

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only

received JAN 31 1984

date entered

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*

Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic ~~First Baptist Church~~, First African Baptist Church, and parsonage

and/or common

2. Location

street & number 209, 211 West Jefferson Street not for publication

city, town Georgetown, vicinity of

state Kentucky code county Scott code

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Trustees, First Baptist Church, c/o the Rev. Thomas Stubblefield, Pastor

street & number 209 West Jefferson Street

city, town Georgetown, vicinity of state KY

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Scott County Courthouse

street & number East Main at North Broadway

city, town Georgetown, state KY

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Supplement, Survey of Historic Sites in Kentucky has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date 1979 federal state county local

depository for survey records Kentucky Heritage Council

city, town Frankfort, state KY

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

First Baptist Church and its parsonage represent the oldest black congregation of Christians in Georgetown, Kentucky, a city of 10,972 population, the county seat of Scott, a northcentral Kentucky county of 21,813 population. The city was settled in 1786 and very early became associated with wealthy farmers and millers who used slaves in the cultivation of and processing of hemp, the first important "money crop" of this inner Bluegrass region. There was also considerable interchange of this culture with that of the Mississippi Valley as the various interrelated families acquired plantation lands in the Deep South. Georgetown is 11 miles northwest of Lexington and 18 miles east of Kentucky's capitol city, Frankfort. Scott is bordered on the west by Franklin and Owen counties, on the south by Woodford and Fayette, on the east by Bourbon and Harrison, and on the north by Grant. First Baptist Church lies two blocks north of Georgetown's Main Street Commercial District, Expanded, and about 200 feet east of the Royal Spring Branch, source of the city's water supply and the raison d'etre for Georgetown. An alley extends from Jefferson Street, which this property faces from the south, to Washington Street on the south, between the church and parsonage (photos 1, 2).

The brick meetinghouse of First Baptist Church was completed in 1870 and is the oldest building constructed especially for black congregations in Georgetown. Its parsonage has been called one of the finest residences for black ministers and dates from 1923. The church and parsonage face north about 400 feet west of North Broadway (U.S. 25), the city's major north-south thoroughfare.

The church building is constructed of brick set on a basement foundation of long blocks of ashlar. Interior and exterior detail reflect the highly developed skills of black craftsmen. A splash course of bricks three bricks high rises from the foundation with top bricks of the course on the sides tapering outward to deflect rainfall (photos 3, 4). The only alterations to the exterior have been the closing and filling in with brick of the twin tudor-arched entrances on either side of the main facade and the opening of a central entrance. These former openings have stained glass windows set above them in tudor-arches. There is a trio of tudor-arched windows above the central square-headed entrance, which has a transom. A stone plaque giving the name and date of the church is positioned within the front gable, along with a circular iron-grilled attic vent and an S-anchor for a tie-rod. An effect of corner pilasters was originally achieved with the front roofline cornice terminating about a foot from the corner and being met by returning cornices of the side walls; this effect has been somewhat modified in recent years by new guttering. Four tudor-arched double-hung windows pierce the sides between pilasters. Chimneys for pot-bellied stoves project through the sides of the roofs, which are covered with shingles (earlier roofs were metal). The building is painted with red oxide paint.

The interior of the basement has served through the years as church school and activity rooms, and has been improved as the prosperity of the church has made improvement possible. The sanctuary occupies most of the main floor. A vestibule extends across the front of the church; it contains stairways to the basement and an access to the unfinished attic. The vestibule has three doors opening to the sanctuary, a larger one in the center.

The sanctuary is a very impressive room. Its poplar floors are carpeted. The ceiling rises above the plaster cornices along a low pitch and is covered with finished sections of beaded pine (photos 5, 6). The original ceiling was plaster. The front part of the church is set off as a pulpit area, the recessed section having a tudor-arched vaulted ceiling with three stained glass windows at the back and doors on either side leading to basement stairwells and anterrooms. Windows have plaster hoodmolds; in all the church has 18 stained glass memorial windows. The pine ceiling

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates 1870, 1923

Builder/Architect -----

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

First Baptist Church of Georgetown, Kentucky represents the oldest black congregation of the city of Georgetown, one of the oldest black congregations of the State of Kentucky, and is housed in the first building erected in Georgetown especially for blacks. The first Baptist Church of Georgetown was erected on this lot in 1815. In 1847 or 1848 the building and lot were turned over to the black members of the congregation when when the white members erected a new building in the vicinity of the newly developed Georgetown College. When the congregation reformed after the Civil War, it carried the title of First African Baptist Church. It was later vernacularly called First Colored Baptist Church.

