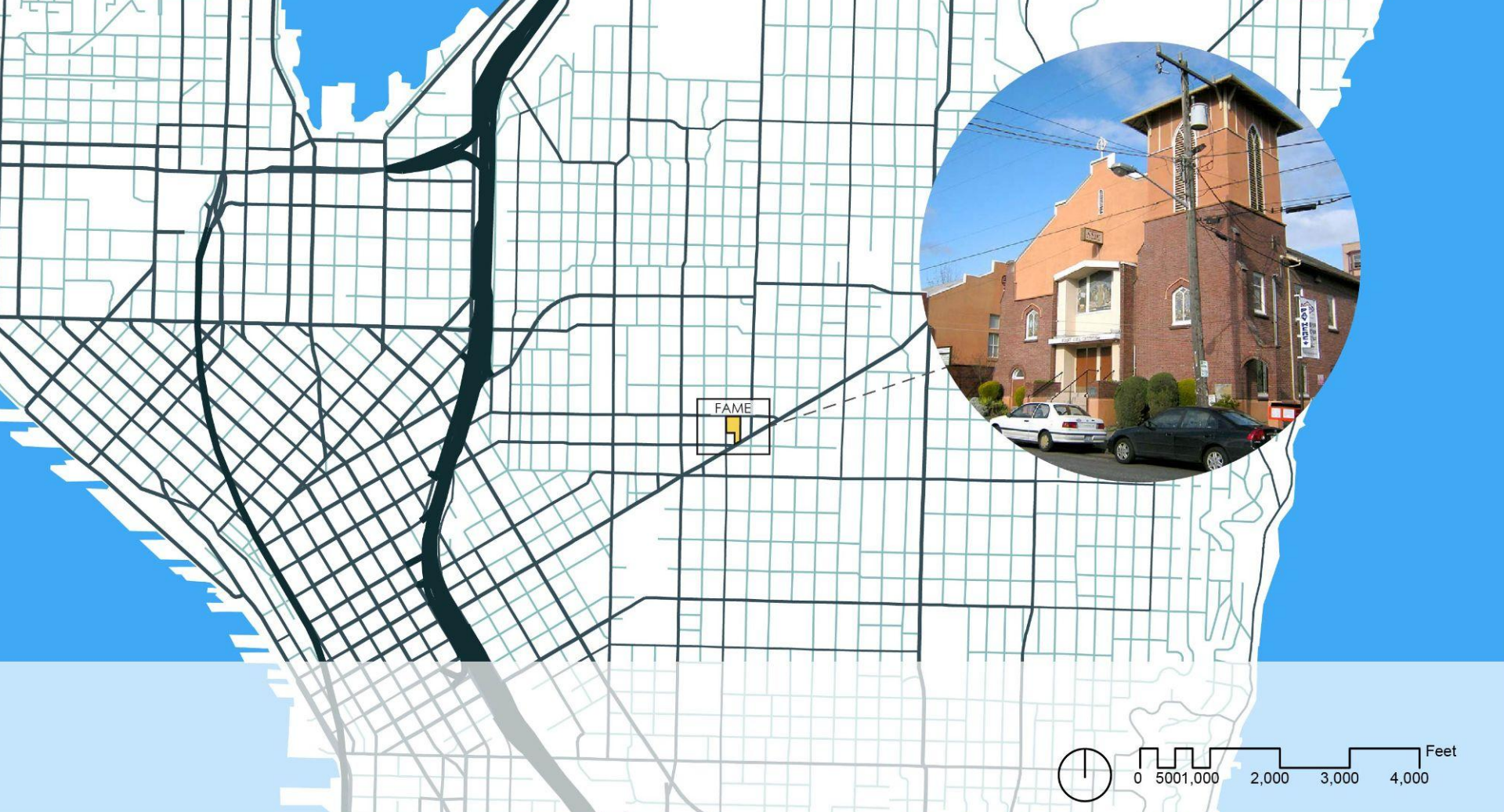




Architecture

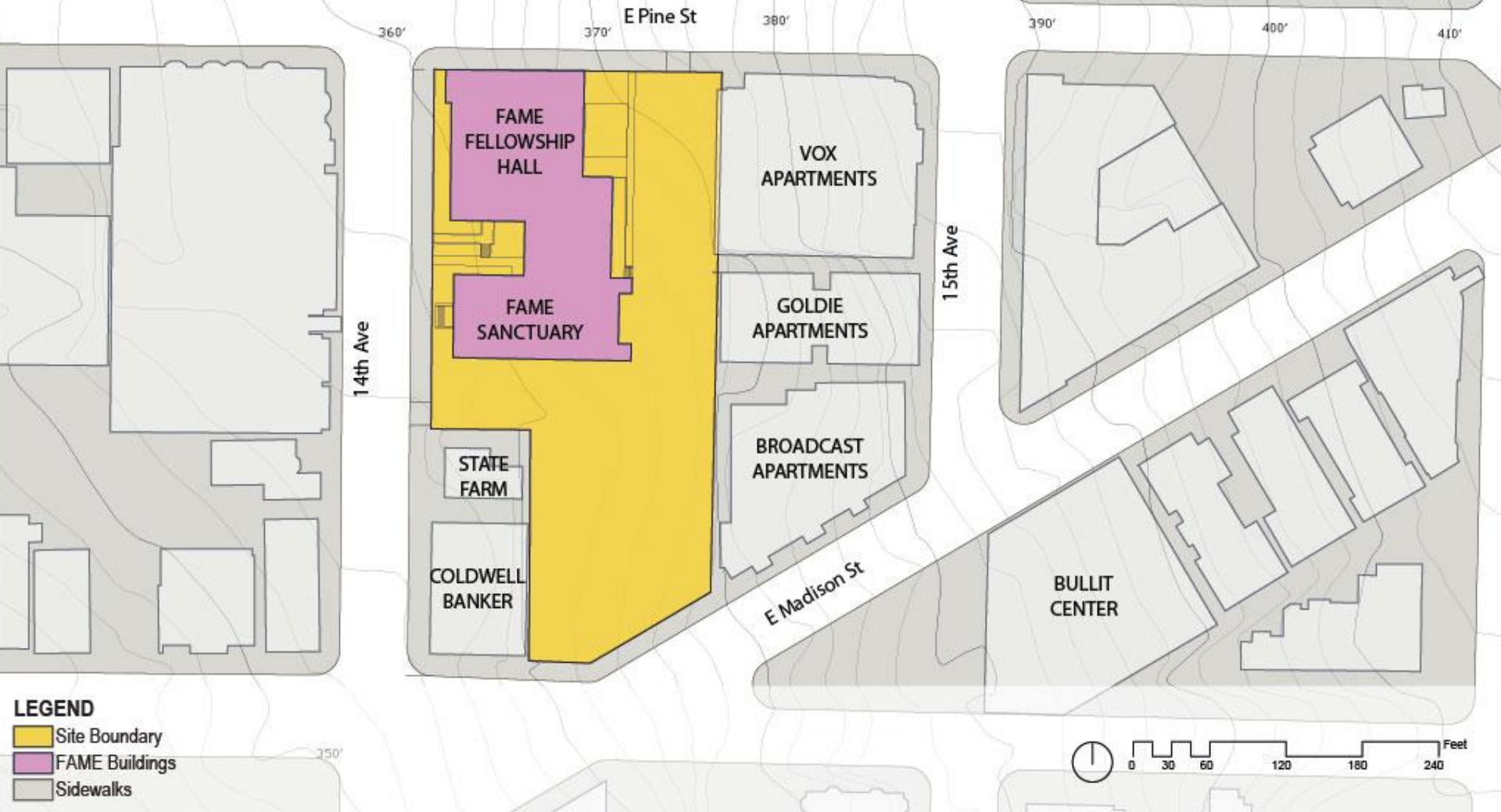
SITE ✦ SANCTUARY ✦ FELLOWSHIP HALL



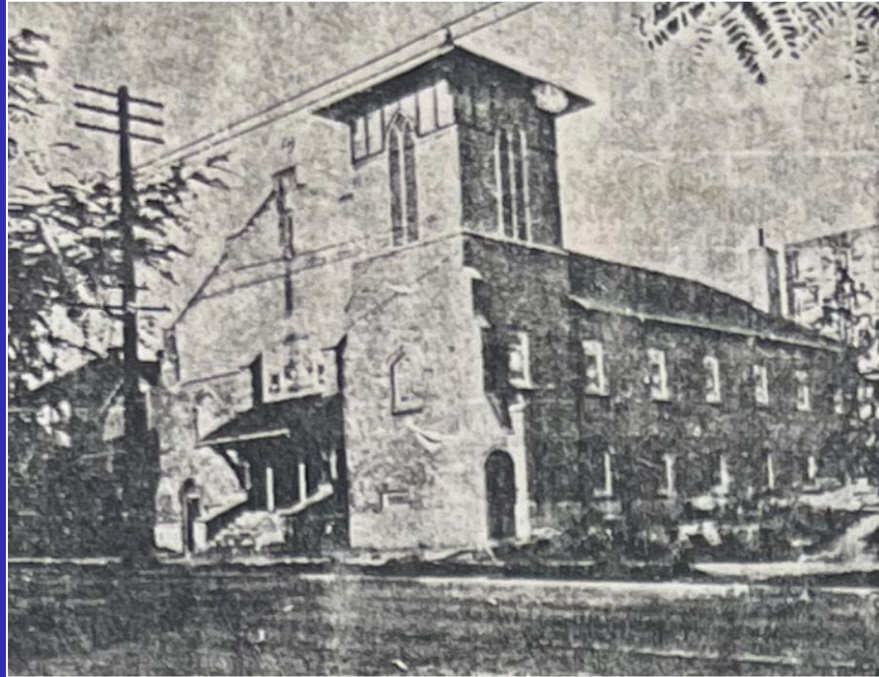


FAME





Alpheus Dudley (1912)



Source: First AME Archive

Benjamin McAdoo (1955)



Gabbert, Broweleit, Peterson (1988)



Source: First AME Archive



Source: First AME Archive



