

Ridley Temple Church of God in Christ, Inc.

*102 S W 12th Avenue
Delray Beach, Florida 33444*



*For
The Historic Preservation Board
Delray Beach, Florida*

Designation Report

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I. General Information

Location:	102 S. W 12 th Avenue Delray Beach, Florida 33435
Date of Construction:	‘1949 ’
Builder	Elder Andrew Ridley
Founders:	Elder Andrew & Annie Ridley
Present Owner:	Ridley Temple COGIC Inc.
Present Use:	Church Services
Legal Description:	Lot 13 Blk 3, Atlantic Gardens
Property Control #:	12-43-46-17-18+003-0310

II. Location Map



SUBDIVISION	BLOCK	LOT	Improved	Vacant	Exempt
Atl. Park Gardens	3	14			

DESC.

CITY OF DELRAY BEACH, FLORIDA

	1942	1943	1944	1945	1946	1947	1948
LAND	14.00		12.00	20.00	50.00	50.00	11.11
BLDGs.							
TOTAL							

OWNER *Andrews Annie Mae Ridley*
ADDRESS *Box 1773*

DESCRIPTION OF BUILDING				BUILDING PLAN		BUILDING DIMENSIONS	
TYPE BLDG.	BASEMENT	ROOF	INT. FINISH	MISC.	SIZE	HEIGHT	NO. STORIES
Single Dwlg.	None	✓ Gable	Plaster	P.G. Sto. Fri.	18 X 24	12	
Double Dwlg.	Furt	Hip	Decorated	Sprink (Fire)			
Double Dwlg.	Full	Flat	Pine	Pas. Elev.	X		
Bungalow	Dirt Floor	Mansard	Hardwood	Frt. Elev.			
Cottage	Cement Floor	None	Metal	Hand Elev.	X		
Apartment	Finish	PORCHES	Marble & Tile	Fire Escapes			
Store	HEATING		Tunnels	Refrigerators			
Store & Apt.	None	X Front	FLOORS	Vic. C. Sys.	X		
Office	Stoves	X Side	Wood Joists	Skylights			
Dupk Bldg.	Hot Air	X Rear	Mill	Fireplaces	X		
Hotel	Steam	X Sleep.	Steel Beams	Inchurators			
Theatre	Hot Water		Reinf. Conc.	Sol. W. Sys.	X		
Factory	Vapor		Reinf. Tile	Air Con. Sys.			
Garage (Apt.)			Dirt		X		
Garage (Srv)	Oil Burner	EXT. WALLS	FLOORING	FACTORS			
Gar. (Priv.)	CONSTRUCT.	Wood Siding	Pine	No. of Rooms	X		
Gas Station	✓ Wood Frame	Brick	Hardwood	Apartment			
Church	Steel Frame	Brick Cased	Concrt	Rooms & Apt.	X		
Recre. Bldg.	Reinf. Conc.	Stone	Tile	Fin. Attic R.			
Landb. Sheds	Mill	Stone	Marble	Fin. Base R.	X		
	Brick	Shingle	Terrazzo	Date Complt.			
	Tile		Linoleum	Ace	X		
			Remodeled				
FOUNDATIONS	EXT. TRIM	PLUMBING	LIGHTING				
Shingle	✓ Plain	None	Electric				
Pitch & Grav.	Stone	Fixtures	Gas				
✓ Metal	Concrete	Toilets	Bathrooms:				
Composition	Brick	Wood	Tile, Floor	✓ Lamps			

						CU. FT. CONTENT	UNIT PRICE	NEW VALUE	CONDITION		% COND.	
									GOOD	FAIR	BAD	
									LACK OF UTILITY OR OBSCULENCE			\$
REMARKS: 1104 1/2 S. 1st St. N. W. Wash. D.C.						5189	8					
MAIN BLDG.												
GARAGE												
SHED												
<div style="float: right;"> TERN FLAT #983-1937 GREENWOOD TRAILER #983-1937 </div>												

LAND APPRAISAL	
ADDITIONAL BUILDINGS	Valuation
TOTAL BUILDINGS \$	
TOTAL LAND	
TOTAL LAND AND BLDGS. \$	

Front and Depth	Unit Price	Depth Factor	Corner Factor	Front Foot Value	Valuation
50 X 137.66					
X					
X					
Enhancing Factor	%	ACRES @			
Detracting Factor					
				TOTAL LAND VALUATION	

LOTS	ACREAGE	ST. IMPROVEMENTS
Level	Paved
High	Dirt
Rocky	Sidewalk
Low	Curb
Swampy	Water
Farm	Sewer
Wooded	Elec. Light
		Gas

REMARKS: 11/14/48 *11/14/48*

Devel. by me

10-16-48 - STARTED CHURCH BLDG. PERMIT #983-^{EXR} 1000
TRIP NOT COMPLETED 3-8-49 1000

DISTRICT

DESCRIPTION OF BUILDING

BUILDING PLAN

VALUATION RECAPITULATION

LOTS	ACREAGE	ST. IMPROVEMENTS
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Example 6 If $\alpha \in [0, \pi]$, find the maximum value of $f(\alpha) = \sin^2\left(\frac{\alpha}{2}\right) + \cos^2\left(\frac{\alpha}{2} - \frac{\pi}{4}\right)$.

