

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service  
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES REGISTRATION FORM

1. Name of Property

historic name: CHARLESTON BAPTIST TEMPLE  
other name/site number: Charleston Baptist Church

2. Location

street & number: 209 Morris Street not for publication: N/A  
city/town: Charleston vicinity: N/A  
state: WV county: Kanawha code: 039 zip code: 25302

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this x nomination \_\_\_ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property x meets \_\_\_ does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant \_\_\_ nationally \_\_\_ statewide x locally. (\_\_\_ See continuation sheet.)

Susan M. Purci 2/10/2000  
Signature of Certifying Official Date

State or Federal agency and bureau Date

In my opinion, the property \_\_\_ meets \_\_\_ does not meet the National Register criteria.  
(\_\_\_ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of Certifying Official/Title Date

State or Federal agency and bureau Date

**Charleston Baptist Temple**  
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**Kanawha Co., WV**  
County and State

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**4. National Park Service Certification**

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I, hereby certify that this property is:	Signature of Keeper	Date of Action
___ entered in the National Register ___ See continuation sheet.	_____	_____
___ determined eligible for the National Register ___ See continuation sheet.	_____	_____
___ determined not eligible for the National Register	_____	_____
___ removed from the National Register	_____	_____
___ other (explain): _____ _____ _____	_____	_____

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**5. Classification**

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**Ownership of Property:**  
(Check as many boxes as apply)

private  
 public-local  
 public-State  
 public-Federal

**Category of Property**  
(Check only one box)

building(s)  
 district  
 site  
 structure  
 object

**Number of Resources within Property**  
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1		buildings
_____	_____	sites
_____	_____	structures
_____	_____	objects
1	0	TOTAL

**Name of related multiple property listing** \_\_\_\_\_ N/A \_\_\_\_\_  
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

**Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register** \_\_\_\_\_ 0 \_\_\_\_\_

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**6. Function or Use**

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**Historic Functions**

**Current Functions**

**RELIGION-Church**

**RELIGION-Church**

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**7. Description**

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**Architectural Classification:**

LATE NINETEENTH AND EARLY TWENTIETH CENTURY REVIVALS: Colonial Revival

**Materials**

Foundation: poured concrete

Walls: brick

Roof: standing seam metal roof

Other: limestone

**Narrative Description**

(See continuation on sheets.)

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**8. Statement of Significance**

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**Applicable National Register Criteria**

(Mark "X" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

**A** Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.

**B** Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.

**C** Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.

**D** Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

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**Criteria Considerations**

(Mark "X" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

**A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.

**B** removed from its original location.

**C** a birthplace or grave.

**D** a cemetery.

**E** a reconstructed building, object, or structure.

**F** a commemorative property.

**G** less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

**Areas of Significance**

Architecture

**Period of Significance**

1924

**Significant Dates**

1924

**Significant Person**

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

**Cultural Affiliation**

N/A

**Architect/Builder**

Architect: Flagg, Ernest, New York City, NY

**Narrative Statement of Significance**

(See continuation sheets.)

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**9. Major Bibliographical References**

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**Bibliography**

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

**Previous documentation on file (NPS):**

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested.  
 previously listed in the National Register  
 previously determined eligible by the National Register  
 designated a National Historic Landmark  
 recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # \_\_\_\_\_  
 recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # \_\_\_\_\_

**Primary location of additional data:**

- State Historic Preservation Office  
 Other State agency  
 Federal agency  
 Local government  
 University  
 Other

Name of Repository: Baptist Temple, Charleston, WV

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**10. Geographical Data**

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**Acreeage of Property: Less than one acre**

**UTM References** (Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

Charleston West - Quad Map

<u>17</u>	<u>44504</u>	<u>424410</u>
<b>Zone</b>	<b>Easting</b>	<b>Northing</b>

**Verbal Boundary Description**

(See continuation sheet.)

**Boundary Justification**

(See continuation sheet.)

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**11. Form Prepared By**

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Name/Title: Wendy C. Winslow and Paul Marshall, consultants

Organization: Baptist Temple Board of Directors Date: August 18, 1999

Street & Number: 209 Morris Street

Telephone: (304) 346-9627

City or Town: Charleston State: WV ZIP: 25302

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**Property Owner**

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(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

Name: Charleston Baptist Temple

Street & Number: 209 Morris Street Telephone: (304) 346-9627

City or Town: Charleston State: WV Zip: 25302

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**Narrative Description:**

The Baptist Temple (1924) is a two story, brick church with Georgian and Federal style details. The building's location on the corner of the lot enhances its distinction as an important structure. The remaining structures on the block are residential architecture.

The church lot is bordered on the north by Lee Street, east by Morris Street, south by Quarrier Street and west by The Arlington Court Apartments. The primary façade is on the southern elevation, with secondary entrances on the northern and eastern elevations.

The building is composed of a central sanctuary block with matching wings. A tower dominates the facade. Later additions were added to the rear. The tower is the center piece of the building mass which incorporates the central narthex rotunda and sanctuary. The east and west wings are smaller in scale and house the lesser functions such as corridors, classrooms, offices, parlor and chapel.

The central tower contains the steeple. The spire is copper-clad and flares out to cover an open belfry with decorated engaged Corinthian columns and arched openings which have scrolled keystones. Baluster railings appear at the arched openings. Directly below the belfry is a baluster area above the clock portion of the tower. A dentil cornice supported by plain engaged pilasters at the corners cap the clock section. A series of plain classical cornices embellish the breaks in the tower as it steps out to its full dimension. The main shaft of the tower is decorated by center panels of extended, header bricks in diagonal patterns. A cross interrupts the pattern near the top center of the front panel.

