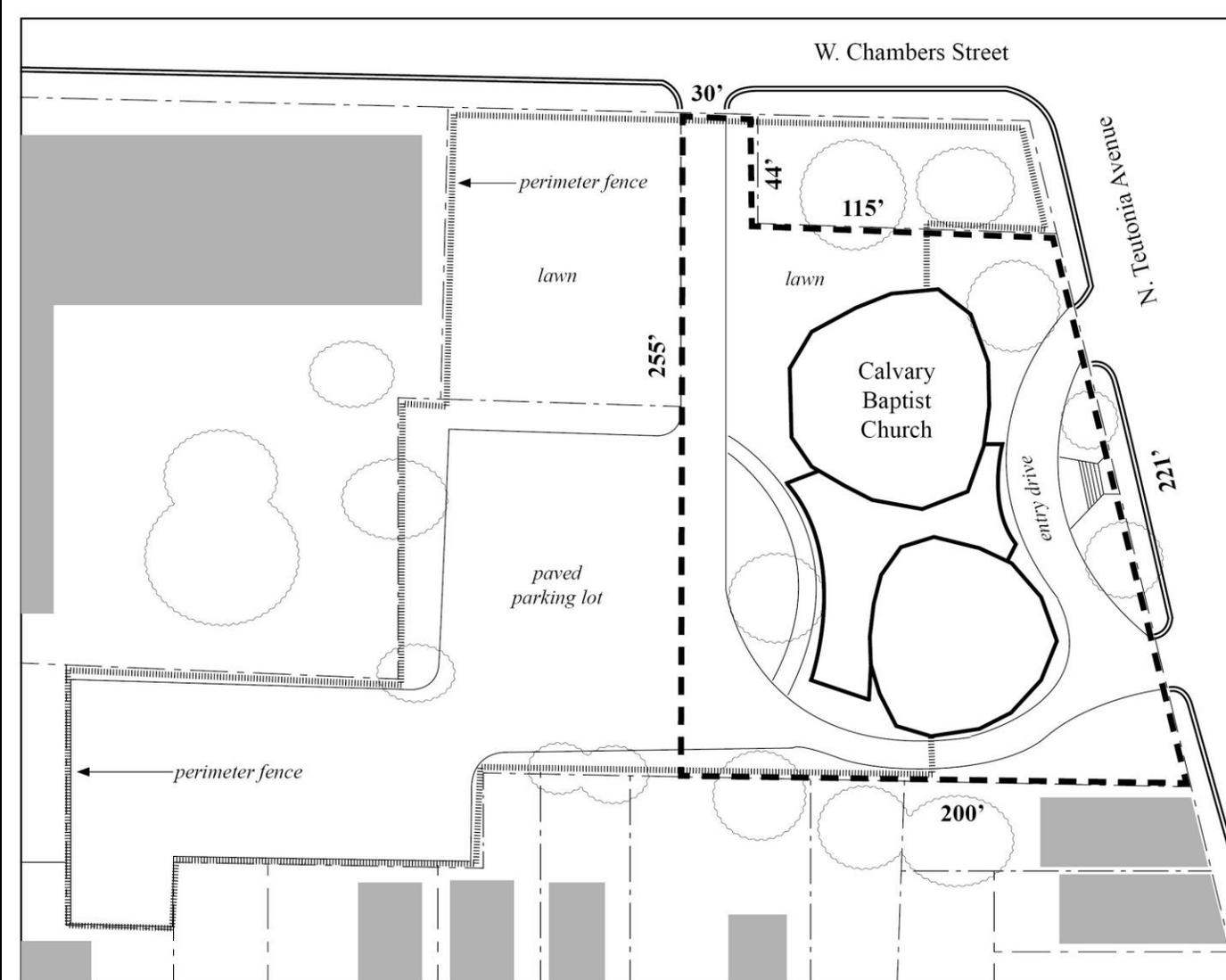




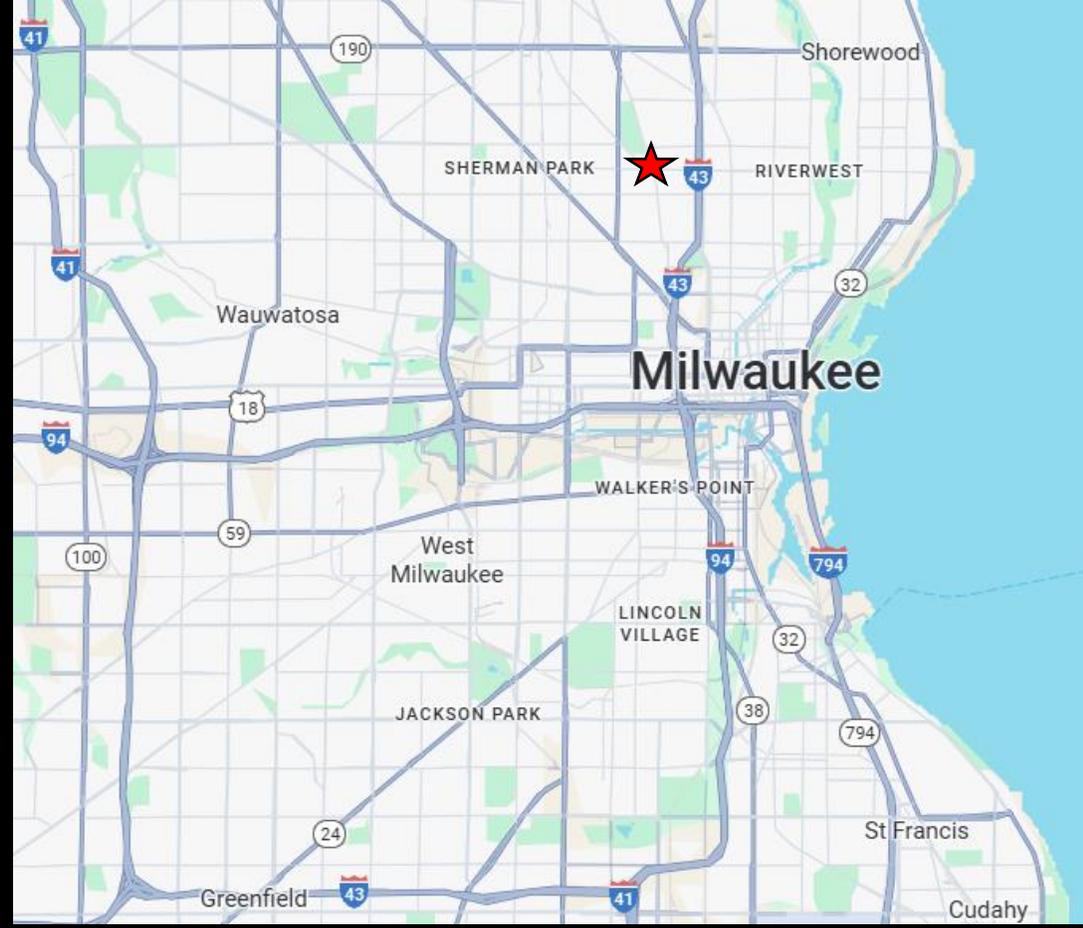
Calvary Baptist Church

2959 N. Teutonia Avenue

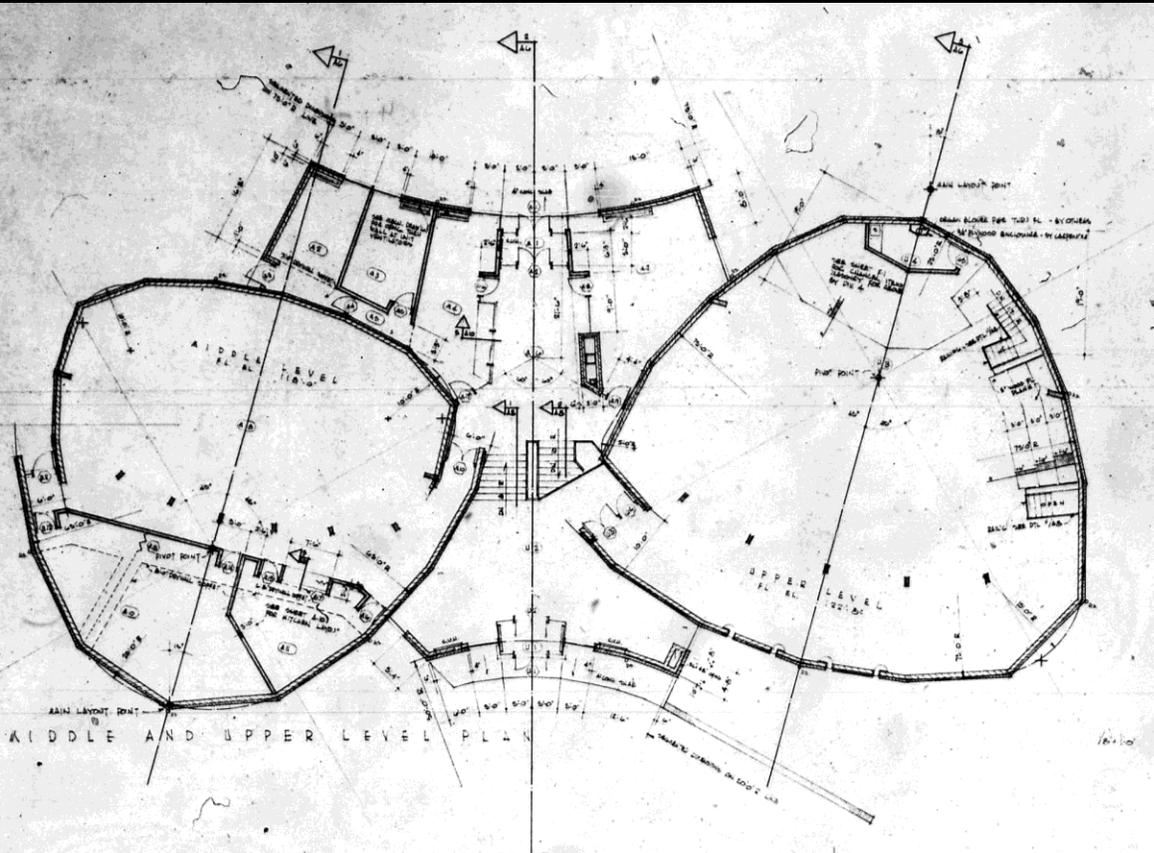


-  National Register boundary
-  Legal parcel boundaries
-  Contributing resource
-  Non-associated buildings

Calvary Baptist Church
 2959 N. Teutonia Avenue
 Milwaukee, Wisconsin



Calvary Baptist Church
 Built 1971
Criterion C: Neo-Expressionism
 One contributing resource



