



HISTORIC RESOURCE INVENTORY FORM

NYS OFFICE OF PARKS, RECREATION
& HISTORIC PRESERVATION
P.O. BOX 189, WATERFORD, NY 12188
(518) 237-8643

OFFICE USE ONLY

USN:

IDENTIFICATION

Property name (if any) _____

Address or Street Location 303 Lafayette Avenue

County Erie Town/City Buffalo Village/Hamlet _____

Owner _____ Address _____

Original use Religious Current use _____

Architect/Builder, if known George F. Newton Date of construction, if known 1907-1908

DESCRIPTION

Materials – please check those materials that are visible

Exterior Walls:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> wood clapboard	<input type="checkbox"/> wood shingle	<input type="checkbox"/> vertical boards	<input type="checkbox"/> plywood
	<input type="checkbox"/> stone	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> brick	<input type="checkbox"/> poured concrete	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> concrete block
	<input type="checkbox"/> vinyl siding	<input type="checkbox"/> aluminum siding	<input type="checkbox"/> cement-asbestos	<input type="checkbox"/> other

Roof: ☒ asphalt, shingle ☒ asphalt, roll ☐ wood shingle ☐ metal ☐ slate

Foundation: ☒ stone ☒ brick ☐ poured concrete ☒ concrete block

Other materials and their location: _____

Alterations, if known: original apse replaced with modern brick stage house in the 1950s Date: _____

Condition: ☐ excellent ☐ good ☒ fair ☐ deteriorated

Photos

Provide several clear, original photographs of the property proposed for nomination. Submitted views should represent the property as a whole. For buildings or structures, this includes exterior and interior views, general setting, outbuildings and landscape features. Color prints are acceptable for initial submissions.

Please staple one photograph providing a complete view of the structure or property to the front of this sheet. Additional views should be submitted in a separate envelope or stapled to a continuation sheet.

Maps

Attach a printed or drawn locational map indicating the location of the property in relationship to streets, intersections or other widely recognized features so that the property can be accurately positioned. Show a north arrow. Include a scale or estimate distances where possible.

Study: City of Buffalo Intensive Level Historic Resources Survey: Grant-Ferry-Forest Neighborhood

Prepared by: Clinton Brown Company Architecture, pc

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Date: 03/2004

(See following pages)

PLEASE PROVIDE THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION

IF YOU ARE PREPARING A NATIONAL REGISTER NOMINATION, PLEASE REFER TO THE ATTACHED INSTRUCTIONS

Narrative Description of Property: Briefly describe the property and its setting. Include a verbal description of the location (e.g., north side of NY 17, west of Jones Road); a general description of the building, structure or feature including such items as architectural style (if known), number of stories, type and shape of roof (flat, gabled, mansard, shed or other), materials and landscape features. Identify and describe any associated buildings, structures or features on the property, such as garages, silos, privies, pools, and gravesites. Identify any known exterior and interior alterations such as additions, replacement windows, aluminum or vinyl siding or changes in plan. Include dates of construction and alteration, if known. Attach additional sheets as needed.