The main entrance doorway of the sanctuary block is set off within a projecting stone enframing consisting of Greek Ionic columns supported by a pediment with both an architrave and pediment embellished with modillions and dentils. The paneled double doors are flanked by narrow sidelights and crowned with a full arch fan light with tracery.

On the interior, the central narthex is divided into three major sections. The central section contains a domed rotunda inside the main entrance doors. It is decorated with molded plaster panels, a wood chair rail, and wood crown molds at the spring line of elliptical arches which frame the openings to the other narthex sections and provide the support for the domed ceiling. The domed area of the ceiling curves upward from a cove molding. The center of the dome features a radial medallion from which hangs a lantern chandelier. The flanking narthex sections are more domestic in scale and decoration. They function as the main entrances to the sanctuary, gallery and side corridors. They also have double-door exits to the Quarrier Street façade. Decoration in these areas include raised-mold plaster panels, dado, chair rail, and crown moldings at the ceiling.

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Two radial chandeliers are chain-suspended in each section. All three sections are filled with bright daylight from the large sash windows and fanlights above the doors.

Major rooms at the east and west ends of the narthex are the parlor (east) and chapel (west). The parlor doubles as a classroom for the Women's Bible Class, which was its original function, and as a social area for church and wedding receptions. The Memorial Chapel doubles as a classroom for the Fred O. Blue Bible Class, the original function of the room. This classroom was remodeled 1968 and contains a worship center platform, cove lighting, pew seating, and a small four-stop mechanical-action pipe organ.

The sanctuary spans the major interior architectural space. The Roman Doric Order is the principal theme in the sanctuary incorporating triglyphs, metopes and dentils, capped with a plain cornice. The entablature rests on Roman Doric engaged pilasters and columns. In the chancel area, the backs of the choir pews mark the pedestal line of the chancel pilasters. Between pilasters are molded plaster panels. Molded panels also decorate the face of the gallery railing. The tall windows of the side gallery repeat the fanlight qualities of the entrance doors and along with the clerestory windows above, admit ample daylight to the sanctuary. The pilaster capital moldings are repeated between the gallery windows and the center of each arch is decorated with a plaster keystone. The four stairways leading to the gallery areas feature graceful baluster railings typical of those found in Georgian stairways.

The two story rear addition on the north elevation was construction in 1955 and contains added classroom space. The addition was built in common bond red brick with concrete sills and thresholds. The windows are flat hopper style metal windows. Little ornamentation is executed throughout the addition, relying instead upon its straight International style plain surface. The roof is flat, and the doors have been replaced by flat metal doors.

The addition is contained to the rear of the structure and does not upset the general balance and symmetry of the building. The use of brick in the addition creates an uninterrupted line of sight. It does not distract from the basic form of the structure. The expansion illustrates the history of the Charleston Baptist Temple by providing a substantial manifestation of its need for space to accommodate increasing membership.

The Baptist Temple is significant because it is the only structure in West Virginia designed by the nationally recognized master architect Ernest Flag. The structure's symmetry and architectural detailing embodies the Classical teachings of the Beaux-de-Arts. It is an outstanding example of high style Colonial Revival architecture in the greater Charleston area and in state of West Virginia.



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**Statement of Significance:**

The Charleston Baptist Temple is significant under Criteria C for Architecture, with Criteria Consideration A for Religious buildings being applicable. The period of significance for the building is 1924 when it was constructed. The building is significant because it represents the general influences of Colonial Revival design and classical symmetry in institutional architecture. The picturesque qualities of the style are reflected in the building's accentuated front door with pediment, flat multi-paned double-hung sash windows, and traditional use of red brick. The importance of the building lies in its significant design and affiliation with the nationally known architect, Ernest Flagg.

The first building built by the Baptist congregation was a brick building on Donally Street in 1891. It was a simple plan, one room structure. Just before the building was sold, the congregation installed a baptistry.

The next church edifice was built on the corner of Capitol and Washington Streets, diagonally across from the county courthouse square. They first erected a temporary wood frame building in 1901 on the back of the lot to serve while a new structure was built. The cornerstone for the new brick and stone structure was laid on December 1, 1904. The church had one large sanctuary room with two side galleries and a vestibule. The basement included rooms for Sunday School classes, a kitchen and parlor.

In 1907 the Charleston Baptist congregation established the International Graded Lessons which in turn, created the departmentalized Bible School. The church became not only a place to worship, but also a place to learn while partaking in Christian fellowship. More space was needed for classrooms, worship, and fellowship. A lot was purchased in 1919 and a campaign was begun in 1920 to establish funds for the new building.

The city of Charleston experienced tremendous growth and prosperity in the years before the Great Depression. Residential neighborhoods of stately, red brick homes were being built on the east side of the city along Kanawha Boulevard, Virginia Street, and Quarrier Street. More room was required for the expanding Baptist congregation. The congregation chose a site away from the downtown area, and closer to the burgeoning east side neighborhood to build their new church.

The Charleston congregation wrote to the New York offices of the American Baptist Home Mission Society asking a recommendation for a suitable architect for the new Baptist church. The society recommended a list of six architects, from which, Ernest Flagg was chosen. Final plans

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were approved in 1922. Construction began in 1924, with a final dedication in 1925. The cornerstone of the 1907 church was moved to the present location of the current church and lays on the sidewalk, adjacent to the structure.