Building plan and east (Teutonia Ave.) elevation, looking northwest



East (Teutonia Ave.) elevation, looking west



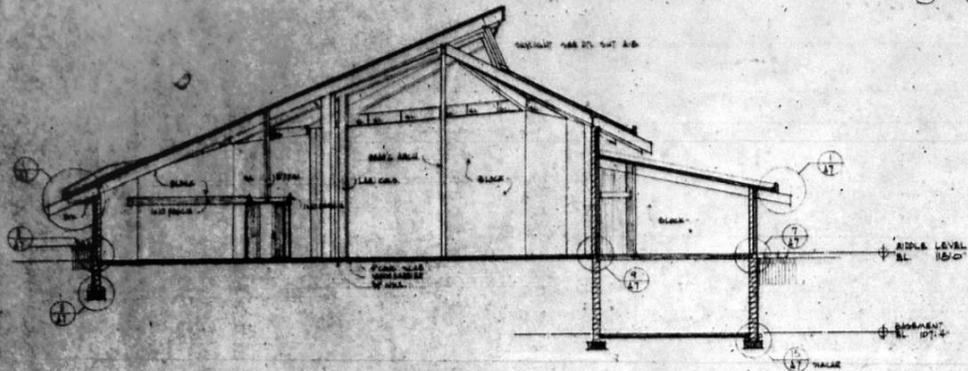
East elevation, looking south



West (parking lot) elevation, looking southeast

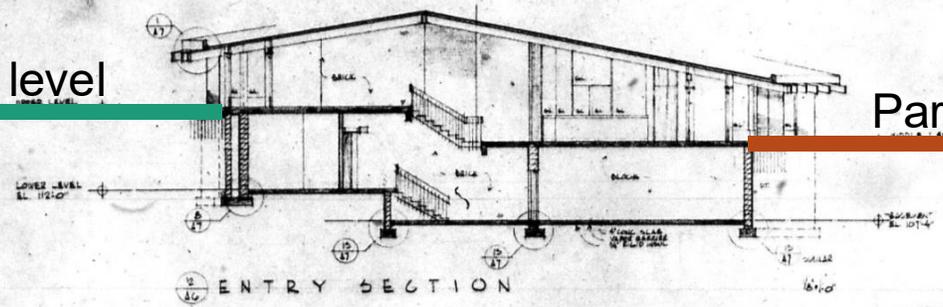


West elevation, looking northeast



