

JONES & HERRIN

Architecture/Interior Design

project did not proceed

February 27, 1996

Mr. Michael Harrow
P. O. Box 189
1124 Main Street
Greensboro, Alabama 36744-0189

Re: 1859 Greensboro Presbyterian Church
Project No. 96026

Dear Mickey:

Per your FAX, we will be pleased to help on the restoration of the Presbyterian Church bell-tower and spire per the historic photograph. I will need to have my eighty or so photographs sorted and mounted in order to plot up the field-measurements and then plot the original design per the historic photograph. This process will generate some questions which I'll need for you to check out on-site. Per our discussion, Phase I will be to do only enough for the Committee to see the restored design to scale, and thence to allow the structural engineer (whom the Committee is to furnish) to advise on reuse of the existing heavy-timber frame. While these heavy timbers are obviously salvaged from another building, it so far appears that they may be original to this building. I have seen salvaged timbers reused in numerous other historic buildings. The modern galvanized bolts we saw must have been added in this century, probably after the spire was blown off.

There are two sound reasons why the crenelations are on the tower north front only. This is the only side with a solid masonry bearing wall to support this approximate three foot height of heavy masonry, plus if the crenelations went all around, a water-trap would be formed behind them, necessitating scuppers to drain the roof. If we carry the crenelations on all four sides, we would have to build them of stucco on framing to keep down the weight. This can be done, of course. Let me know your Committee's preference.

The only charge for the February 21 trip is four hours, the time actually spent at the site, because this same trip involved meetings on four other buildings in various places. It may take eight to twelve more hours to produce the preliminary scaled elevation. I do not charge my time to sort, mount and label the eighty plus photos since I do this at home on weekends. To produce the construction details may take another forty to sixty hours, assuming the structural engineering is furnished by the Committee.

If the framing can be reused with minor repairs and modifications, the steeple restoration cost could be in the range of \$75,000. If new steel framing to the ground plus new foundations are required in the opinion of the engineer the cost would be much greater, perhaps double to triple.

I hope to have you a preliminary elevation by mid- March. Please call if you have questions.

owner, the preservation needs of the historic building, and the practical needs of function, technical matters, costs, codes, etc.

We have yet to find any case of a historic material or technique that "you can't get any more". In most cases, the restoration of even a "dilapidated" historic building is usually substantially less than the cost of a modern-design building of the same type, size and general materials-quality.

It is particularly important in historic buildings to have a contractor and mason who will be a team member, who likes old buildings (many do not) and has an open mind as how to do things. In the ideal situation, this team-member contractor will have his own observations and ideas that will improve the restoration and minimize costs. To that end, we recommend that you either select the contractor by negotiation of a fixed flat fee, or if bids must be taken, limit the bidders to those contractors (and major sub-contractors) who have a good record.

One preservation-experienced contractor in your area is Lucius Rayfield of Marion Builders. He has completed two restorations for us at Judson College. The first project has now been presented with two restoration awards, including a statewide award.

Preservation work is more particular than "crowbar-remodeling", so the contractor and trades must be more sensitive than a typical remodeling contractor. It has been our experience that negotiated work with contractors who are both trustworthy and trusted is usually the same or less than "bid" work.

Among our several current church projects is the interior restoration of the 1859 Church of the Nativity (Episcopal) in Huntsville, a national Historic Landmark, and the restoration/remodeling of their c.1870 administration building. We have also just begun studies on the renovation of portions of the 1848 Siloam Baptist Church in Marion.

I will be the primary person in our firm to work with you inasmuch as I have the most experience in preservation work, and also enjoy it immensely.

Our work for the Greensboro Presbyterian Church will be on a time-and-expense basis. The February 21 trip will be billed only for the hours spent at the site and the motel and food cost. No mileage will be charged inasmuch as I have to be in Marion on several projects the next day. My time rate is \$100 per hour up to a maximum of \$600 per day. I will need some design work from our structural engineer (\$90 per hour) and some administrative time (\$30 per hour). After I meet with you I hope to be able to give you some idea of the general total. In case future trips are needed, the mileage rate is .29 cents per mile, plus food. Prints and photographs, postage, etc. are billed at cost.