The roots of the Colonial Revival style were laid in the classicism and historical associations of nineteenth century architectural trends. The Centennial Exhibition of 1876 in Philadelphia exposed Americans to a wide variety of new architectural styles, building techniques and materials, not widely seen previously. Americans trained at the Ecole des Beaux-Arts in Paris, brought back with them a more academic understanding of Classic Roman and Greek architecture. The late nineteenth century continued the Beaux-Arts classicism with regionalism. Architects focused on the American colonial past such as New England Georgian period, stone structures of the Mid-Atlantic, and classical brick Georgian architecture of the elite. By the time of the 1893 Columbian Exposition, Americans had institutionalized architects who solidified the return to classicism and historicism.

Ernest Flagg was one of those architects whose training and practice reflected these architectural trends. He received his principle architectural education at the Ecole des Beaux-Arts in Paris in 1889-90. He augmented his education by joining the independent atelier of Paul Blondel. Flagg incorporated many of the principles associated with academic classicism in his designs for the Corcoran Gallery of Art 1892-97, Washington, D.C., the Singer Tower 1907, New York, New York, and most notably, the United States Naval Academy 1896-98, Annapolis, Maryland.

In his commission for the Charleston Baptist Temple, Ernest Flagg used a modular plan to design the church. His drawing sheet used a square grid with each side of the square pattern representing four feet two inches. The grid insured rigid symmetry and precision in detailing, which created an exterior that reflected American Classicism. The façade of the building clearly displays the classic Palladian five-part plan, with a central tower and hyphens that amalgamated into one substantial block.

Ernest Flagg chose to execute the design in red brick, a traditional medium used in Colonial buildings of the Mid-Atlantic and Southern regions. Flagg also borrowed upon the regional practice of brick patterning, to create an unusual diamond shaped pattern in the tower. The facade's main entrance is highlighted by a classically inspired portico complete with a Ionic columns that support a pedimented gable containing modillions. The classicism that was popular in the American Georgian and Adamesque periods of architecture is shown in its paneled double doors, narrow sidelights and full arch fan light with tracery.

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Flagg designed the church's interior to blend with the classicism executed on the exterior. The narthex is a compartmentalized space with a central domed rotunda inside the main entrance doors. It is decorated with molded plaster panels, a wood chair rail, and wood crown molds at the spring line of the elliptical arches which frame the openings to the other narthex sections. The interaction of the arches and decoration create a visual line of support for the domed ceiling.

The sanctuary contains several elements of the Roman Doric order including triglyphs, metopes and dentils. The tall windows of the side gallery repeat the fanlight motifs of the entrance doors and the clerestory windows above. The installation of the Holtkamp organ in 1969 did not interrupt the symmetry and balance of the chancel area.

The Charleston Baptist Temple represents the work of a master architect who succeeded in achieving a high level of artistic merit in the classical mode of architecture and the Beaux-Arts method of design. Ernest Flagg only designed four ecclesiastical buildings and one synagogue through out his career. The Charleston Baptist Temple is significant as an unconventional building type, created by a master architect and executed in precise stylistic detail.

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**Major Bibliographic References:**

“The Baptist Temple (Charleston Baptist Church)- A Historical Sketch- 1951-1969, On the Occasion of Our Centennial October 30, 1969”. Pamphlet produced by the church, 1951.

The Baptist Temple At Mid-Century: The Baptist Temple in Transition, A Brief History of the Baptist Temple. Charleston, 1951.

Bacon, Mardges. Ernest Flagg: Beaux-Arts Architect and Urban Reformer. Cambridge, Massachusetts: MIT Press, 1986.

Kanawha County Deed Book, Deed Book 199, p. 574, Kanawha County Courthouse; Charleston, West Virginia, 8/5/19.

Kemper, Clarence W. The Story of the Temple. Parkersburg, West Virginia. The Baptist Banner Publishing Company, 1928.

Letter from the American Baptist Home Mission Society to The Morgan Lumber Company, 12/15/1925. Personal collection, Paul Marshall.

Morgan, John G. and Robert J. Byers. Charleston 200. Charleston: The Charleston Gazette, 1994.

Sanborn Map of Charleston, WV, 1933. Sanborn Map Company: Pittsburgh, 1933.

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**Boundary Description:**

Beginning at the northwest corner of Quarrier and Morris Street, and running northeast along the west side of Morris Street 250 feet to the property line; thence running along the rear property line 148.2 feet to the corner of the property; thence south along the property line approximately 53 feet to the south line of the alley; thence turning west and running with the alley 144 feet to Arlington Court; thence turning south and running 200 feet to Quarrier Street; thence turning southeast and running with Quarrier Street 301 feet to the corner, and place of beginning.

**Boundary Justification:**

This parcel includes the original corner parcel purchased in 1919; and the three lots on Quarrier purchased in the 1950s. These lots are now part of the parking area.