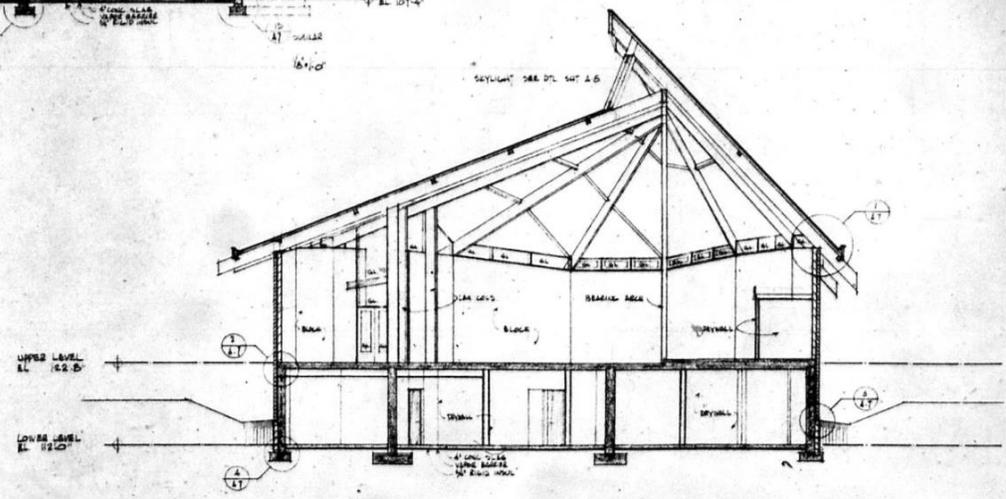
FELLOWSHIP HALL SECTION

Raised driveway level



ENTRY SECTION

Parking lot level



NAVE SECTION

Cross-section of building



Narthex (looking west towards parking lot) and staircase



Classrooms and chapel (lower level)



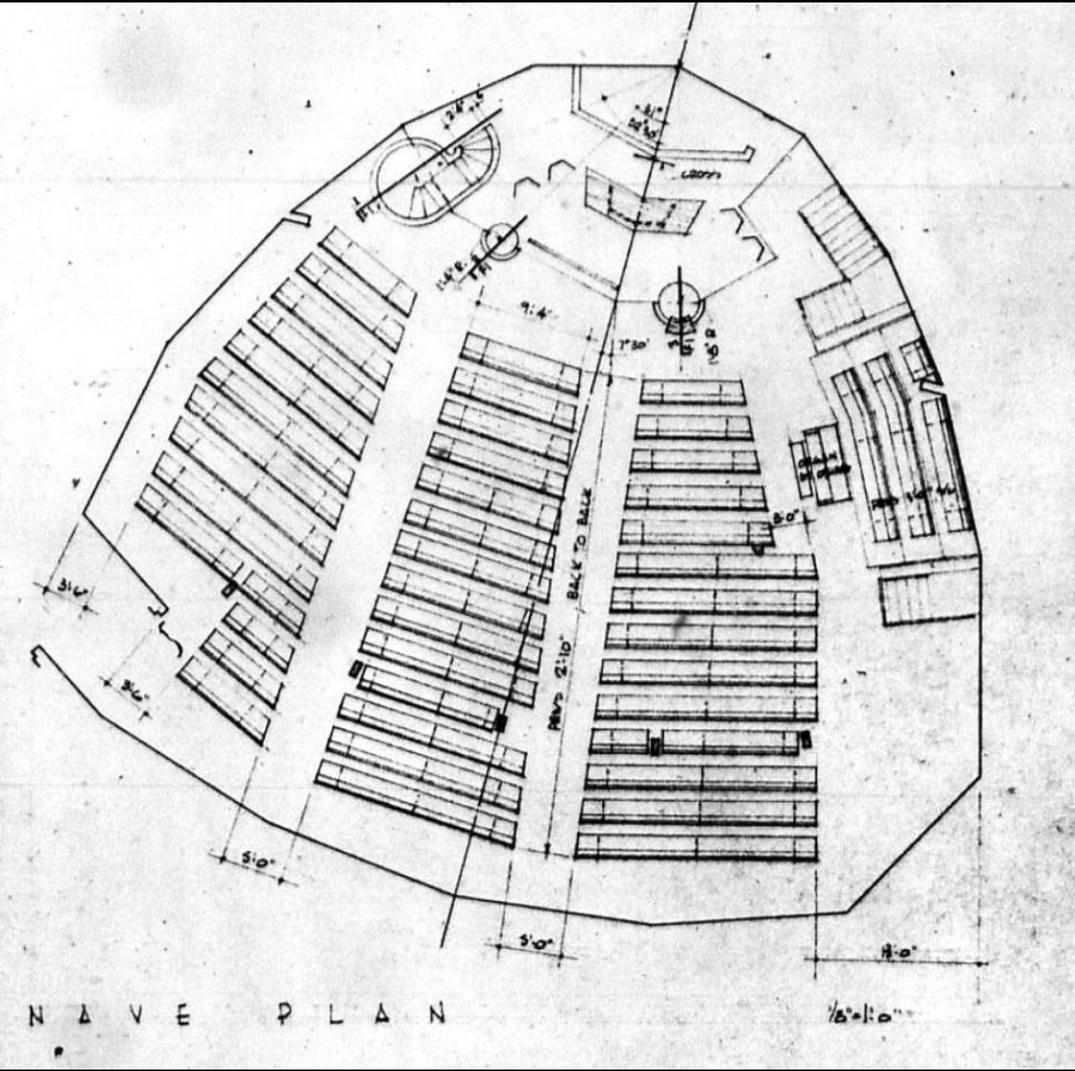
Fellowship hall (middle level)