Some references for our preservation work are:

Alabama Historical Commission, Robert Gamble or Larry Oaks, (334) 242-3184

Judson College, Marion, Alabama, Dr. Mark Tew or Dr. David E. Potts, (334) 683-6161

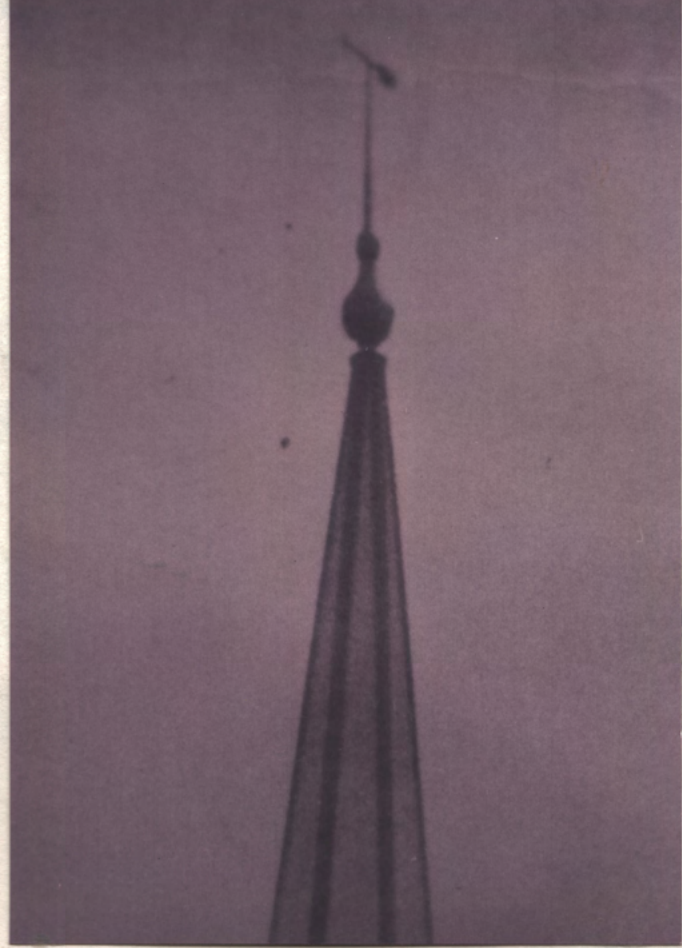
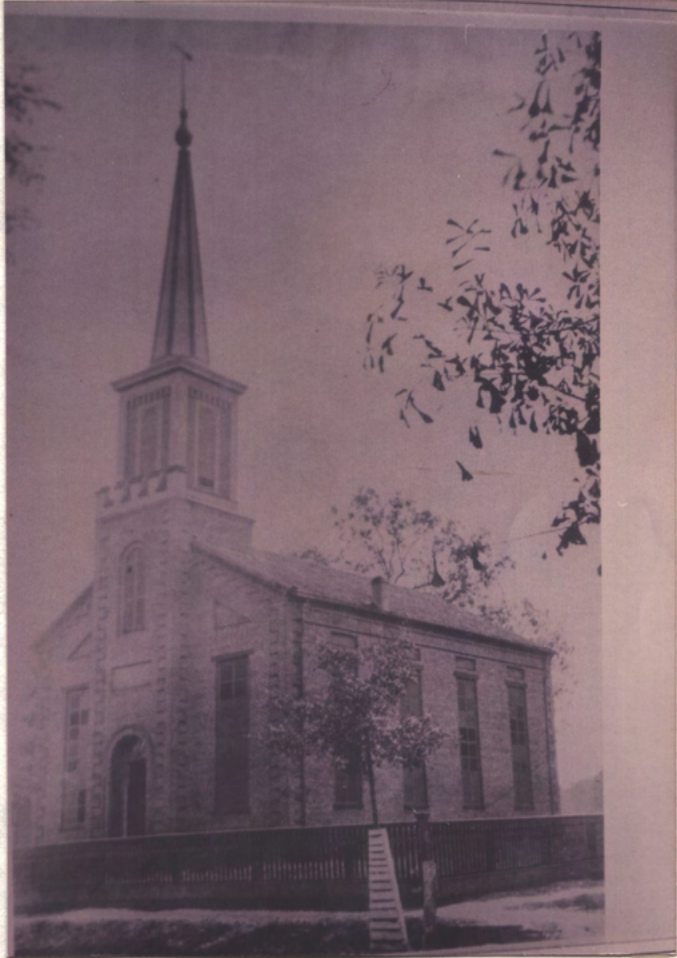
Tuscaloosa Heritage Commission, Ms. Betsy Hayslip, Director, (205) 752-2575