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Name of Property: Charleston Baptist Temple  
Address: 209 Morris Street  
Town: Charleston  
County: Kanawha

Photographer: Wendy C. Winslow

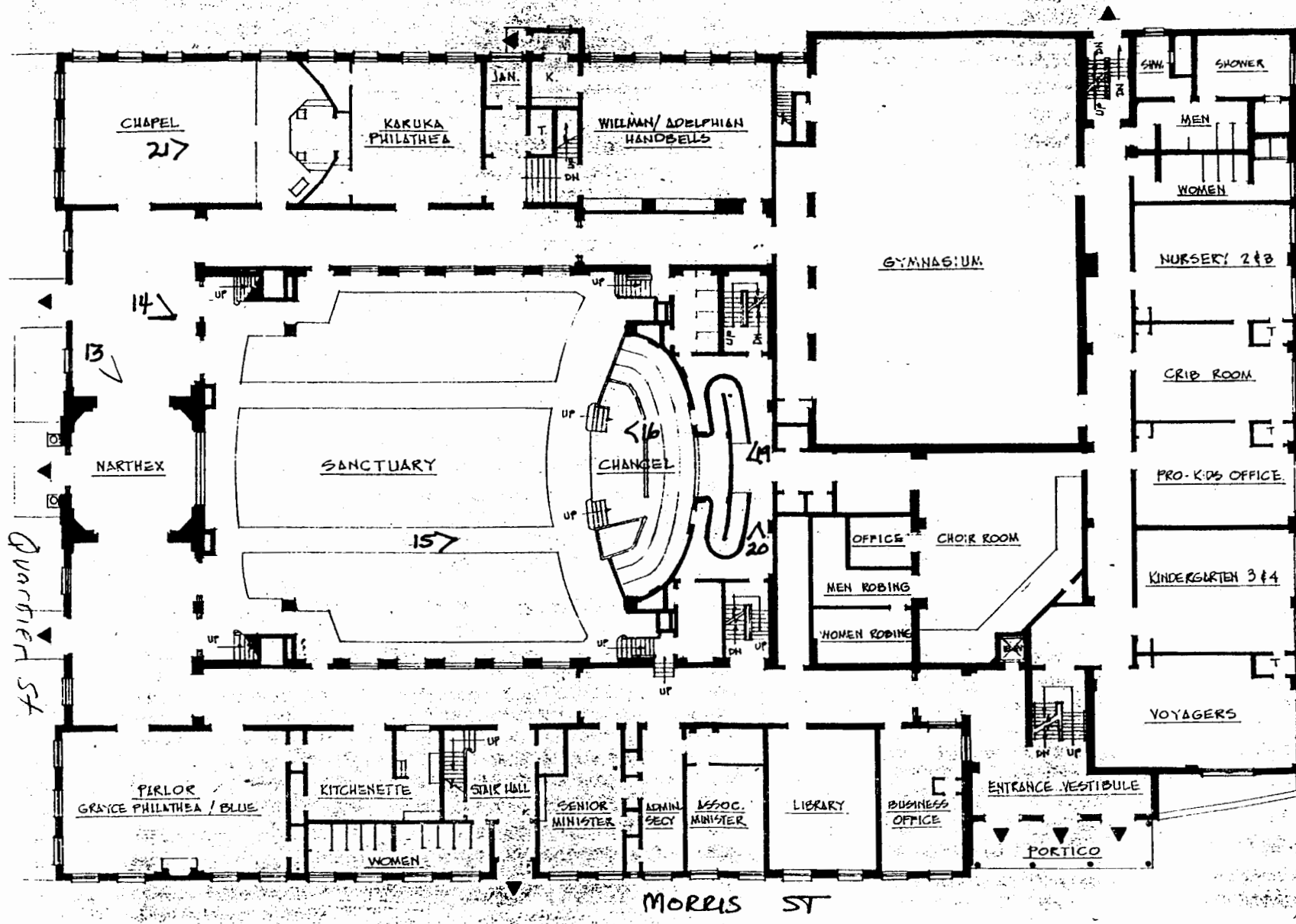
Date: August 18, 1999

Negatives: WV SHPO, Charleston, WV

- Photo 1 of 21: Looking northeast from Quarrier Street at the southern (façade) elevation.
- Photo 2 of 21: Looking northwest from Quarrier Street at the southern (façade) elevation.
- Photo 3 of 21: Looking north from Quarrier Street at the central, southern (façade) elevation.
- Photo 4 of 21: Looking northeast from Quarrier Street at the western elevation.
- Photo 5 of 21: Looking southeast from Lee Street at the western elevation.
- Photo 6 of 21: Looking south from Lee Street at the northern elevation.
- Photo 7 of 21: Looking southwest from Lee Street at the northern elevation.
- Photo 8 of 21: Looking south from Lee and Morris Street intersection, at eastern elevation.
- Photo 9 of 21: Looking northwest from Quarrier Street at the eastern elevation.
- Photo 10 of 21: Looking at the southeastern entrance on Morris Street.
- Photo 11 of 21: Southeast cornerstone of building.
- Photo 12 of 21: Looking at the southeast corner of the property containing church sign and previous church structure cornerstone.
- Photo 13 of 21: Interior of narthex looking east.
- Photo 14 of 21: Looking at double doors separating the narthex and sanctuary.
- Photo 15 of 21: Looking north at chancel area in sanctuary.
- Photo 16 of 21: Looking south at the sanctuary from chancel area.
- Photo 17 of 21: Looking down at the chancel area from the second floor gallery.
- Photo 18 of 21: Looking at the southeast corner of the second floor gallery.
- Photo 19 of 21: Looking at the baptism pool, which is behind the chancel.
- Photo 20 of 21: Looking at the baptism pool and part of the original flooring.
- Photo 21 of 21: Looking north, inside the Memorial chapel.