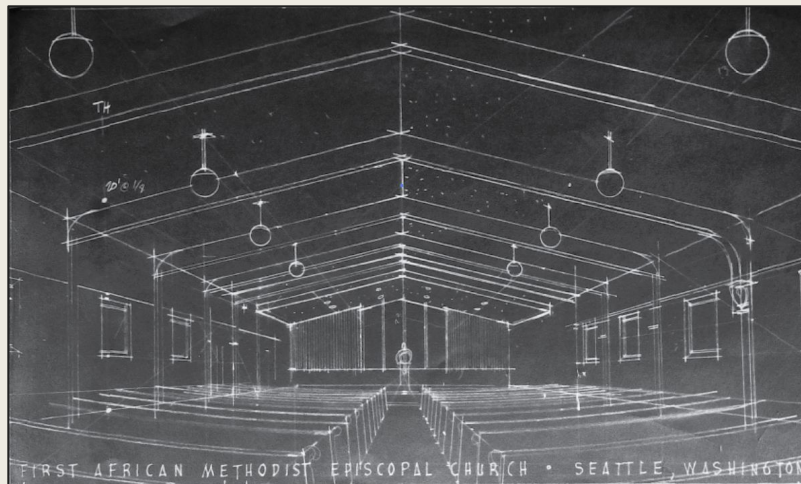
Source: Michelle Bacca

Sanctuary

Interior



Source: First AME Archive



Source: UW Special Collections 1232-003



Source: Michelle Bacca



Source: First AME Archive



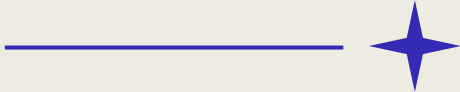
Source: Michelle Bacca

Sanctuary

Exterior



Source: Michelle Bacca



Cultural History

ESTABLISHMENT ✦ CIVIL RIGHTS ✦ URBAN
CHANGE ✦ COMMUNITY EXTENSIONS

Timeline _____

Civil Rights Era

1949-1969

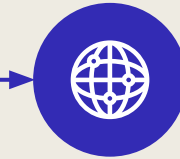
Community Extensions

1992-present



Establishment

1886-1949



Urban Change & Economic Growth

1969-1992



Establishment

In testimony whereof we have hereunto set our hands the
thirtieth day of August, A. D. 1890.