List. photo - pre 1900 before steeple was altered
Copy; March 1996



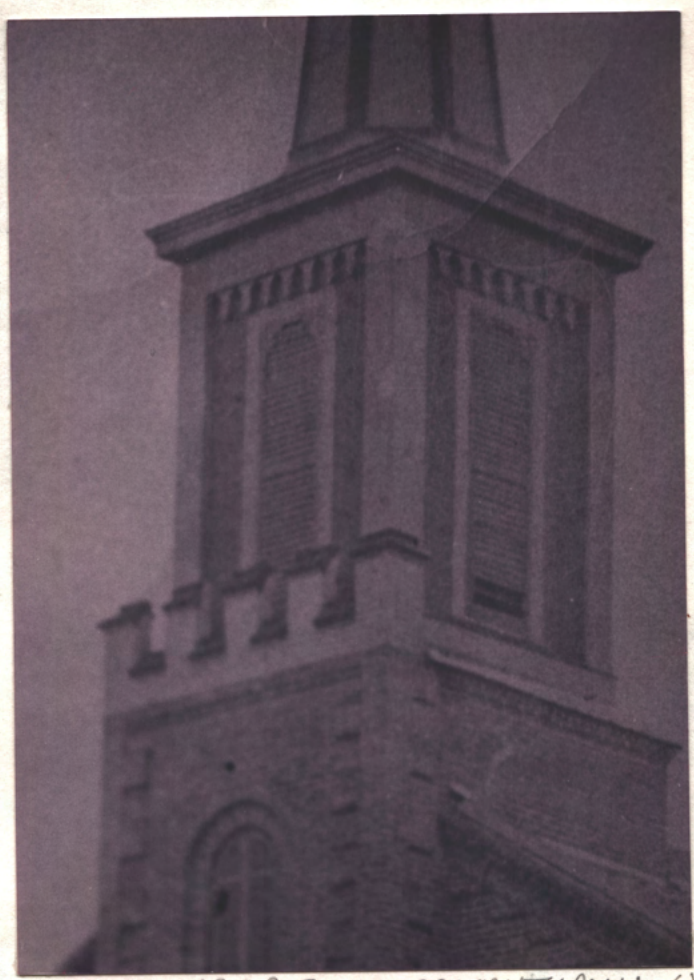
note
apparent
brick
dentils (?)

Presbyterian Church - Greensboro' Ala.



1859 Pict. No. 614. GREENSBORO

HIST. PHOTO SHOWING ORIGINAL SPIRE + BELFRY (later lost)



Copy in poor light, hand-held camera, from lithograph in a book



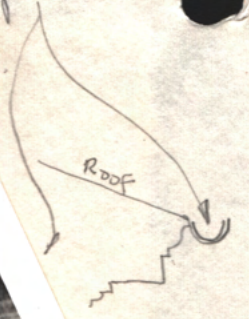
1859 FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, GREENSBORO, AL. PHOTOS FEB. 1996 James H. Merrin Arch. - Annie P. James FAIA



Probs like
Stucco

Corbelations not on sides because
would block roof drainage &
add too much wt. to timber
beam supports at sides

note half-round
gutter



Hist. photo
original copy.

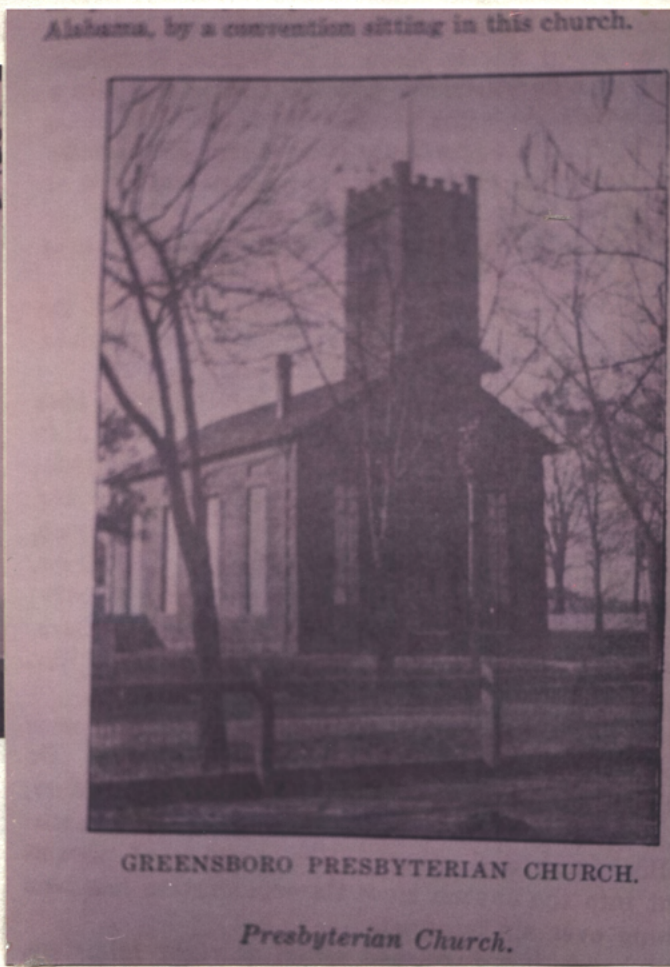
note birds →

± "Mission Style Gothic"
remodeling of perhaps 1920's
Not original

note stone flue
(now gone)



Orig. config.