Georgetown's first Baptist congregation was late in being started due to the fact that the founder of the city, the Rev. Elijah Craig, became pastor of Great Crossing Baptist Church 3 miles away when he moved to Kentucky in 1786. The Georgetown congregation organized in 1810, and slaves were baptized as non-voting members and entered into the records along with their white owners. The first building was probably frame, although at least one source refers to it as brick. In the early years black members developed their gifts of preaching and were often permitted to "exhort" among the brethren of their own race; some moved on to becoming ordained ministers. Kentucky's first black Baptist church developed in Lexington in an organic sort of way: Peter Duerett, known as "Brother Captain," gathered together a congregation of sorts around 1811, and finally, in 1824, it was admitted as a congregation to the Elkhorn Baptist Association.² The earliest move to establish a separate congregation from blacks within a single congregation of mixed races was made by Louisville's First Baptist Church in 1829. In 1840 the black members of Stamping Ground Baptist Church, nine miles northwest of Georgetown, began holding their own meetings and attending to their own discipline, and in 1850 a building fund was begun for their own meetinghouse.³ The first general meeting of Kentucky black Baptists took place "shortly after the slaves were freed."⁴

Two events led to the relocation of Georgetown's white congregation on its present site on East College and South Hamilton streets. In 1829 the Kentucky Baptists organized a college and located it in southeast Georgetown. In 1840 Howard Malcom became president of the college; he urged the church to move to the college neighborhood. This move became complete in 1848, at which time the blacks were given the older church for their use under the watchcare of the parent which, which was to be called Georgetown Baptist Church.⁵ A 99-year-lease was made to the black congregation in 1867, and in 1956 permanent title was made.⁶

The first pastor was the Rev. George Washington Dupee, a slave born in Gallatin County in 1826 and reared in Woodford and Franklin counties. Converted to Christianity in August 1852, he was licensed to preach in 1846 and in 1851 was ordained to the ministry by the Rev. J.M. Frost, pastor of Georgetown Baptist Church, and President J.L. Reynolds of Georgetown College. At this time, ^{he} was pastor of the Georgetown blacks. On Jan. 1, 1856, while still preaching for the Georgetown church, he was sold at auction at the Scott County courthouse door. Dr. W.M. Pratt, Lexington pastor, and others bought him and then permitted him and his congregations to purchase his freedom.⁷ At this time Rev. Dupee was also pastor of Pleasant Green Baptist Church in Lexington. In 1862

9. Major Bibliographical References

- Bevins, Ann and J. Robert Snyder (eds.). Scott County Church Histories: A Collection.
Georgetown: Scott County Bicentennial Committee, 1979.
- Gaines, B.O. A History of Scott County (2 vols.). Georgetown: Frye Printing Company,
1961, reprint of 1904 volumes.
- Judd, Romie D. "A Brief History of the Georgetown Baptist Church," pamphlet (continued)

10. Geographical Data

Acree of nominated property @ half acre _____

Quadrangle name Georgetown, KY

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UTM References

A

1	6
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7	1	3	5	2	5
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4	2	3	2	0	0	0
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Zone Easting Northing

B

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Zone Easting Northing

C

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H

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Verbal boundary description and justification Parsonage lot; beginning on south side of Jefferson Street at northeast corner, west along Jefferson 59'7" to east side of alley, turn at right angle, follow alley south 53', turn east 59'7", north 53' to beginning. Church lot, beginning on west side of alley extending from Jefferson to Washington street, south along alley 163', east 66'4", north 163' to Jefferson Street, east 66'4" to beginning. Alley is about 20' wide.

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code

state	code	county	code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Ann Bolton Bevins

organization Kentucky Heritage Council date December 13, 1983

street & number Capitol Plaza Tower telephone (502) 564-7005

city or town Frankfort state KY

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national state local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature Mary Emma Spel

title State Historic Preservation Officer date January 27, 1984

For NPS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

Entered in the
National Register date 3/1/84

Judith A. Byers
Keeper of the National Register

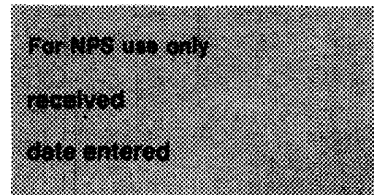
Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

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



First Baptist Church

Continuation sheet Scott County, Kentucky

Item number 7

Page 2

and possibly the wainscoting are the result of a 1923 redecoration. (A gable-to-the-back section attached to the center of the south end accomodates the pulpit area.)

The arts and crafts era style parsonage was erected in 1923 by men of the congregation at a cost of \$7,000 . Built of dark wire-cut bricks, it has a partial basement, two floors , and an attic. The gable faces Jefferson Street. Four large stick style brackets are placed under the wide overhanging front eave, and the steep sides of the roof slope off to wide overhangs. There is a centered door and double windows on either side of the door. The second floor has a pair of regular width windows in the center and more narrow ones on either wide. Windows are double-hung. There is a rectangular small attic window with two sections of sash which have six panes apiece. The brick porch extends most of the length of the facade, the low hip roof being supported by two large tapered wooden piers set atop squat brick piers with stone shelf. Ledges enclose the porch except at the entry. Set within the ledges are round-headed brick arches. There is a frame pantry attachment with shed roof at the back. This house includes a pastor's study to the left of the entrance, the large living hall-room to the right, a dining room, den, and kitchen room in the back, and three bedrooms and two bathrooms. Floors are oak.

