



First Church of Deliverance, Chicago, IL, September 18, 2008, from the “Listen” project, 2006–18

Date

September 18, 2008

Primary Maker

Rhona Bitner

Medium

Fujiflex print

Description

This 1939 building is a gorgeous example of the Streamline Moderne style, and was designed by Walter T. Bailey, the first African American architect registered in Illinois. The First Church of Deliverance was founded in 1929, and in 1934 it launched a weekly radio program that gave Rev. Clarence H. Cobbs and his

two hundred-person choir national exposure. After moving into their new building in 1939, music director Kenneth Morris brought in a Hammond electric organ, giving the choir a novel sound, and creating a blueprint for modern gospel music. The weekly Sunday night broadcasts became so popular that they started to attract celebrity guests. Notable musicians Louis Armstrong, Nat King Cole, Dinah Washington, and “Mother of Gospel” Sallie Martin appeared on Church of Deliverance broadcasts.

Dimensions

Image: 40 x 40 in. (101.6 x 101.6 cm) Frame: 41 1/2 x 41 1/2 x 1 1/2 in. (105.4 x 105.4 x 3.8 cm)