N. FRONT

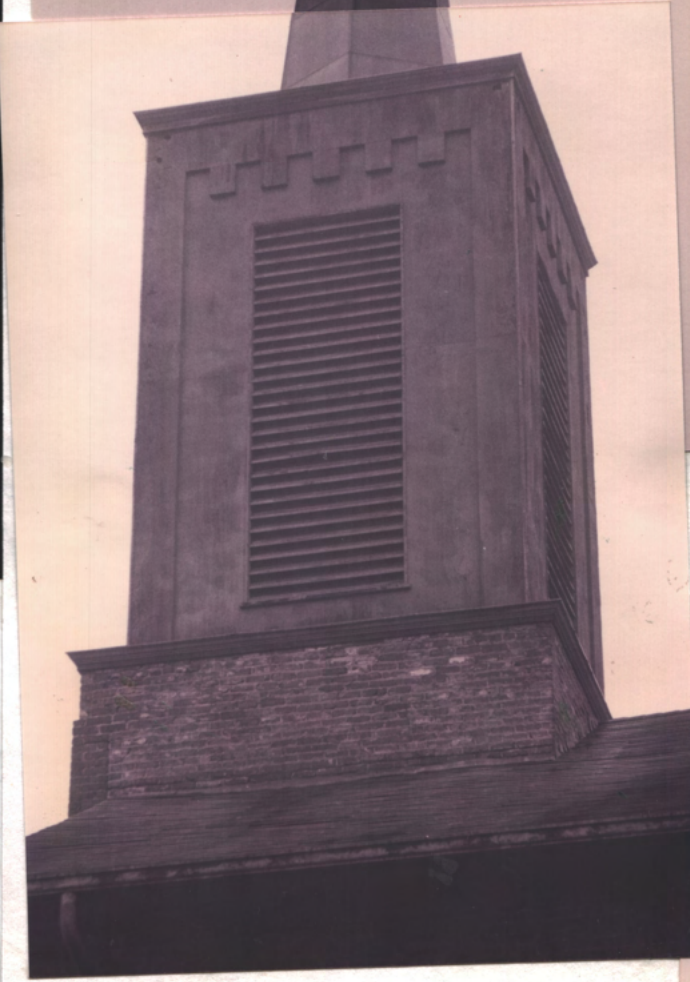
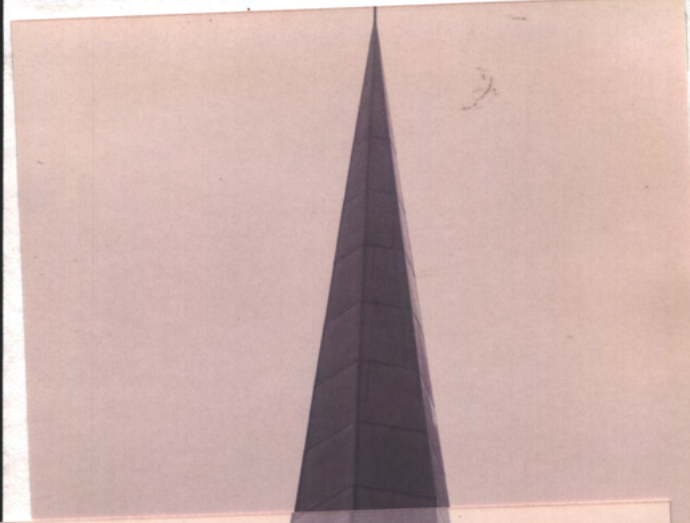
Rebuilt
c.
1960