Narthex interior details



Sanctuary, looking southeast; arched ventilation panels on exterior



Sanctuary plan and interior



Brick baptistry and lectern

Neo-Expressionism



Milwaukee County War Memorial (1955)
Eero Saarinen, architect



Zion United Church of Christ (1958)
3301 S. 76th St.
William Wenzler, architect

BACK TO SCHOOL BLACK AND PROUD
BE WITH THE AFRICAN 'JET SET' ON THE FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL,
WEAR AN AUTHENTIC AFRICAN GARMENT.



Carol Sawah,
Stylist & Designer
K.C. Mfg. Co.
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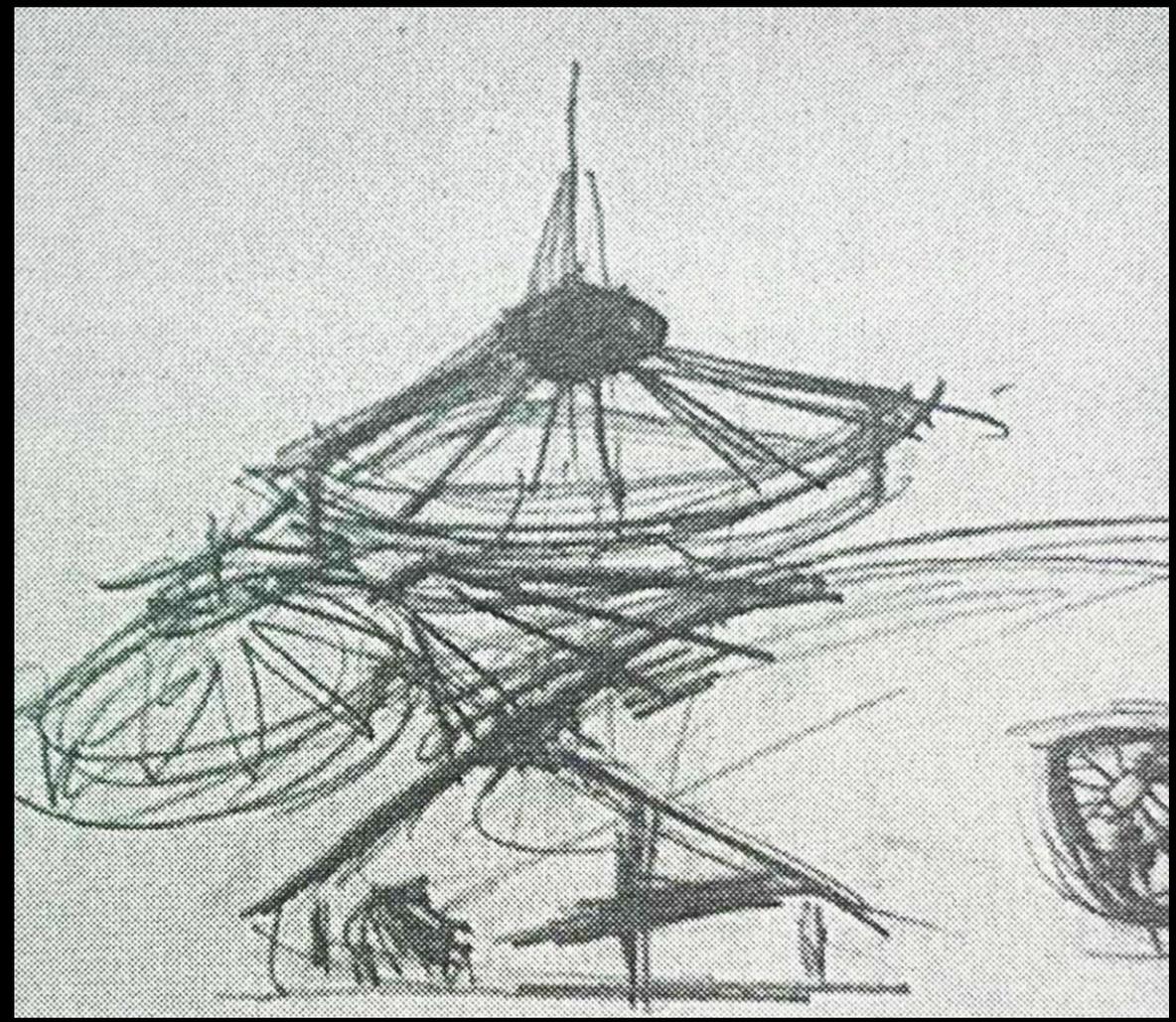