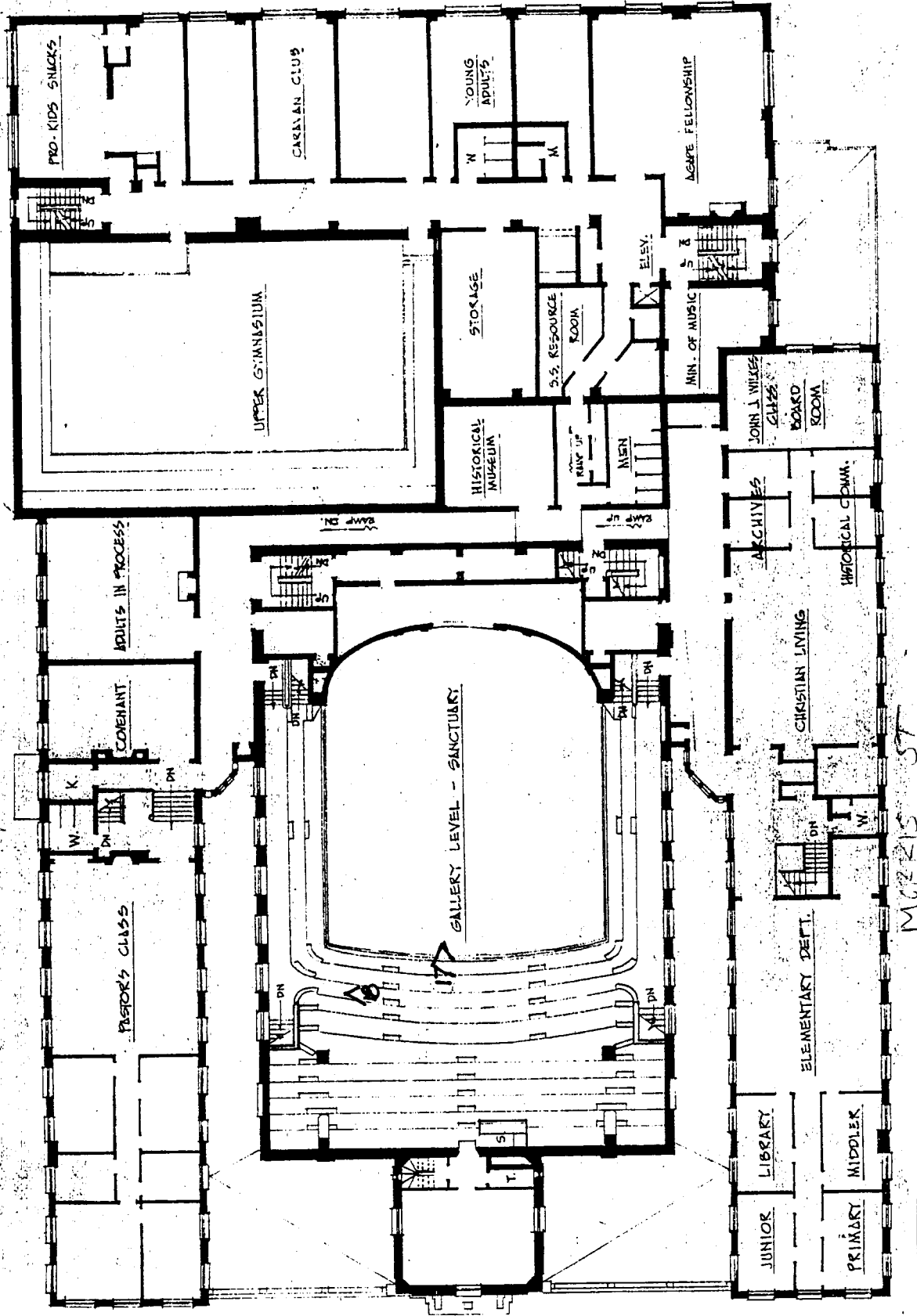
CHARLESTON BAPTIST TEMPLE  
Kanawha County, WV