TOTAL BUILDINGS	\$
TOTAL LAND	
TOTAL LAND AND BLDGS.	\$

III. Historical And Cultural Significance

In early 1946 Andrew W. Ridley and his wife Annie Mae Ridley moved from Miami, Florida to Delray Beach, Florida in the Atlantic Park Gardens Division.

Andrew Ridley had a divine inspiration to come to Delray Beach and establish a place of worship in the African American Community. His vision was to build a church, a place of refuge for the residence of the community in their time of need.

The principles and philosophies of the Pentecostal Movement during that era of an oppressed segregated south, was to bring not only to a place of worship, but also hope and stability to the community.

Today those founding principles and philosophies still remain along with providing an understanding and developing an appreciation for the African American Pentecostal worship experience.

The name of the organization was chosen in honor of the founders Elder Andrew Ridley and his wife who were respected leaders in the community. The church is located in the heart of the African American community, and is playing a fundamental role in the rebirth and revitalization of the surrounding communities including providing cultural awareness and a better appreciation for the importance of preserving historical structures which are directly linked to the rich heritage and a better appreciation for the importance of preserving historical structures.

The area during the 1940's was of a struggling community and church was being held in a small house next door to where the sanctuary stands today. As the people came Andrew Ridley organized the church and began to have services in that small house.

As the church membership grew Andrew Ridley and the men of the church planned a church house (which it was called in that day) and acquired the necessary permit in 1948 from the City of Delray Beach to get started in building the sanctuary. The men of the church gathered after work in the evening to build the church. The original church was the lower level for about 5 or 6 years.

The members decided to add a second level to the church in which the owner wanted to develop and start a daycare for the community which was well needed at that time. They worked tirelessly at night in order to complete the sanctuary upstairs. The sanctuary was completed in the year of our Lord 1956, services are still being held upstairs to this day. In 1989 under the leadership of Elder Thomas Moore the sanctuary was renovated to include new paneling, extension of the pulpit, and Pulpit furniture, new lighting, and carpeting, pews in the choir stand, and stained glass windows that enhanced the church. The stained glass windows are rectangular weigh round top complete faceted glass depicting the following scenes, Annunciation, Nativity, Child Jesus teaching in the temple, Baptism of Jesus w/ John the Baptist, Jesus teaching the Children, Agony in the Garden, Crucifixion, Resurrection from the Tomb, Ascension of Our Lord, the Pentecost, Good Shepherd and Lambs.

Over the years Ridley Temple has been and continue to be a church that is there for the up building of the community. Spiritually we are there to help in the community needs. Our prayers and hope is that we will be able to continue what our forefathers considered as the focal point in enabling the community to grow.

0IV. Statement of Significance

Thanks to the determination of Elder Andrew Ridley to maintain the church he built, this building has remained a place of worship and fellowship consistently over the years. As the first church in this community it is the sanctuary for the Church of God in Christ in Delray Beach, Florida. Elder Ridley had a vision and mission to serve the African American community by assisting Migrant workers with a place of worship and a place of refuge for their families in a time of need. He spent his time traveling to the western farm areas ministering and providing religious leadership to those families who needed transportation, clothing and food by bringing them to the church for fellowship with the congregation.

The vision and mission of the church along with its historical character has remained a pillar of this community. The outer design and construction has not been altered except for the illumination cross that stood tall as a beacon of light for the community. The cross could be seen throughout the city of Delray and served as a drawing point to lead others to the church for worship. There have been updates to the Windows to add beauty and character to the building. In the early 1960s the down stairs area was utilized as a daycare to assist working mothers with a place to house their children while they worked. The daycare became a place to nurture, feed and teach children about the bible and the need to have God in their lives. The majority of the children that attended the daycare were also members of the church along with their Parents. Although the daycare no longer exists the vision continues to serve the children in the community by teaching them morals and respect for others and provide a place of worship.

The sanctuary stands today as an example of the type of construction typical in Florida and in Delray Beach in the 1940s. The Masonry Vernacular design of architecture and materials used are signatures of that era. The downstairs was constructed first to allow the members to have a place of worship until the completion of the entire structure. Worship services were held in this area along with feeding of those in need. The architectural design and structure were started and completed by the male members of the church in the early 1950s. The men of the church along with Pastor Ridley worked tireless hours and days to build the church utilizing their money to purchase materials needed to construct the foundation and building. Current Members continue this ritual with assisting with finances for the up keep of the inside and outside of the building with a vision to continue to bring hope and a place of worship to the community.

Our main vision and mission is to enrich all involved by presenting the Word of God and exploring African American worship experience with all cultures and nationalities in a way that will inspire others to want to make significant changes in their life and well-being, be it spiritually, mentally or physically. Currently the church has opened its doors to the Haitian community in fellowship and worship on Sunday mornings, by bridging the gap between language and religious beliefs. Our mission will continue to be a service to the community by meeting the needs of others through fellowship and a place for healing.