8' h. meas. studs

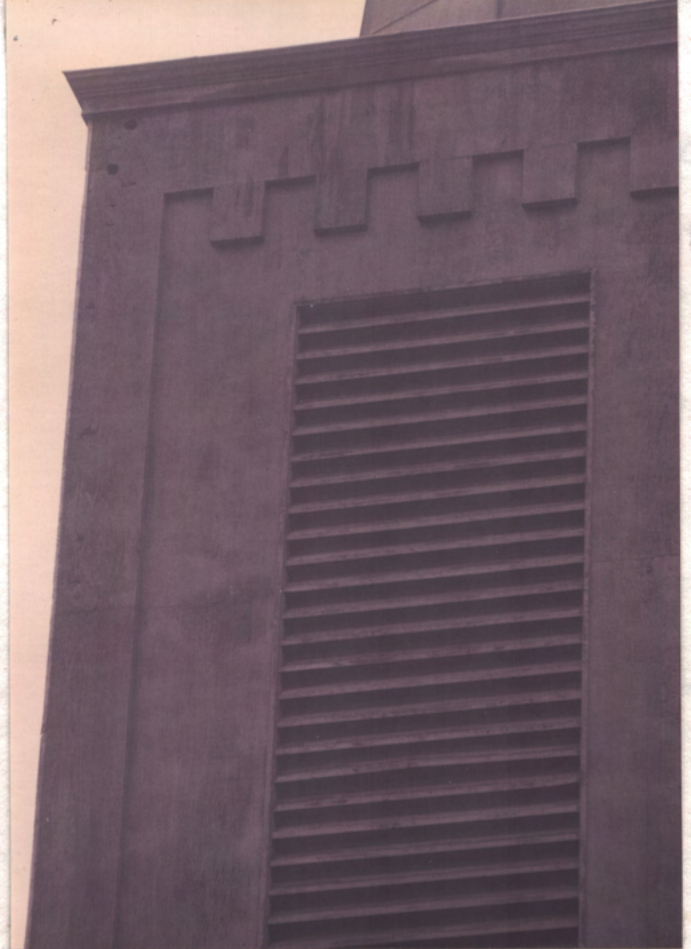


First Presbyterian Church
Greensboro, N.C.
photos Mar. 1996 Haire P. Jones FAH
for spine & tower restor.
(blown off in c. 1960 & built as above)



N →

modern gutters
(orig. gutters cut off)



c. 1960 plywood

N →

c. 1960
P. Kewitt
(storm)



c. 1960

↓

N →



← tower top



← opening in tower for bell
↘





W

W. side



H →

8



→ reveal bricks =
Storm damage of
fire apse window (?)

→ Apse added at
turn of century

N
↑

modern gutters (original cornice mould cut off)



NA

R.S.W. corner



Unrepointed brick at
west wall

8 →



↓ Sloppy repointing at
west wall

11 →

1350 corner



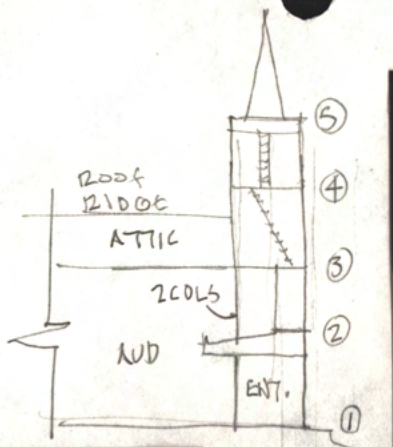
→ S. Apse, sloppy brick repointing

12

11/6/21



false trusses were
turn - of - 20th cent.