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The Black Arts Movement



Left: *Greater Milwaukee Star*, Sept. 16, 1969
Above: William Wenzler conceptual sketch

Black Congregation Builds on Heritage

In planning their new building, officials of Calvary Baptist Church said they wanted to give expression to their faith instead of accepting the wornout feelings of some other group whose building was taken over by a black congregation in the central city.

The result is an unusual new church at 2959 N. Teutonia Ave., scheduled for dedication in a week long series of programs starting Sunday. It is a free form structure, making generous use of exposed wood and concrete and containing a number of "living areas" that can function independently from the others. The building is on three levels, with ground level entrances on the two main floors.

The architect, William P. Wenzler, said it was his aim "to grasp the rich cultural background in Africa that preceded and undergirded the development of the contribution that black Americans have made and are making to the American way of life."

Wenzler said he drew especially on the humility, beauty and freedom symbolized in the village of the Cameroons to create "a spirit of welcome and invitation" in the new church.

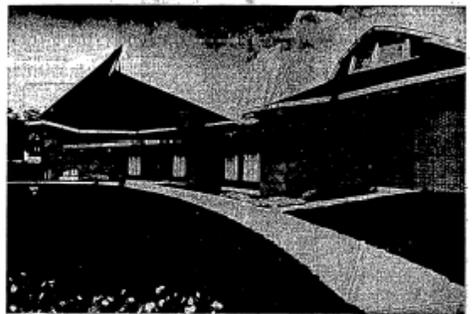
The congregation, formerly at 1727 N. 4th St., spent \$70,000 for the new site and then was turned down by three banks before getting finances for the \$500,000 building from the Columbia Savings & Loan Association, the Northern Bank and the American Baptist Convention. The congregation has nearly 1,000 members.

The Rev. M. J. Battle, who retired in 1965 after 28 years as pastor, will preach at services Sunday at 4 p.m. Services will be held at 7:30 p.m. nightly from Monday through next Saturday.

Young people from the congregation and from North Division High School and Roundy Memorial Baptist Church, Whitefish Bay, will be featured next Saturday night. The final dedication service will be at 4 p.m. March 21.

The Rev. Roy B. Nabors, who came recently from Niles, Mich., is the pastor.

High ceiling ceiling of the sanctuary of the Calvary Baptist Church is visible in a window that can be opened for ventilation.



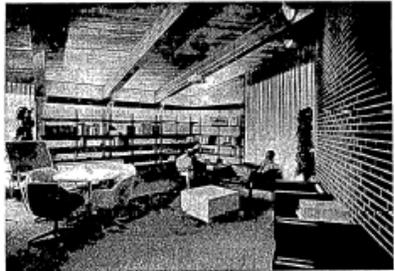
Rear view of the church shows sweeping lines of the free level structure and slanting lines of the entry windows at the top of the pews face in opposite directions. Fellowship hall is at right, sanctuary at left.