V. Architectural Significance

The Architectural Style: Masonry Vernacular

The original church of (Ridley Temple Church of God in Christ), meet within a small house on the now churches property. Years later the church was removed to make way for an edifice dedicated to God, which stands today. The founding Pastor of the church Elder Andrew W. Ridley along with members from the Community designed and built the church as you see today. The one story building was completed in the year of 1949. The original one-story building was 18" feet wide x 24" long. There are several other small enlargements were added over the years such as the tiling, windows, and pulpit area.

The second floor (Sanctuary) was added to the building in the year of 1956 and the entire building is currently 52' feet tall. The construction of the church is a combination of wood frame and concrete block. The foundation is made up of concrete pillars which stand on a concrete foundation. There are stairs which are located in the front of the building which leads you up into the sanctuary. A small one story kitchen was added to the building (North Side) during the year of 1962. The design concept of the church was influenced and inspired by AM Cohen Temple Church of God in Christ in Miami, Florida.

The two-story masonry vernacular building with its illuminated cross, stood tall as a beacon of light to the area, provided a sense of pride and dignity to the community. The stucco covered brick building features a low pitched front gable roof with wall projections at either side of the gable. The wooden brackets, under the roof eaves, run the perimeter of the building with the exception of the front facade. The front facade the wall projections appear straight, but you turn the corner to the side of the building, the architect has designed an

interesting triangular shape that forms a covered entryway on the ground level.

The second floor consist of dual entry doors, which the worshipper would enter after walking up a double stair case. The church is graced to have a stair case in the front as well the back. The stair case has elaborately patterned concrete trellis hand rails and balcony rails. Two large(wood and metal)doors on the second level allows the community of believers to enter to them as the Sanctuary or Place of Worship were they would sing songs and hymns, and worship a higher power. In between the doors still sits to this day an original glass block shaped cross.

The church sanctuary is flanked on each side with arched stained glass windows displaying pictures in chronological order of their Christian Faith. When entering the sanctuary there are two identical isles which lead to the altar area. The altar consist of the pulpit where the ministers will proclaim the Sunday morning sermon, and also where the choir would sing the Sunday Morning hymn or song. Both sides of the altar area has offices one for the Pastor to study and another for the Church clerk or secretary. The ceiling has been constructed of cedar and pine wood which hold ceiling fans and houses an AC unit for the worshipping services.

Outside of the sanctuary are the originally restrooms. One being for the Men and the other for the Women. The ground or lower level is located directly under the sanctuary. A large set of double doors allow you to enter what was once a nursery for children of the local congregation and the community, many generations have graduated from this nursery over the years. Now, the once nursery is being used as a clothing pantry to help clothed less fortunate families in the community, and offend used to feed individuals in the same community. The ground level has three rooms covered in plaster walls, and tiled floors with a 14"ft ceiling. In the north corner of the lower

level is a storage closet for cleaning items such as mops, brooms, and etc.

Chairs and Tables are also located within this lower level. Chairs and table are here if there is to be some type of church event such as a feeding of the community so people will have proper sitting and able to eat at a table. Towards the very back of the lower level about 10 or 11"ft from the door is where the nursery was located. Young children from the ages of infants to toddlers would come to learn. Several improvements to the church are planned for the future such as an elevator. At this current time many members of the congregation are elderly and can no longer climb the stairs to hear and participate in the services. Sadly, many elderly saints sit alone downstairs while the services are being conducted upstairs.

A second enchantment would be re-illumination of the neon cross, along with the name of the church painted back on the front building under the cross as it was originally designed. Even mentioned was a church marque or display sign to tell others about upcoming events taking place at the church.

VI. Bibliography and Sources

Record Books:

Church records and Ridley Temple Members, Leroy Gant (deceased) and Ruby Williams and Thomas Moore.

Permit reports:

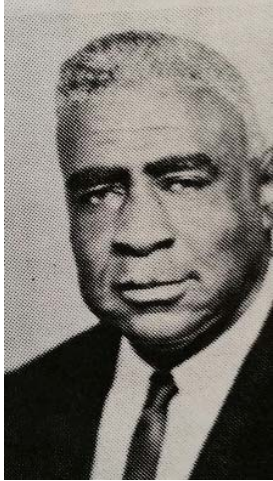
City of Delray Beach site files

Florida Master Site Files:

April 2015

Delray Historical Society:

VII. Appendix A: Photographs



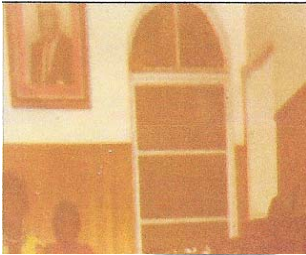
Elder Andrew Walter Ridley



Superintendent Charles Ridley



Mother Annie Mae Ridley





Church Mothers

Mother Della Lee Oliver Mother Maude Boyland and Mother Mabel Gant



Elder Thomas Moore