5601



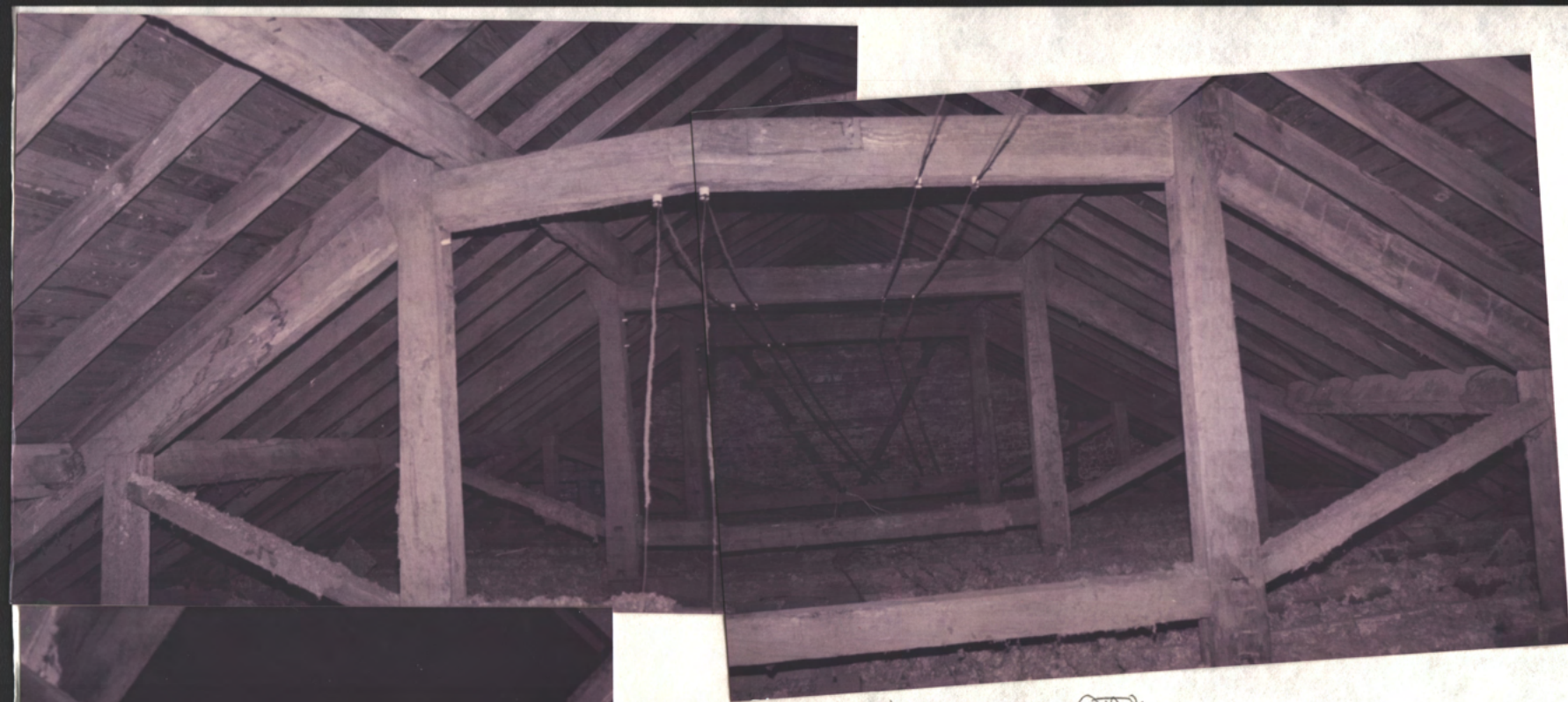
BALCONY → 2 cols to fl. below → door to tower



APSE ADDED → ↓ N From balcony



N. Front entry (inside) → N



LEVEL 3

↓ N

ATTIC

attic N.
down

→ W

LEVEL 3

Ladder up from
balcony (level 2) to
level 3 (attic)

2

13 of 21

level 4

LEVEL 4

modern (c. 1960) gals, bolts
to reinf.
orig. frame

Core. block wall from
storm in mid 20th cent



H

LEVEL 3

LEVEL 3, STEEL FL.
(IN TOWER)

Timber frame is heavy, has extra
mortises, reused but original to this bldg.





Core. Wk.
= c. 1960
Storm
repairs

W.
Wall

N

LEVEL 3,
157116
(over Sanct.)

N.

↑ beams cut, down to
balk. below, of main fl.
See rt. photo



note
decay.
wall painting
from orig.
Sanct.
configuration

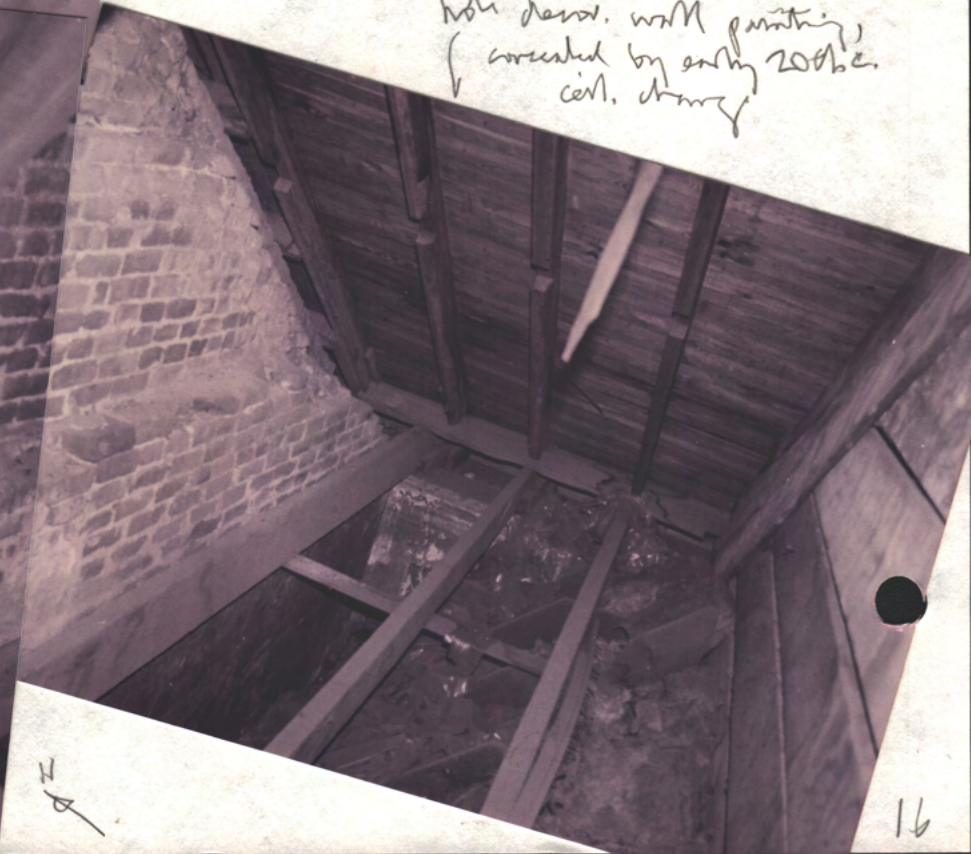
← beams
orig. col.
from tower
above, down
to balk. of
main fl.
below