L. S. Blakeney.
Milton Roy.
George H. Grose.
S. J. Collins.
R. R. Brown.
Alfred P. Freeman.
J. G. Blocker.

State of Washington } ss.
County of King }

Subscribed and sworn to before me
this 30th day of August, A. D. 1890, at the City of
Seattle, King County, State of Washington, by
each of the above named persons.

Lee De Vries
Notary Public in and
for the State of Washington,
residing at Seattle.

Notaried
real
ex. Mn. 9-14

Filed for record at the request of R. S. Greene Aug.
30th A. D. 1890 at 45 min. past 4 P. M.
W. R. Dorriest,
County Auditor.

No. 51444

AMENDED

Articles of Incorporation
OF THE
The First African Methodist
Episcopal Church of Seattle
(Supplemental Articles)

Place of business Seattle

Time of existence Perpetual years.

Capital Stock, \$ ---

State of Washington, ss.
Filed for record in the office of the Sec-
retary of State JAN 16 1922

at 9:12 o'clock A. M.

Recorded in Book 127 Page 520

DOMESTIC CORPORATIONS

Frank P. Lewis
Secretary of State.

(FILE No. _____)

Filed at request of Frank P. Lewis,
736 New York Bldg.,
Address Seattle, Wash.

Filing and recording fee, \$ 5.00
License to June 30, 19 _____ EXEMPT

(RECEPTION No. 1922 _____)

Certificate mailed _____ to above address.

INDEXED. MAY _____ Compared.

U. S. P. No. 1384-1391. Approved by Dept. of Efficiency.
SS Form 47-9-27-21-28.

GIGANTIC
CHURCH BENEFIT
THAT A DEBT WILL NO LONGER HANG OVER THE
JONES STREET A. M. E. CHURCH
Miller-Batson
Star Concert Co.
WILL SING AT THE
SEATTLE
THEATRE
NEXT
THURSDAY
EVENING
GIVING 50 PER CENT
of their GATE RECEIPTS
TO THE CHURCH



« PROGRAMME »

- 1.—PIANO SOLO—"The Lion Hunt" S. T. BARNES
- 2.—BAND SOLO—"The Grand Digger" GERARD MILLAR
- 3.—CORNET SOLO—"Nanking" S. T. BARNES
- 4.—SOFRANO SOLO—"Lamentation Walk Song" MISS FLORA BATSON
- 5.—RECITATIVE—"The March" GERARD MILLAR
- 6.—INSTRUMENTAL DUELL—Playing Cornet and Piano Simultaneously S. T. BARNES
- 7.—VOCAL DUET—Prison Scene from "Il Trovatore" MISS BATSON and GERARD MILLAR
- 8.—PIANO SOLO—"Zenda" S. T. BARNES
- 9.—BAND SOLO—"The Beggar" GERARD MILLAR
- 10.—SOFRANO SOLO—"Across the Sands" MISS FLORA BATSON
- 11.—Thirty Minutes Among the Nations, as Presented by the Comedian and Musician polyglot, GERARD MILLAR.



Articles of Incorporation: 1890 Signatures (left); 1922 Amendment (right)

Source: First AME Archive

Source: First AME Archive



AME Conference, 1900

Source: Black Heritage Society of Washington State Inc. 2001.24.2.43



Second Mortgage Burning, 1938

Source: First AME Archive

Early Pastors

Rev. Thomas (1899)

L. S. Blakeney (1890-1892)

Rev. Howard (1892-1893)

Rev. Whaley (1893-1896)

George S. Bailey (1896-1899)

C. C. Holford (1899-1901)

M. Scott (1901-1902)

S. S. Freeman (1902-1905)

F. L. Donohoo (1905-1908)

W. T. Osborne (1908-1912)

John L. Williams (1912-1914)

H. M. Mickens (1914-1916)

D. A. Graham (1916-1920)

J. Logan Craw (1920-1922)

T. F. Jones (1922-1927)

A. R. Dobbins (1927-1931)

George F. Martin (1931-1933)