FIRST FLOOR PLAN



CHARLESTON BAPTIST TEMPLE  
Kanawha County, WV

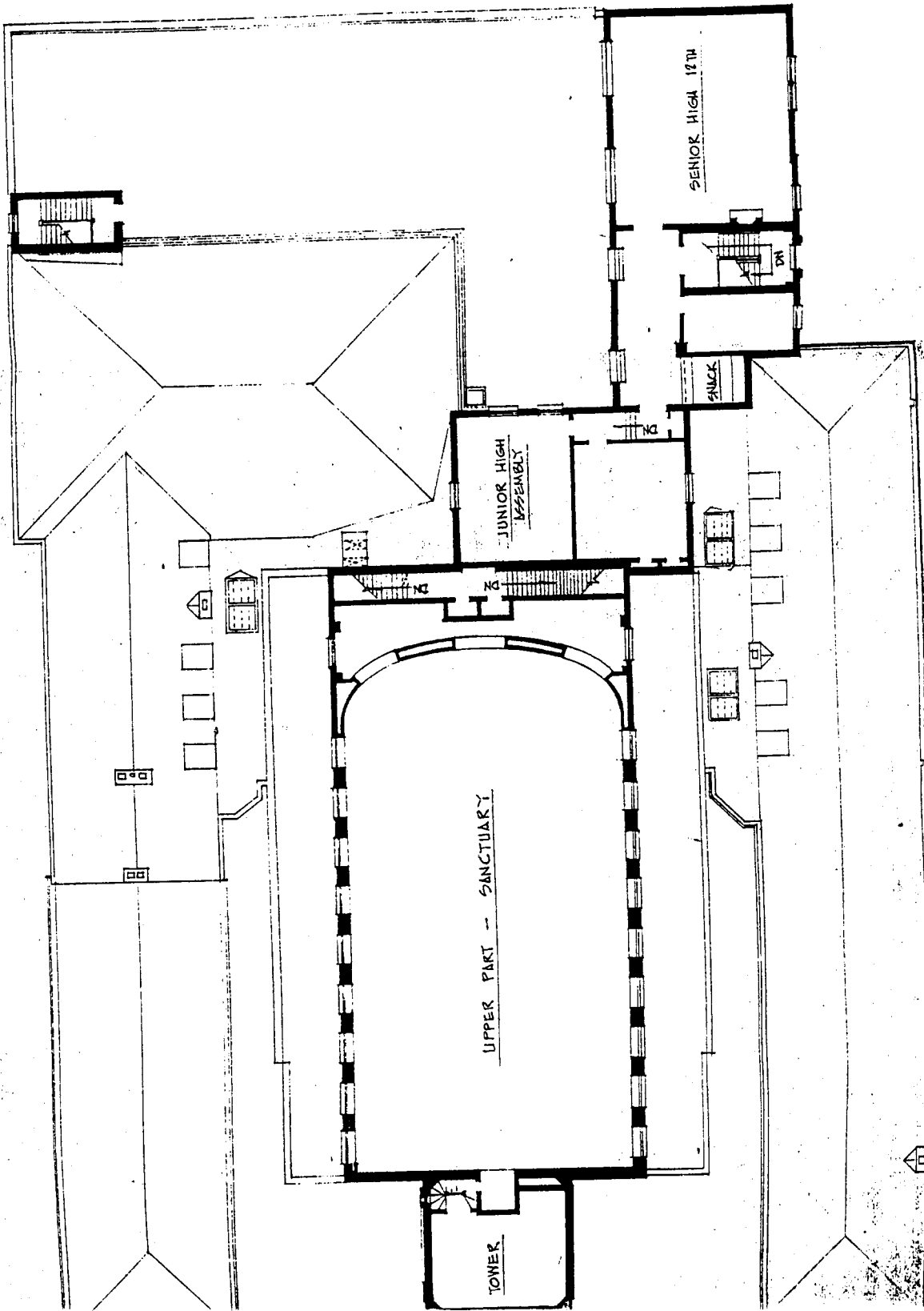


Quarrier St

McKerrie St

SECOND FLOOR PLAN

CHARLESTON BAPTIST TEMPLE  
Kanawha County, WV



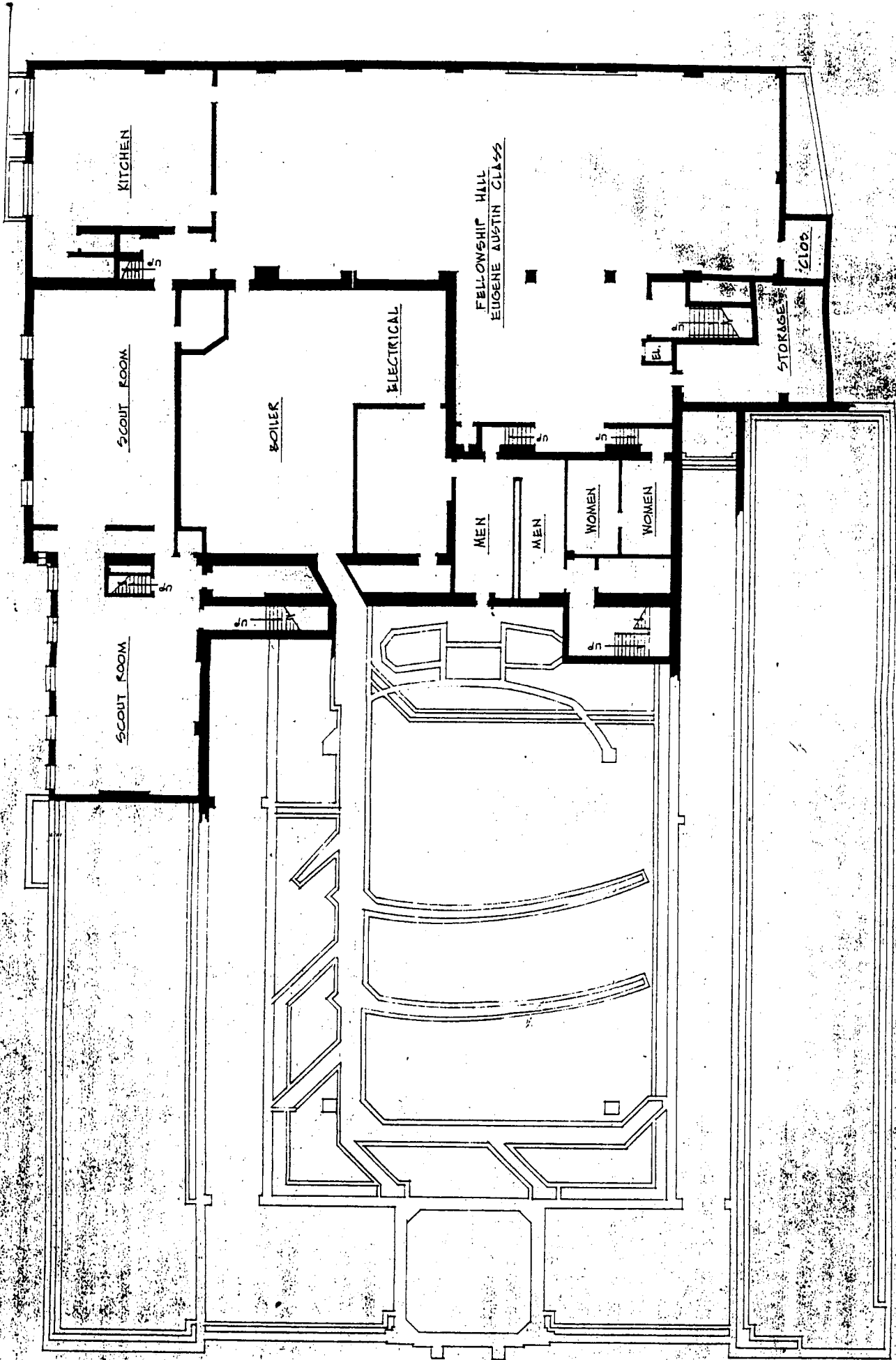