N



LEVEL 3 ATTIC
(in tower)

note down. wall paintings,
(covered by early 20th c.
ceil. change)



F
P



Level 4

Sanc.
attic
beyond
this
wall



HA
LEVEL 3, ATTIC
(IN TOWER)
AC

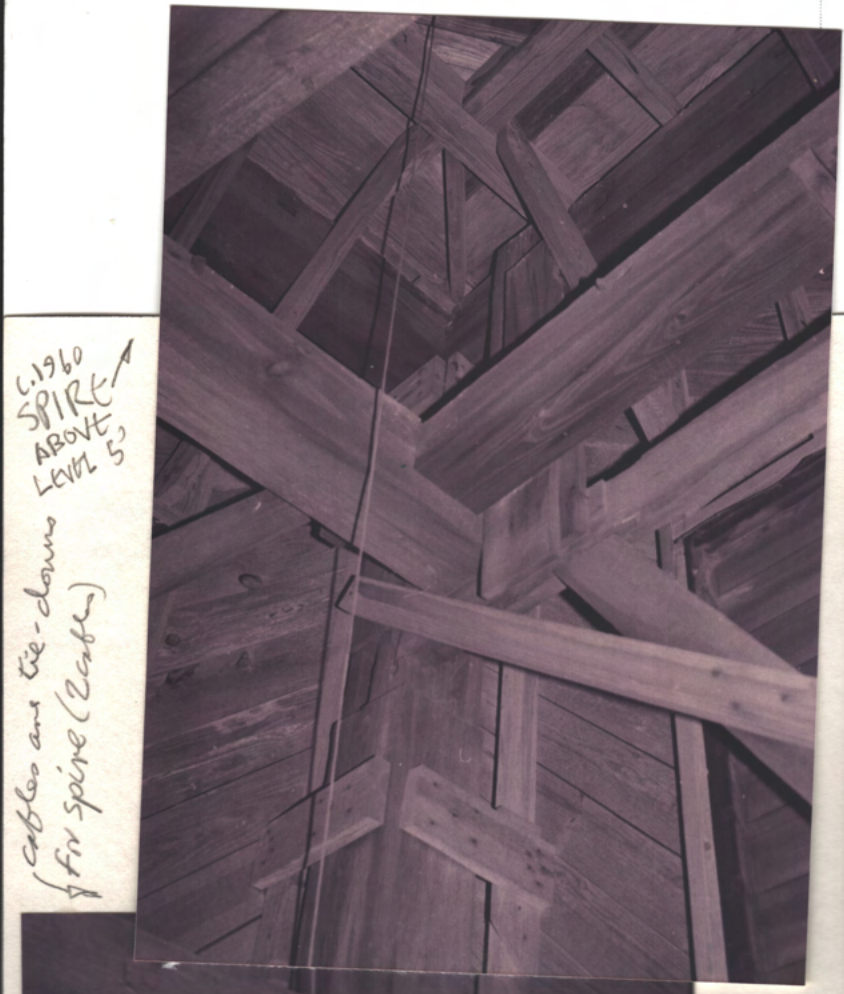
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LADDER
WELL

c. 1960
SPIRE
ABOVE
LEVEL 5

(cables and tie-downs
for spire (2 cables))



