

**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

For HCRS use only

received JUL 14 1980

date entered SEP 17 1980

Continuation sheet

Item number 8

Page 14

1. Historic name: First Baptist Church
2. Location: 227 North Capitol Avenue
3. Classification:
 - Category: building
 - Ownership: private
 - Status: occupied
 - Use: religious
4. Owner: First Baptist Church, 227 N. Capitol, Lansing, Michigan 48918
7. Description:
 - Condition: good
 - Altered
 - Original site

The First Baptist Church consists of the church itself, constructed in 1892-94, and a parish house attached to the church's south side. The parish house contains within it a late nineteenth-century house; the present brick-trimmed stone front, designed to harmonize with the church, was erected in 1955.

The church is a steep-roof, Richardsonian Romanesque structure with shallow transepts. Constructed of local stone of various hues, it has brick facings lining all openings and galvanized tin gable copings and tower cornices. The church's front displays a square tower at the southeast corner, a smaller round tower at the northeast, and, between them, extending across most of the front, a low vestibule with an entrance porch. Originally there existed round-headed vestibule entrances in the fronts of both the tower and entrance porch. However, that in the porch has been closed up while that in the tower has been rebuilt to serve as an entrance to the basement story.

The sanctuary is entered through double doors from a vestibule that has oak wainscoting and a tin ceiling. The square sanctuary has a high ceiling with timber trusses and a broad, horseshoe gallery supported by thin, iron columns with Corinthian capitals. Its floor slopes gently downward toward a modern chancel and contains three tiers of pews--the side ones angled slightly inward. All the woodwork is of oak.

8. Significance:
 - Period: 1800-1899
 - Areas of significance: architecture
 - Specific dates: 1892-94
 - Architect: Bowd & Mead

The First Baptist Church was organized in 1851 and erected a frame church six years later. The present church building was constructed in 1892-94 to house a rapidly expanding congregation; it occupies the site of the earlier structure.

(Continued)

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Continuation sheet

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Page 15

First Baptist Church (continued)

The 1892-94 church is a steep-roof, tower-fronted, stone structure with brick facings lining all the openings. Designed by local architects Edwyn A. Bowd and Earl H. Mead, First Baptist is a fine example of Richardsonian Romanesque church architecture.

9. Bibliography:

First Baptist Church Historical Committee.

One Hundred and Twenty-five Years of Christian Fellowship and Service,
1851-1976: Revised History of the First Baptist Church, Lansing, Michigan

10. Geographical data:

Acreage: less than one acre

UTM References:

A: 16 700200 4734150

Verbal boundary description and justification:

Lots 1 and 2, minus the south 12 feet of lot 2,
Block 95, in City of Lansing Original Plat.

This is the property on which the church stands.





Downtown Lansing Multiple Resource Area

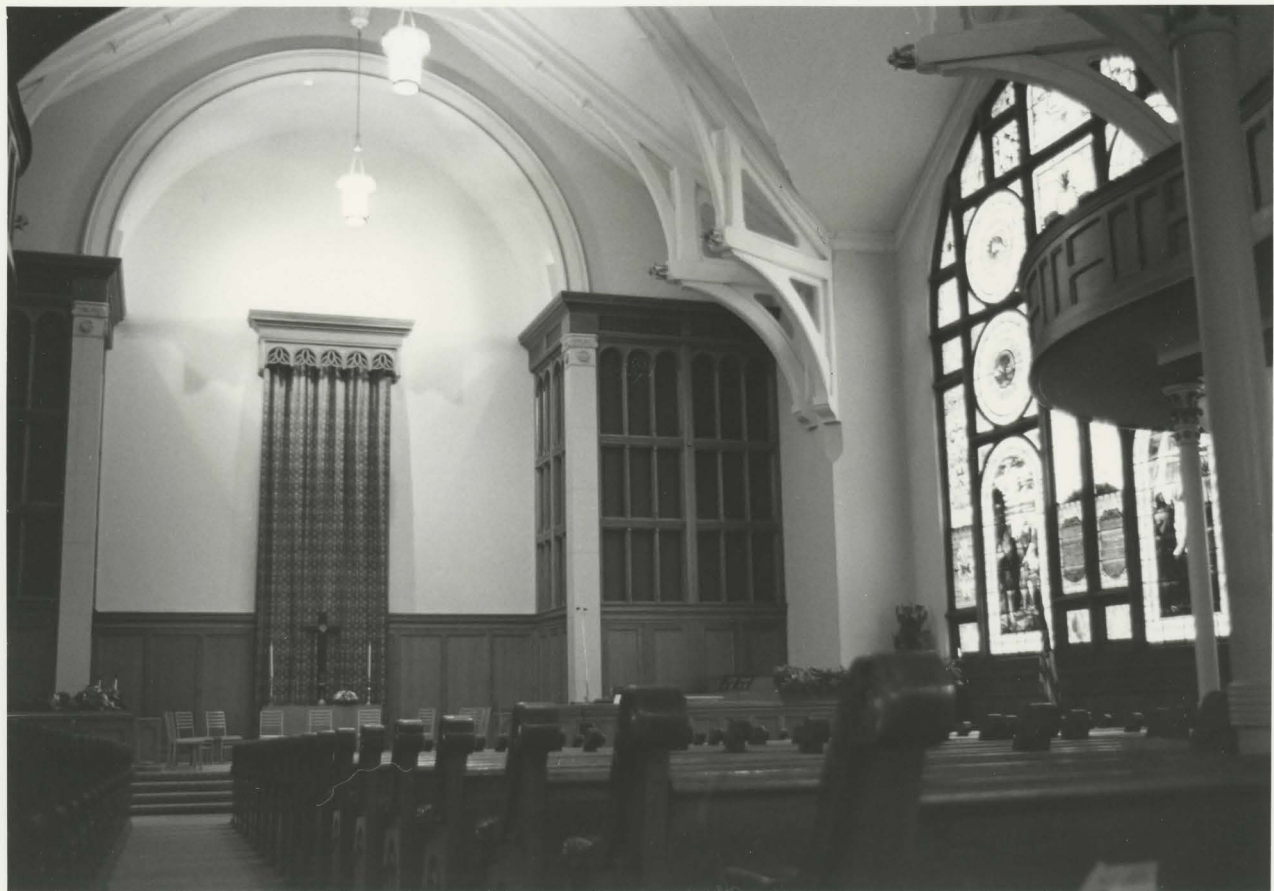
First Baptist Church
227 N. Capitol Ave.
Lansing, Ingham Co., Michigan

R. O. Christensen June, 1980
Neg. filed: Michigan History Division

View from northeast
Photo 5 of 26

SEP 17 1980

JUL 14 1980



Please refer to the map in the
Multiple Property Cover Sheet
for this property

Multiple Property Cover Sheet Reference Number: 64000322