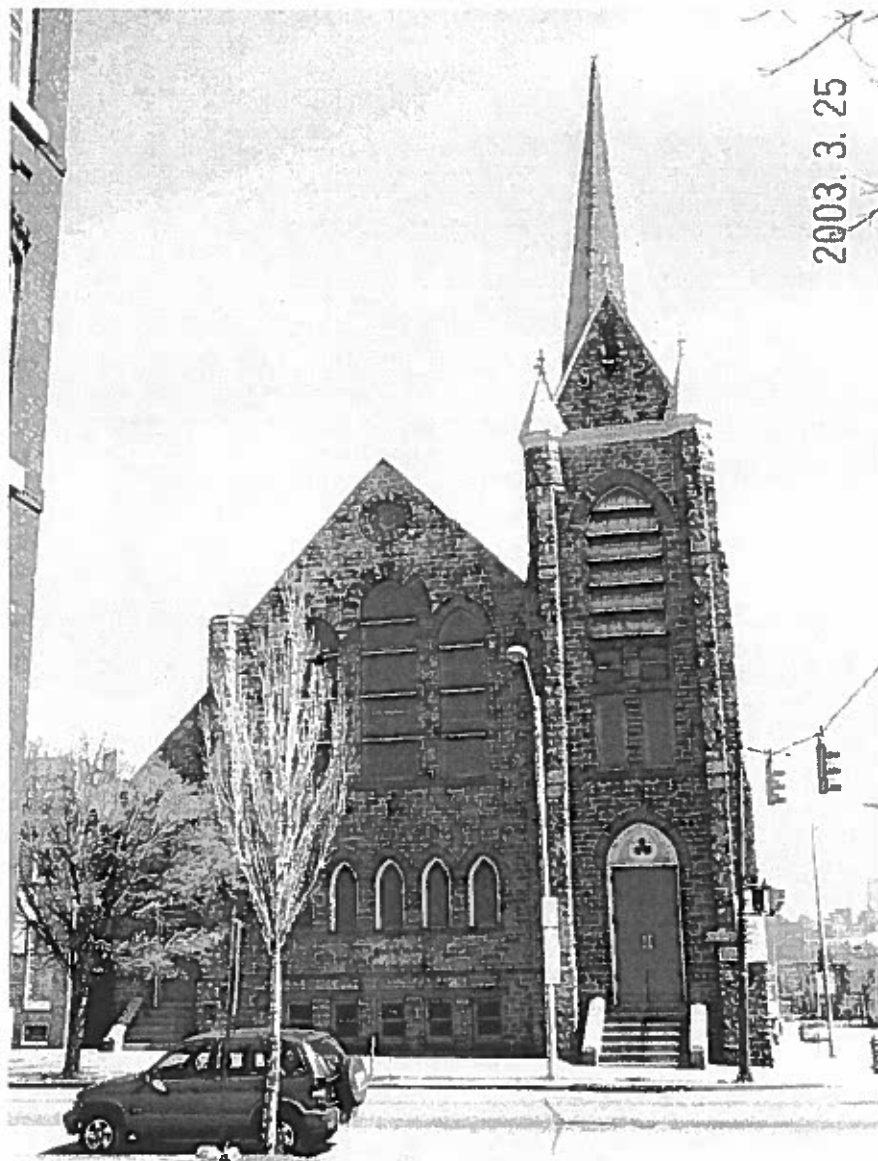


Divine Mission Apostolic Church
One North Fulton Avenue
Baltimore City Landmark Designation Report
Prepared For Baltimore City Commission For
Historical and Architectural Preservation
Hearing April 8, 2003