Page 10, Part 2-7

Inner City Church Has African Heritage

Adventures In Architecture



Two parishioners enjoy the spacious and comfortable church library. Wood and brick finish these areas in contrast to the rest of church, including the nave.

By DAVID H. KIRCHEN

ARCHITECT WILLIAM P. WENZLER said that when he set down to design the Calvary Baptist Church in Milwaukee's inner city, he tried to capture the rich flavor of a village in the Cameroons in West Africa.

It's difficult to capture the flavor of distant places or distant times in modern buildings. Even the best Greek revival houses of the 1830s were slightly mistaken in their attempt to recreate the ambience of a Greek temple in New England or the Midwest.

In any case, Wenzler's design for the two-story church at 2959 N. Teutonia Ave. rose rank near the top of his work in ecclesiastical architecture.

The striking towers represent two African huts joined together, with the larger of the two "kiosk" sitting at the 400 east sanctuary and the smaller at the 300 west sanctuary.

IN THIS "PRIMITIVE" style, even a building devoted to God must serve its earthly community as well, and—according to the Rev. Roy B. Nabors, pastor of Calvary Baptist—the church is an effective community center.

Four different levels permit visitors freedom to go on with minimal interruption, Nabors said.

The first level is the lobby and sanctuary level. The second contains the fellowship hall, office and the library. The third level is essentially an educational floor, with classrooms, study rooms and conference rooms. It also has a meditation chapel that is open most of the time, Nabors said.

Mechanical elements, vaporation rooms and storage spaces are on the fourth and lowest level.

BY FAR THE MOST STRIKING part of the church is the sanctuary, with its exposed support beams and natural stained wood ceiling. Fronted in the chancel area is a large baptistery tank.

Wenzler recalls how he impressed the use of his baptism by total immersion when he attended services in a black church six years ago.

"There seemed to be something very total about the decision to join the church when it is symbolized by complete immersion in water. . . I don't know that I would not be able to hold this magnificent symbol of baptism by immersion under floor boards or behind curtains."

In order to put the African elements into the church, Wenzler consulted Edward Cowe, art director of the Milwaukee Public Museum.

"We respect and understand but do not grasp the rich cultural background in Africa that preceded and undergirded the development of the contribution that black Americans have made and are making to the American way of life," Wenzler said.

Wenzler, who has offices at 205 W. Highland Ave., is a Fellow of the American Institute of Architects (FAIA). General contractor for the church was Herbert W. Jaeger & Associates, 1168 N. 120th St., Brookfield.

Wenzler Named AIA Fellow

The rapidly expanding career of Milwaukee architect William P. Wenzler was capped recently with announcement of his election as a Fellow of the American Institute of Architects.

This rather prestigious and closely guarded citation has been given to only some 4% of the 24,000 members of the institute and constitutes the highest honor it can bestow. Only eight other Wisconsin architects have been similarly designated: Edgar Berners,

Ralph Kloppenburg, Joseph Flad, Fritz von Grossmann, Richard W. E. Perrin, Julius Sandstedt, Allen Strang and Karel Yasko.

Selection of Wenzler was made, it was announced, because of his varied contributions to the profession, among them his designs, assistance in development of concrete shell construction, promotion of membership expansion to minority groups and his concepts in the field of urban design.

Wenzler, 42, opened his own office here in 1955, and has seen it grow from a one



McClintock Brandt



William P. Wenzler

man operation to its present personnel of 17, with a current work load totaling more than \$18 million.

The firm, William Wenzler & Associates-Architects, Inc., has offices at 205 W. Highland Ave. James S. McClintock, an architect, and David F. Brandt, professional engineer, have joined Wenzler as principals in the firm. Associates in the firm are three other architects: Keith R. Anderson, Eugene C. Schmitt and George D. Wilkinson. In addition, there are five design draftsmen, two apprentice draftsmen, a part-time student and two secretaries.

"Inner City Church:" Milwaukee Sentinel, Oct. 7, 1972

"Black Congregation:" Milwaukee Journal, March 13, 1971

"Wenzler FAIA:" Milwaukee Journal, July 25, 1971



The Rev. Roy B. Nabors stands in front of the striking church at 2959 N. Teutonia Ave. Natural stained wood and brick are blended in the contemporary structure.



Calvary Baptist Church

Milwaukee, Milwaukee County, Wisconsin