

First Tabernacle Beth-El, Church of God and Saints of Christ

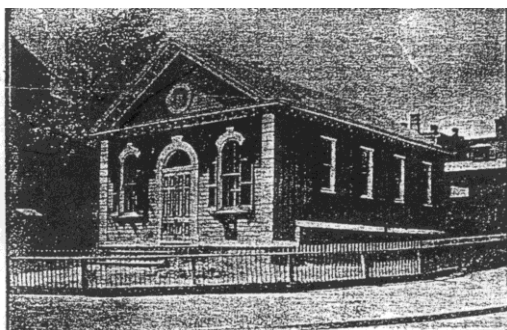
One of the historic and salient moments in the rich and storied history of First Tabernacle Beth-El, Church of God and Saints of Christ was indelibly etched in time on August 22, 1906. William Saunders Crowdy saw the membership growing significantly in Washington, DC and purchased the unique, rural-styled, board and batten gothic structure that was deemed an architectural masterpiece located at 401 New York Avenue, NW.

Formerly known as Fletcher Chapel, the edifice is now over 150 years old and is one of the oldest buildings in the Nation's Capital.

Its history notes its role with the anti-Saloon League on June 23, 1893 whose efforts, coupled with the efforts of other temperance groups led to the enactment of the 18th amendment of the U.S. Constitution. Additionally, historic notables have referenced the former Fletcher Chapel as a possible safe house on Harriet Tubman's Underground Railroad.

This information brought about huge interest from the D.C. Historical Preservation Review Board and on September 26, 1996, the edifice was recognized as a Local Historic Site and was later placed on the National Register of Historic Places on August 14, 1997.

First Tabernacle proudly renovated, restored, expanded, and re-dedicated this landmark in May 2001 and it continues to be a beacon of light to the historic Shaw neighborhood and the DC Metropolitan area by continuing to aid suffering humanity through social and civic activities, partnering with those whose goal is to enhance our community for generations to come.



Formerly Fletcher Chapel, this building held district meetings for the anti-Saloon League.
(Circa 1848)



First Tabernacle, Church of God and Saints of Christ
(Circa 1960)



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(2015)