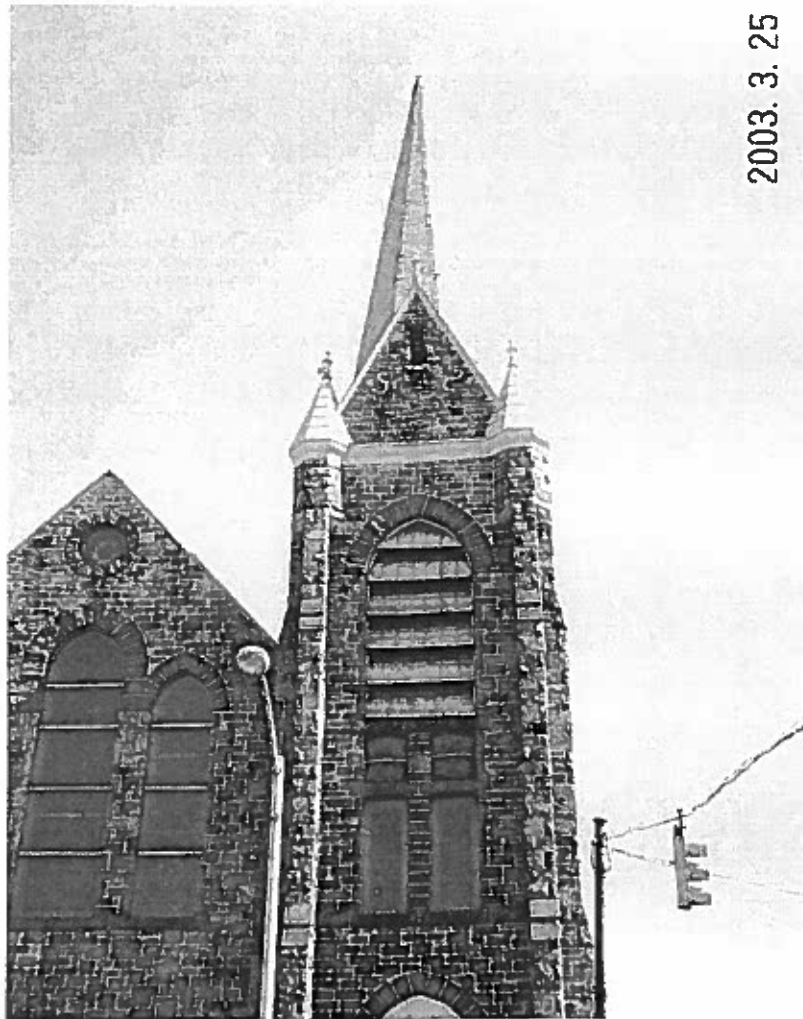
Divine Mission Apostolic Church originally built as the Fulton Avenue Baptist Church.

Baltimore City Historical Landmark Standards for Designation

The Divine Mission Apostolic Church, located at one North Fulton Avenue in the Franklin Square Neighborhood and Union Square Local Historic District, is eligible as a Baltimore City Landmark by meeting the Baltimore City Commission for Historical and Architectural Preservation Standards for Designation one and four:

1. Dates from a particular period having a significant character, interest, or value, as part of the development, heritage, or culture of the City of Baltimore; and
4. Is significant of the architectural period in which it is built and has distinguishing characteristics of an architectural style, method or construction, or engineering, or is the notable work of a master builder, designer, engineering, artist or architect whose individual genius influenced his age.

The Divine Mission Apostolic Church meets criteria one and four by being an excellent example of Gothic Revival architecture and an excellent example of the work of Wilson and Wilson Architects, significant 19th Century Baltimore architects.



Copied in full is the Baltimore Sun August 9, 1889 newspaper article describing the building of the church:

A Corner Stone for a New Baptist Church

The Corner stone of the new church edifice of the Fulton Avenue Baptist congregation, at the corner of Fulton Avenue and Baltimore Street, was laid yesterday afternoon by the pastor, the Rev. A. C. Barron, with simple and appropriate exercises. The services began with the singing of one of the old Baptist hymns, after which Mr. J. Harry Tyler, chairman of the building committee, gave a sketch of the origin and progress of the church. It was formerly a mission of the Franklin Square Baptist Church, and was organized in 1876. It grew until it was strong enough to go it alone, which it did a few years back. Since then its membership has rapidly increased until now it is one of the strongest Baptist churches in Southwest Baltimore. Addresses were made by Professor J.A. Chambliss of the Maryland Agricultural College, and the pastor, the Reverend A. C. Barron. At 5their close the cornerstone an oblong piece of granite, inscribed "Fulton Avenue Baptist Church, 1889," was set in place, and a galvanized iron box containing a copy of the Bible, a history of the Baptist Churches of Maryland, a manual of the Fulton Avenue Baptist Church, a historical sketch of the church, photographs of the exterior and interior of the old church, those of the pastor and trustees of the church, and copies of the Baltimore Baptist, The sun and other daily papers. The walls of the building are up to the entrance of the main floor, and the joists have been laid. The church will be of Gothic architecture and built of Gwynns fall bluestone, brownstone trimmings. It is to be two stories high, the lower floor being the lecture-room and the upper the one for the regular church services. The seating capacity of each will be 600. There will be a steeple on the corner 135 feet high. The architects are J.A. and W. T. Wilson, Buckley and Wynn are the builders.

Gothic Revival architecture, especially exemplified in ecclesiastical architecture, is a defining feature of Baltimore. Second to the rowhouse form, church buildings defined the different neighborhoods of Baltimore. Gothic Revival Style has fashioned many street corners of 19th Century neighborhoods. They help to date the neighborhood squarely as well as become beacons of stability. Currently many of the Gothic Revival churches are participating in the Inspire Baltimore campaign, which is a campaign to light up the spires and towers of Baltimore City. The architects J.A. and W.T. Wilson were more than able to design proficiently in the Gothic Revival Style. Wilson and Wilson Architects are responsible for many of the Victorian Buildings in Baltimore such as Macedonia Church, Belvidere Terrace and many other rowhouses in Mount. Vernon. One North Fulton Avenue is an excellent example of their talent.