QUARRIE ST



THIRD FLOOR & ROOF PLAN

MURKIN ST

CHARLESTON BAPTIST TEMPLE  
Kanawha County, WV



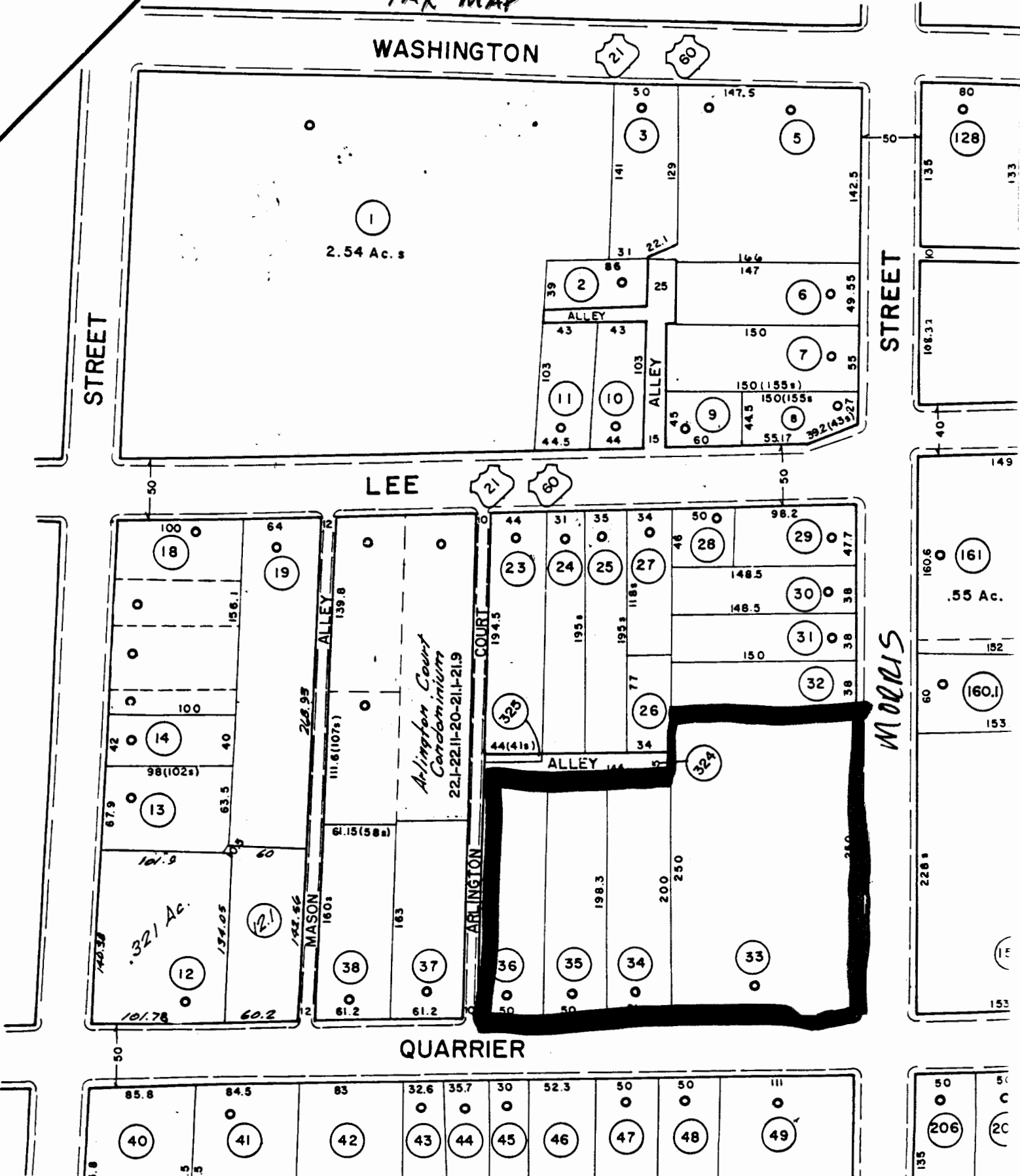
BASEMENT FLOOR PLAN

*Morgan*

CHARLESTON BAPTIST TEMPLE  
CHARLESTON, WV  
KANAWHA Co.