H. B. Gantt (1933-1935)

Fred A. Hughes (1935-1939)

L. R. Hayes (1939-1945)

E. D. Chappelle (1945-1949)



Civil Rights Era

C. D. Toliver (1949-1960)

I. H. Hunt (1960-1962)

John Hurst Adams (1962-1969)



Open Housing Rally, 1963

Source: MOHAI Seattle Post-Intelligencer Collection 2000.107.006.25.01



Civil Rights March, 1965

Source: MOHAI Seattle Post-Intelligencer Collection 1986.5.5939.14



Third Mortgage Burning, 1960



Urban Change & Economic Growth

Solomon H. Hill (1969-1971)
Cecil L. Murray (1971-1978)
Fred Stephens (1978-1982)
James H. Oxley (1982-1992)

A. M. E. CHRISTIAN RECORDER

GOD OUR FATHER CHRIST OUR REDEEMER MAN OUR BROTHER

Vol. 125, No. 38 MONDAY, MARCH 29, 1976 PRICE 15 CENTS

First AME Church, Seattle, Wash. Raises \$25,000.00

In its 16th Annual winter fund raising festival, the **Zodiac Tea**, held Sunday, February 22, First A.M.E. Church, Seattle, raised \$25,500.00.

The congregation, led by Dr. Cecil L. Murray, has reached new highs not only in financial concerns, but in social concerns, with three housing projects, including the unique five million dollar structure, Bryant Manor; and a comprehensive umbrella program that shelters the Black Law Enforcement Guild, Black Fire Fighters Guild, Black Panthers Prison Visitation Outreach, Pre-School, Boy Scouts, Camp Fire Girls, Sickle Cell Anemia and Hypertension Clinic, Tax Clinic,

Rev. J. H. Gillson Elected Vice President Of The Christian Action Council of S. C.

The Rev. J. H. Gillson was recently elected Vice President of the Christian Action Council of South Carolina. The Christian Action Council is an ecumenical organization composed basically of representatives from all of the major denominations of the State. The Council seeks to address itself to many of the social needs and issues. It sponsors many seminars and meaningful programs each year. Among them are:

1. The Legislative Seminar, which gives the legislators of the State and clergymen and laymen of the Church an opportunity to become more acquainted and hopefully find mutual grounds to meet the needs of all citizens.
2. The Christian-Jewish Dialogue, which serves as a vehicle to promote better understanding and communication between these two groups. So far much has been accomplished.
3. The Intercollegiate Seminar on Legislation and Government, which gives

Lest We Forget

We realize that it's totally impossible for AME's to forget that February is the month of the African Methodist Episcopal Church, but lest we do somehow forget, "Across The Desk" is reprinting Selected Excerpts from the best of all possible reminders of our Rich Heritage from the treasured volume, "The Bishops of the AME Church," by Bishop R. R. Wright, Jr., The African Methodist Episcopal Church.

The African Methodist Episcopal Church is the oldest and largest Christian Church denomination composed chiefly of persons of African descent serving the entire United States. It is perhaps the first large Christian denomination in the Western Hemisphere which sprang chiefly from theological differences, from sociological, rather than While time has minimized the raison d'être of the many Christian denominations, that which



Zodiac Tea Planning & Coordinating Committee
First A.M.E. Church, Seattle, Washington



up to the present, demonstrating in the styles of dress and the music from 12 time periods, the central theme, "GOD'S LOVE: The Pattern of Life—Say it With Music." The six Church Choirs provided the musical background, while models from the 12 signs of the Zodiac provided the drama. Some 300 participants shared in the electrifying proceedings before a jam packed audience at



YOUTH CENTER



IMPERIAL APARTMENTS



TEXADA APARTMENTS

Source: First AME Archive

Source: First AME Archive





Black Alliance of Educators Formation Announcement, 1972
Source: MOHAI Seattle Post-Intelligencer Collection 2000.107.185.38.01



Bryant Manor Mural Completion, 1992
Source: Seattle Municipal Archives



Community Extensions _____

Ellis H. Casson (1992-1998)

John J. Hunter (1998-2004)