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First Baptist Church

Continuation sheet Scott County, Kentucky

Item number 8

Page 2

Rev. Dupee resigned and was succeeded at Georgetown by the Rev. Euben Lee, who was pastor for 14 years and baptized some 975 persons into the church. Under his leadership the present meetinghouse was constructed.

On August 28, 1867 the Georgetown Times announced: "The colored people of the Baptist denomination propose building a new church. They are calling upon the whites for aid, many of whom have contributed very liberally. The church will be built upon the site of the old one." Fund raising continued, and on June 10, 1868, the paper announced that "\$303 has been taken up at a single collection." By 1870 the building was completed at a cost of \$8,250.⁹ In 1882, the congregation, recovering from an 1878 division which resulted in the formation of Zion Baptist Church, had a membership of 472. The figure grew to 600 by 1904. A second schism resulted in the formation of the present Chambers Avenue Christian Church in 1920-1921. When First Christian Church rebuilt in 1894, the tower bell was sold to First Baptist Church for \$100. The black congregation took it down to the Royal Spring and baptized it.

A number of improvements and alterations have been made to the building. Stained glass windows were installed in 1904. A baptistry was built in 1917. A major redecoration of the sanctuary took place in 1923. Parsonage construction was completed the same year, the result being "one of the finest church parsonages owned by Kentucky Negroes."¹⁰ During the 1948 pastorate of the Rev. E.B. Dunbar, a furnace and electric organ were installed. Under the recent pastorate of the Rev. C.E. Brown, the congregation was honored by the Kentucky Historical Society-Kentucky Department of Transportation historical marker program.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

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First Baptist Church

CONTINUATION SHEET Scott County, KY. ITEM NUMBER 9 PAGE 2

published in 1965 by Georgetown Baptist Church.

Masters, Frank M. A History of Baptists in Kentucky. Louisville: Kentucky Baptist Historical Society, 1953.

Singer, J.W. A History of the Baptist Church of Stamping Ground, Kentucky, 1795 - _____ (Stamping Ground, 1970), 44.

Warner, Gracie, church historian, provided much of this information.

END NOTES

1. Romie D. Judd, "A Brief History of the Georgetown Baptist Church," (Georgetown, 1965), 7.

2. Frank M. Masters, A History of Baptists in Kentucky (Louisville: Kentucky Baptist Historical Society, 1953), 343-344.

3. Masters, 345; J.W. Singer, A History of the Baptist Church of Stamping Ground, Kentucky, 1795 -- _____ (Stamping Ground, 1970), 44.

4. Masters, 348. (eds.),

5. Bevins, Ann and J. Robert Snyder, Scott County Church Histories: A Collection (Georgetown: Scott County Bicentennial Committee, 1979), 26-27; Judd, 11.

6. Judd, 11; Bevins & Snyder, 32; Scott County Deed Books 8-466 and 84-150.

7. Masters, 345.

8. "First Baptist Church: One Hundred Twelfth Anniversary," monograph published in 1963, pages not numbered.

9. B.O. Gaines, A History of Scott County, vol. I, (Georgetown, 1904, reprinted 1961 by Frye Printing Company), 66.

10. "First Baptist Church: One Hundred Twelfth Anniversary," op. cit.

GEORGETOWN

Maplehurst Dr. S. F. Home Scale 24 Feet to the Inch

BOSTON



References

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|-----------------|----|------------------|
| Baynes | 21 | F. H. |
| B. O. Neill | 23 | Allgair Est. |
| T. T. | 24 | |
| Dr. R. | 25 | S. S. Wells |
| J. W. Cray | 26 | M. S. Johnson |
| J. Penn | 27 | Pastor & Herrick |
| G. W. Lancaster | 28 | Deposit Bank |
| W. Clayton | 29 | N. Soper |
| Joseph Marks | 30 | |
| H. Soper | 31 | Mrs. N. Wells |
| Barkis & Webb | 32 | |
| Dr. J. Rollins | 33 | W. E. Pullen |
| E. C. Barlow | 34 | Geo. D. Brown |
| D. Hambrick | 35 | Jas. Thornberry |
| Pitney & Sons | 36 | J. W. Cray Hotel |
| Dr. Sutton | 37 | Mrs. S. McDonald |
| | 38 | J. W. Cray |
| E. C. Barlow | 39 | D. Hall |

Big Spring

Georgetown
Female
Seminary

Georgetown College
Academy

Warren
Female Se