TAX MAP



STREET

WASHINGTON

LEE

QUARRIER

STREET

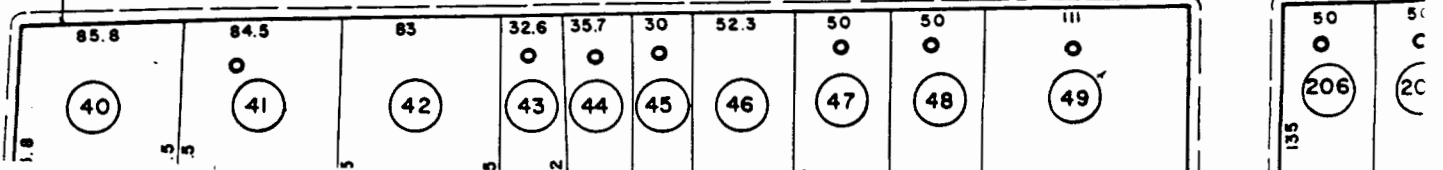
MORRIS

2.54 Ac. s

.321 Ac.

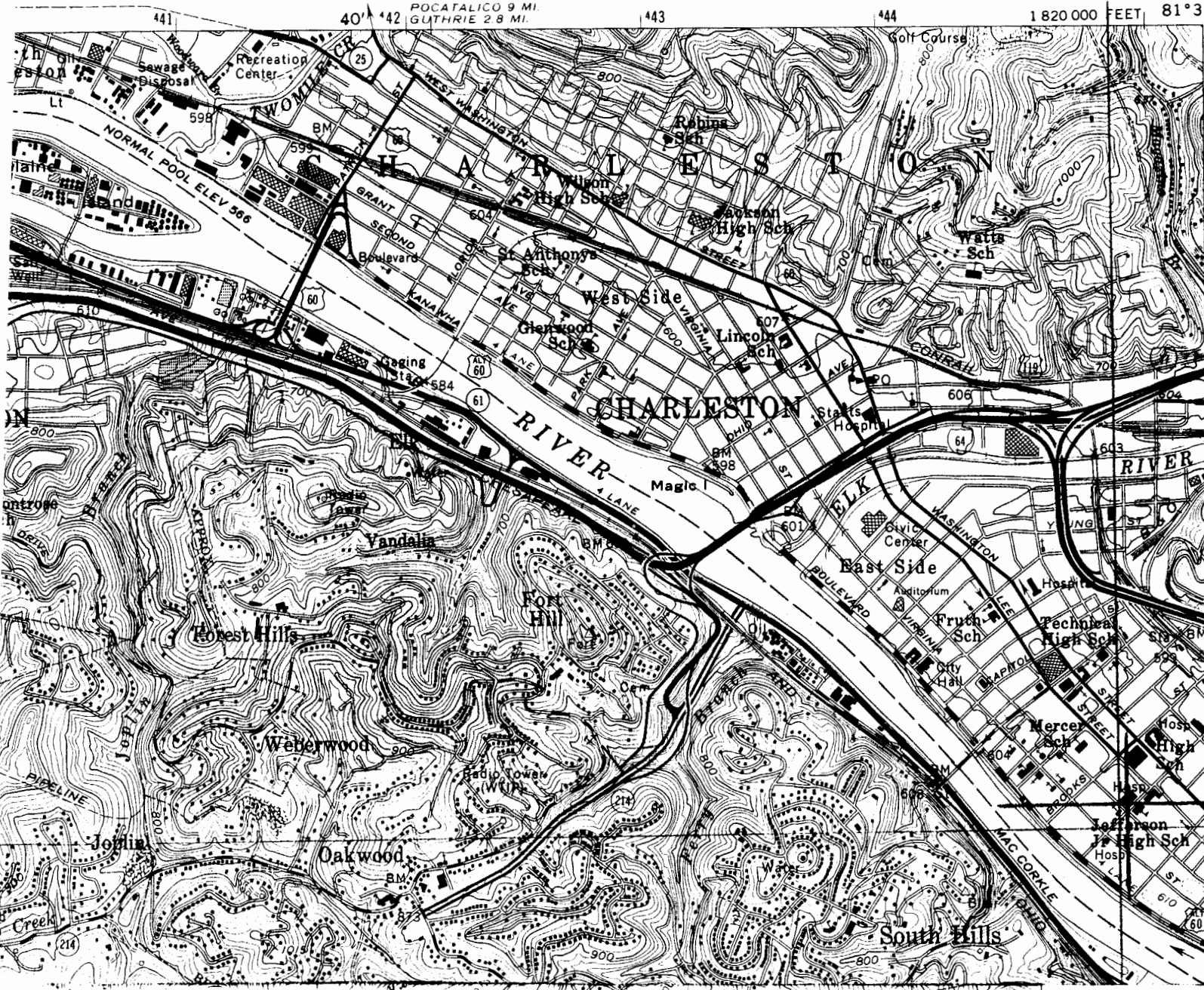
Arlington Court  
Condominium  
221-2211-20-211-219

.55 Ac.



CHARLESTON WEST QUADRANGLE  
 WEST VIRGINIA—KANAWHA CO.  
 7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)  
 SW/4 CHARLESTON 15' QUADRANGLE

4660 1 NE  
 (BIG CHIMNEY)



1 820 000 FEET  
 81° 37' 30"  
 38° 22' 30"

500 000  
 FEET

BIG CHIMNEY 7.5 MI  
 TELKVIEW 12.5 MI

4245  
 (77)  
 STATE CAPITOL 1.5 MI  
 WEST VIRGINIA TURNPIKE 4.2 MI  
 2.3 MI  
 TURNPIKE 3.4 MI

CHARLESTON  
 BAPT. TURNPIKE  
 17 445040  
 4244118