Dr. Carey G. Anderson (2004-present)



Source: Michelle Bacca



Source: fameseattle.org





CHOP Negotiations, 2020
Source: David Ryder, Getty Images





Bryant Manor Phase 1, 2024
Source: Compass Construction





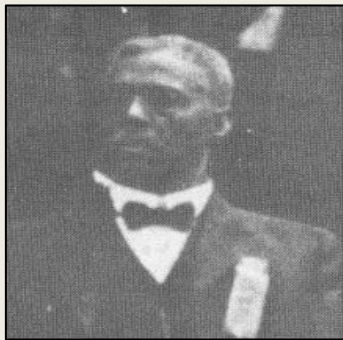
People

FOUNDERS ✦ POLITICAL FIGURES ✦ WOMEN LEADERS

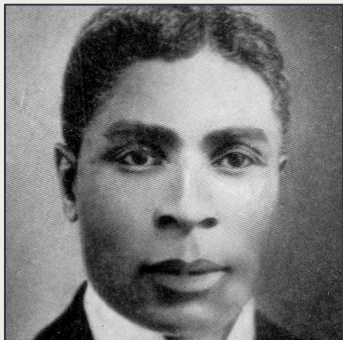


Founders _____

Seaborn J. Collins



John T. Gayton



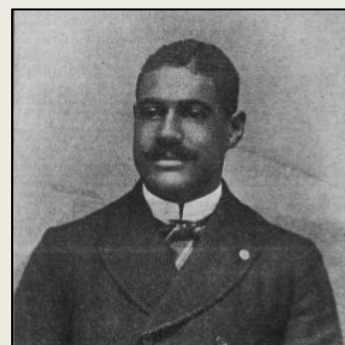
Charles H. Harvey



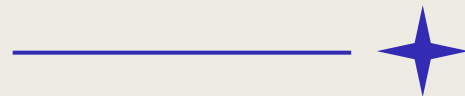
William Grose



George Grose



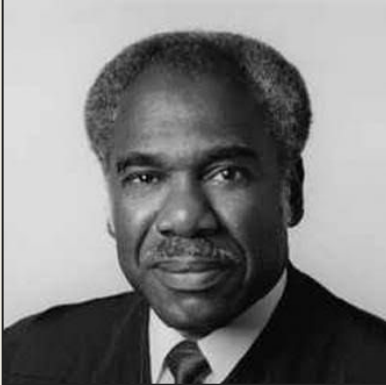
Sources: BlackPast.org (first four images) & Newspapers.com via Seattle Republican (far right image)



Political Figures

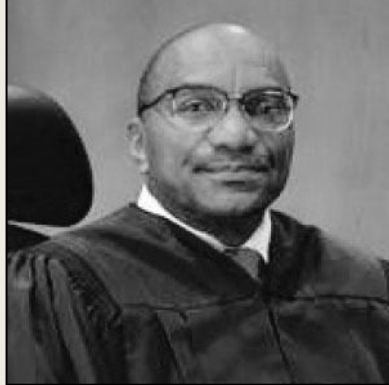
King County Superior Court Judges

Charles V. Johnson



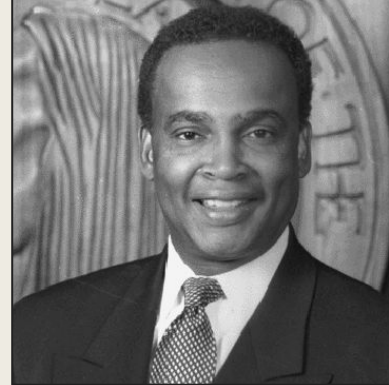
Source: BlackPast.org

LeRoy McCullough



Source: Trial News

Norman Rice



Source: Seattle Municipal Archives

Bruce Harrell



Source: OurMayors.org

Women Leaders

Dorothy Hollingsworth



Source: MOHAI, Seattle Post-Intelligencer
Collection, 2000.107.090.30.04

Clara B. White



Source: MOHAI, 2000.30.2

Guela Johnson



Source: Seattle Channel

T. Marie Floyd



Source: mlkfame.org



Thanks!

Questions?

michellebacca@gmail.com