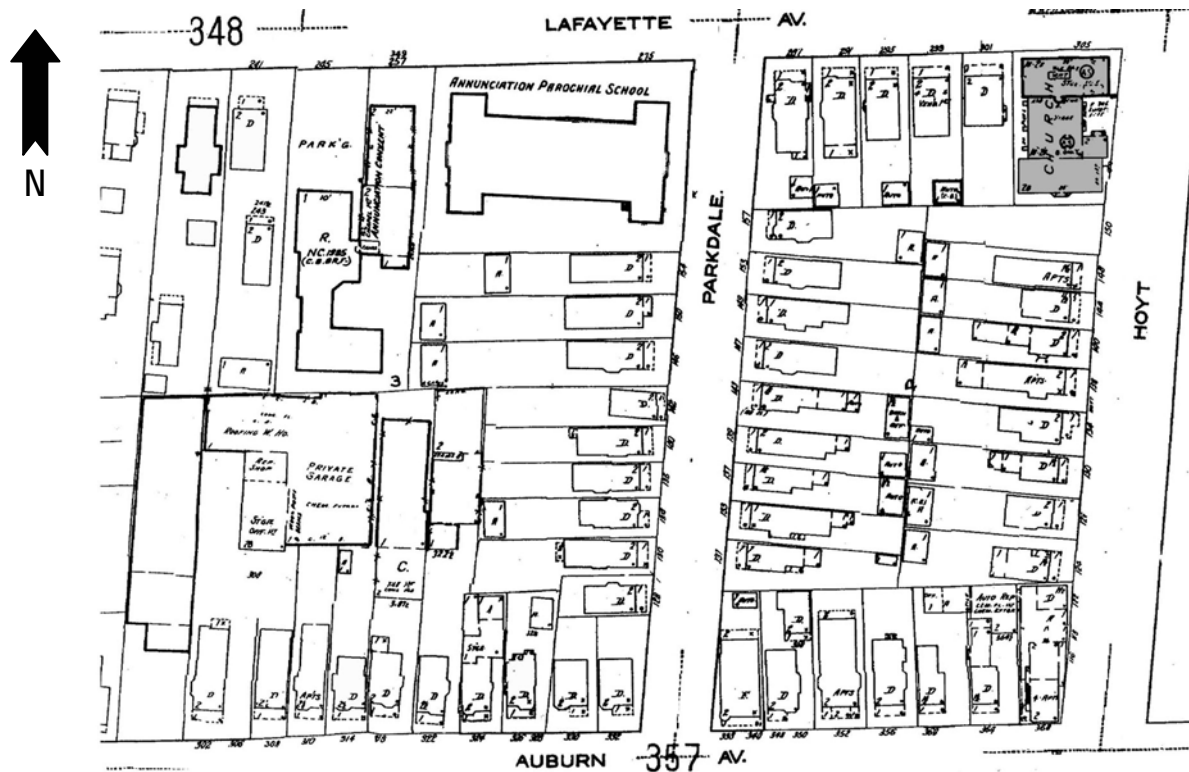
The building at 303 Lafayette Avenue is set on a larger trapezoidal corner lot, located on the south side of the street, at the east end of the block between Parkdale Avenue and Hoyt Street. Lafayette Avenue is a prominent east-west, primarily residential, street that runs across the West Side, forming the eastern portion of the south border between the Grant-Ferry and Forest neighborhoods. The east section of the street is included in the Historic District, bisecting notable Colonial Circle and serving as the location of many fine homes. This property is located in a moderate residential area of the central section of the Grant-Ferry-Forest Neighborhood

An early nineteenth century chapel with a simple side tower and noted alterations – the product of adaptive reuse. It has an irregular polygonal plan, though the original T-shaped plan is still discernable. A large modern styled brick stage house dominates the façade and majority of the front portion of the building; obscuring the original chapel. Remaining rear section and simple square tower with upper elongated composite stained windows visible on the east elevation, fronting Hoyt Street. Portions of the original roofline visible as well.

Narrative Description of Significance: Briefly describe those characteristics by which this property may be considered historically significant. Significance may include, but is not limited to, a structure being an intact representative of an architectural or engineering type or style (e.g., Gothic Revival style cottage, Pratt through-truss bridge); association with historic events or broad patterns of local, state or national history (e.g.; a cotton mill from a period of growth in local history, a seaside cottage representing a locale's history as a resort community, a structure associated with activities of the "underground railroad."); or by association with persons or organizations significant at a local, state or national level. Simply put, why is this property important to you and the community. Attach additional sheets as needed.

The building at 303 Lafayette Avenue is significant as a good representative example of an early nineteenth century chapel with a simple side tower and noted alterations – the product of adaptive reuse. Built as Grace Universalist Church, and designed by a Boston architect. The congregation, founded in 1891, later merged with the Unitarian Universalist Church at Elmwood and West Ferry. This building was occupied by the Studio Theater School during 1940s and 1950s, which later became Studio Arena Theater. This organization replaced the church's apse with the present brick stage house.

MAP: Sanborn Map (Revised 1986) – Plate 349



PHOTOGRAPH: (Grant-Ferry-Forest: R-35; N-2)