LEVEL
4 3/4



LEVEL
4 3/4

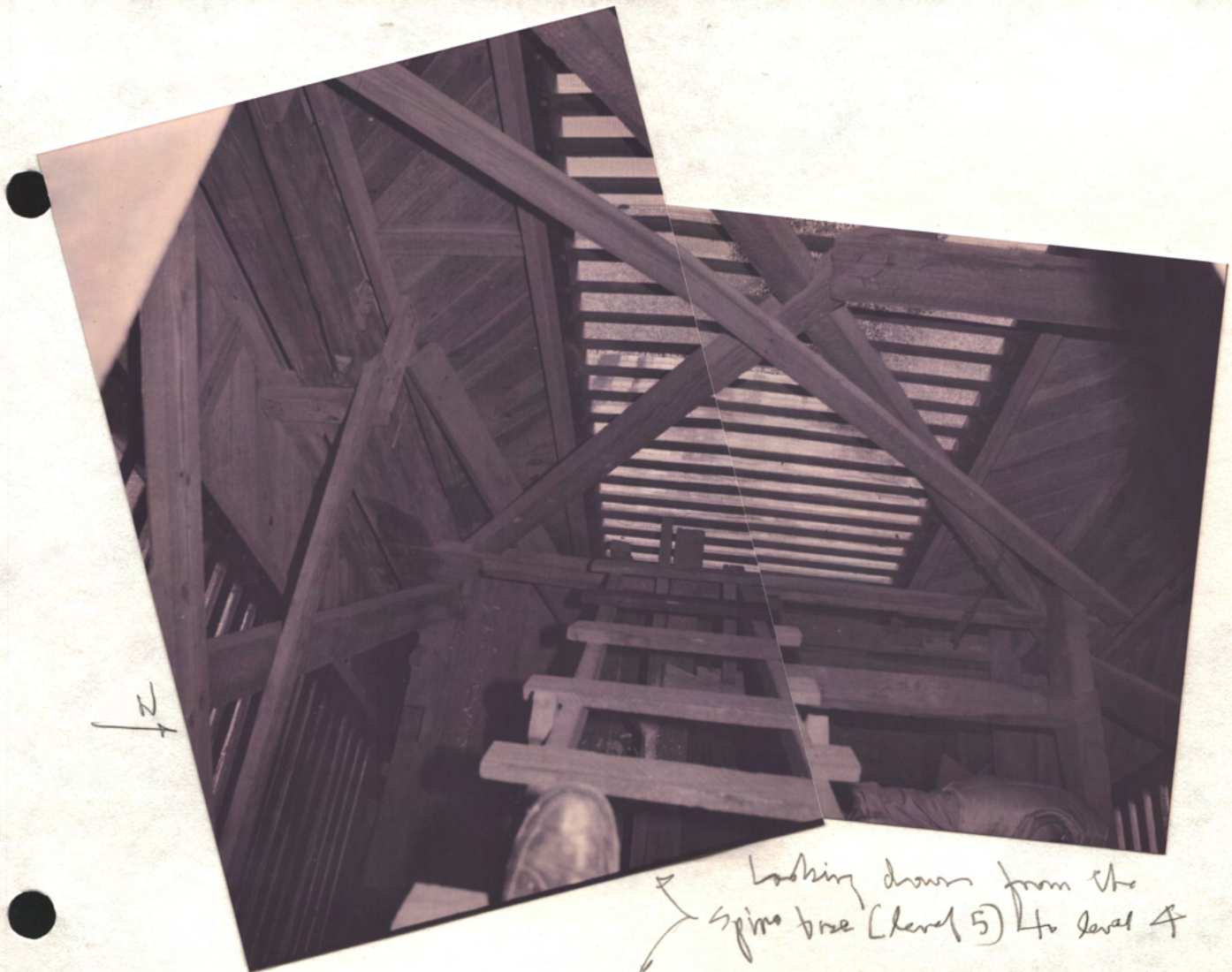
LEVEL
4
TOWER



↓

18.

Look down from spire base level 5 toward 4



N
↑

Looking down from the
spine base (level 5) to level 4



N
↑



N
↑

LADDER
WELL

[9 of 2]

LEVEL 4 PL.

still, mtd. 2x4s

SPIRE (c. 1960
replacement, after storm)

SPIRE BASE
(LEVEL 5)

plywood

4 cable tie-downs

c. 1960
rebuilding
of spire
& plat.

note other
mortises
(reused early
19th c. framing
but original to
this church)

level
4314

XAN
20

modern
 Spire base
 (6 sides)



→ SPIRE

spire-base platform

LEVEL 5



note
 extra
 mortise

c. 1960
 sheath

LEVEL
 43/4



LEVEL
 43/4

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