

TARBORO MULTIPLE RESOURCE NOMINATION

B. St. Paul Baptist Church

Northwest corner of Edmondson Street at Lloyd Street, Tarboro, NC

LESS THAN ONE ACRE: 1 lot

✓ Owner: Deacon Board of St. Paul Baptist Church  
c/o Emmanuel Pippin, Chairman  
401 East Pitt Street  
Tarboro, North Carolina 27886

~~UTM REFERENCE:~~ *Latitude & Longitude*  
*35° 53' 41" - 77° 31' 54"*

Description:

Vigorous, eclectic church building with abundant wooden decoration and dramatically irregular massing. The central portion has a multigabled belvedere that serves the interior space as skylight, and projecting from the core are multiple gabled wings, and a corner tower. Windows occur singly and in trios, with the tiny outlining panes typical of the Queen Anne style. The wall surfaces are weatherboarded and enriched with bands of panels, brackets, heavy labels over windows, and other ornamentation, all beautifully preserved. Unfortunately the corner tower, which originally rose to a dramatic multigabled belfry, was awkwardly truncated in recent years, (ca. 1976), and topped with a reduced upper level. Otherwise the church is unaltered. Inside, the dominant space is a large open sanctuary with a dome and oculus above. Most of the original woodwork is intact, typical of the turn of the century. Reflecting the circular orientation created by the dome was the curved pews, with the same vigorous, curvilinear profile of the Eastern Star church (A), a notable and important survival of the period. These were in bad condition, the congregation has had difficulty in finding people to repair them, and have recently been replaced.

Significance

The building is significant architecturally as a vigorous eclectic late 19th century church, with rich and abundant wooden detail. It is historically significant as the home originally of a prominent Baptist congregation and as a 20th century prominent black congregation, which it has served for nearly half a century.

This frame church was originally on North Main Street, serving the Baptist Church congregation established in the early 19th century, when the Primitive and Missionary Baptists separated. This was evidently the third church building of the group, under the ministry of Reverend Mr. J. D. Hundley. O. C. Farrar, prominent postwar business leader, gave the land and financed the construction, and his funeral is said to have been the first service held in the new building. He died in 1891, and his obituary described his last project: "The crowning act of his life was the building of the Missionary Baptist Church at this place. It is an ornament to the town...."

In 1871 St. Paul Baptist Church was organized with sixteen members from the black community, following leadership by George C. Caine, a Virginia native, who settled in Tarboro soon after the Civil War with his wife Agnes; they initiated

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Significance

a weekly prayer service, because of the lack of black churches in the community, and within a few years the new church was established under the leadership of Reverend S. A. Davis, assisted by A. F. Flood, Samuel Perry, and Reverend Thomas Owens, the latter minister of the white Baptist church. The church building was moved from its Main Street site to the present location ca. 1926, and it is a social and architectural focal point of the community.

Source of information: Tarboro Daily Southerner, Bicentennial Edition

Verbal Boundary Description: Small lot on which church stands-

Although a religious structure and moved from its original site, the property is significant architecturally as the only elaborately decorated late Victorian frame church in Tarboro; its tower is well recorded in photographs and could be regained. Historically it was associated first with industrial leader O. C. Farrar. For over fifty years it has been a focal point significant to the black community.

Property

Tarboro Multiple Resource Area (Partial Inventory)

State

NC (Edgecombe)

Working Number

9-10-79 2125

TECHNICAL

CONTROL

Photos

7 + 31

Maps

1.1

Multiple resource including one large district with industrial, commercial, + residential components, and 5 individually nominated properties - 2 churches, one plantation, 1 industrial structure, + rail depot + warehouse. individual resources eligible; district integrity weaker in southern section than in residential portion but appears marginally acceptable. (Possibly ask for more photos? Need to resolve discrepancy between MRA boundary + various district boundaries shown + described <sup>see phone</sup> also. 2 VDBs for individual properties standardized. <sup>discussed - OK</sup> No MRA boundary on USSS. <sup>FIXED</sup> to Edgecombe industrial works attached to other blys. <sup>NO HOLD</sup>

ARCHITECTURAL HISTORIAN

ARCHEOLOGIST

DOUBLE 9/19/79

THE DISTRICT SOUTH OF THE CANAL HAS THREE STRONG SEGMENTS: RESIDENTIAL; INDUSTRIAL; AND MAIN STREET/COMMERCIAL. THE TRANSITION AREAS BETWEEN THE THREE ARE WEAK AND DO NOT MAINTAIN A SENSE OF TIME AND PLACE. COMPARED TO THE TOWN AREA HOWEVER, THE WEAK AREAS ARE NOT MAJOR. ALSO PART OF ONE OF THESE AREAS HAS BEEN PREVIOUSLY DETERMINED ELIGIBLE. AFTER 12/5 CONFERENCE AND CONVERSATION WITH STATE 12/5 . . . . . ACCEPT

OTHER

MK DOUGAN 12/6/79

HAER

Inventory \_\_\_\_\_  
Review \_\_\_\_\_

Bruce, Sally + I went over all questions relating to this district + agreed to accept as is. Normal was the held for tax del certification

REVIEW UNIT CHIEF

ACCEPT DOUBLE 3/28/80

BRANCH CHIEF

KEEPER

National Register Write-up

2-3.81

Send-back

Entered

APR 2 1980

Federal Register Entry

Re-submit

8. Significance

Period Areas of Significance—Check and justify below

Specific dates Builder/Architect

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

80002827  
80002821  
80002829  
80002828  
80002830  
80002832

- summary paragraph
- completeness
- clarity
- applicable criteria
- justification of areas checked
- relating significance to the resource
- context
- relationship of integrity to significance
- justification of exception
- other

9. Major Bibliographical References

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property \_\_\_\_\_

Quadrangle name \_\_\_\_\_

UTM References \_\_\_\_\_

Verbal boundary description and justification \_\_\_\_\_

11. Form Prepared By

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

\_\_\_ national \_\_\_ state \_\_\_ local

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

title \_\_\_\_\_ date \_\_\_\_\_

13. Other

- Maps
- Photographs
- Other

Questions concerning this nomination may be directed to \_\_\_\_\_

Signed \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_



NEGATIVE NUMBER N. 78-6-1806

APR 2 1980

PHOTOGRAPHER C. Bishop 10 SEP 1979

PHOTO DATE 7/78

SUBJECT St. Paul Baptist Church

Edgecombe Co., Tarboro H.D.

Tarboro Multiple Resource area (partial inventory)

FROM DIVISION OF  
ARCHIVES & HISTORY  
RALEIGH, N. C.

APR 22 1979

HISTORIC PRESERVATION SECTION

1300

1806

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

Multiple Property Cover Sheet Reference Number: 64000468