United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic   Second Presbyterian Church

and/or common

2. Location

street & number UAB Campus, 10th Ave. & 12th Street South   NA not for publication

city, town   Birmingham   NA vicinity of   congressional district 6

state   Alabama   code   01   county   Jefferson   code 073

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
___ district	_X_ public	_X_ occupied	___ agriculture	___ museum
_X_ building(s)	_X_ private	___ unoccupied	___ commercial	___ park
___ structure	___ both	___ work in progress	_X_ educational	___ private residence
___ site	**Public Acquisition**	**Accessible**	___ entertainment	___ religious
___ object	___ in process	_X_ yes: restricted	___ government	___ scientific
	___ being considered	___ yes: unrestricted	___ industrial	___ transportation
	NA	___ no	___ military	___ other:

4. Owner of Property

name   University of Alabama Birmingham (Dr. J. Dudley Pewitt)

street & number University Station

city, town   Birmingham   NA vicinity of   state   Alabama 35294

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc.   Jefferson County Courthouse

street & number   716 21st Street North

city, town   Birmingham   state   Alabama

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

Birmingham – Southside–Highlands Survey   X
title Alabama Inventory   has this property been determined eligible? ___ yes _X_ no

      1981   X
date 1970–present   ___ federal _X_ state ___ county ___ local

                    Birmingham Historical Society
depository for survey records Alabama Historical Commission

      Birmingham
city, town   Montgomery   state   Alabama

7. Description

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Second Presbyterian Church is a good local example of the Romanesque Revival style applied to a church building of modest scale and materials. The church is of red brick on a rusticated stone foundation; the three rose windows on the west, south, and east facades contain wooden tracery and are faced with rusticated limestone, comprising the most notable architectural element of the exterior. There are twin corner tower entries on the south facade; the higher tower is the belfry and contains two tall round-head vents over a set of plain windows.

The interior is in the auditorium arrangement seen in many Victorian churches, although with a flat rather than a sloping floor. The plain plaster walls rise to a groin vault, and the windows are uniformly round-head. The floor is hardwood, and the stained glass is of 19th century design.

NPS Form 10-900-a
(3-82)

OMB No. 1024-0018
Expires 10-31-87

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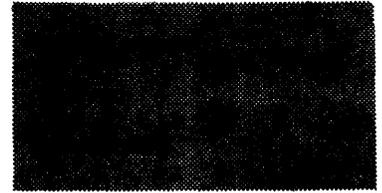
Continuation sheet   Item number 8   Page 1

Historical Summary:

This is the third structure to house the Second Presbyterian congregation, which was founded in 1882 as a Southside mission of the downtown First Presbyterian Church. The building is the first on this site. It dates from 1901 and is believed to have been designed by local architect D. A. Helmich. Helmich is known to be the designer of the 1892 South Highland Presbyterian and the 1891 post office (now demolished), and features of both these buildings lend support to the contention that Helmich was responsible for Second Presbyterian as well. These features include use of rusticated ashlar in the Richardsonian Romanesque style, and other Romanesque suggestions in the massing of building and bell tower and in the use of round-head windows. South Highland Presbyterian, although definitely in the Victorian Gothic style, strongly resembles the later Second Presbyterian in terms of the satisfying proportions of its massing and the placement of the large stained glass windows.

Although allowed to suffer from neglect after the Second Presbyterian congregation moved to new quarters, the old church became part of the campus of the University of Alabama at Birmingham and has found new life first as the UAB Ballet House and now as the Honors House and home of several academic department offices.

8. Significance

Specific dates 1901   **Builder/Architect** possibly D. A. Helmich

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Criterion C, Architecture

Second Presbyterian Church (1901) is a good example of turn-of-the-century Romanesque Revival architecture. Typical distinguishing features are monochromatic brickwork, round headed arched windows and doorway corner entry towers flanking the center, front facing, gable roofed, main block and corbeled brick blind arcaded cornices. The interior also exhibits Romanesque style elements such as three large rose windows in the west, south and east walls and a groin vaulted ceiling.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Journal of the Birmingham Historical Society, Nov. 1982, "Town Within a City: The Five Points South Neighborhood 1880-1930," by Ann Burkhardt & Alice Bowsher, ed. Southside-Highlands Survey Report, 1981, by Birmingham Historical Society

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property __less than one__

Quadrangle name __Birmingham South__   Quadrangle scale __1:24000__

UTM References

A |1|6| |5|1|7|7|2|0| |3|7|0|6|2|5|0|
  Zone   Easting   Northing

B |_|_| |_|_|_|_|_|_| |_|_|_|_|_|_|_|
  Zone   Easting   Northing

C, D, E, F, G, H (blank)

Verbal boundary description and justification
Lot size 225' x 150'.
Lot 3A Blk 18 Medical Center urban renewal area first sect. and Lots 4 & 8 Blk 18 Medical Center expansion project no. Ala. R-70. See attached planimetric and Ad Valorem tax maps.

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

state   NA   code   county   code

state   code   county   code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title   Linda Nelson, Historic Preservationist (ONB)
             Tom Dolan, Architectural Historian (AHC)

organization Alabama Historical Commission   date 5/86

street & number   725 Monroe Street   telephone 205 261-3184

city or town   Montgomery   state Alabama

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

___ national   ___ state   _X_ 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 _[signature]_

title State Historic Preservation Officer   date 7-24-86

For NPS use only
   I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

[signature]   date 9-11-86
Keeper of the National Register

Attest: date
Chief of Registration

GPO 911-399

WALLS

AVENUE

12TH

PARKING

13TH

STREET

8TH

PARKING

14TH

STREET

WALL

STREET

8TH

AVENUE

STREET

COURT

WALL

SUB-STATION

WALL

PARKING

ATHLETIC FIELD

SIGN

9TH

AVENUE

TENNIS COURTS

9TH

AVENUE

13TH

10TH

PARKING

WAY

11TH

Second Presbyterian Church

STREET

STREET

AVENUE

STREET

11TH PLACE
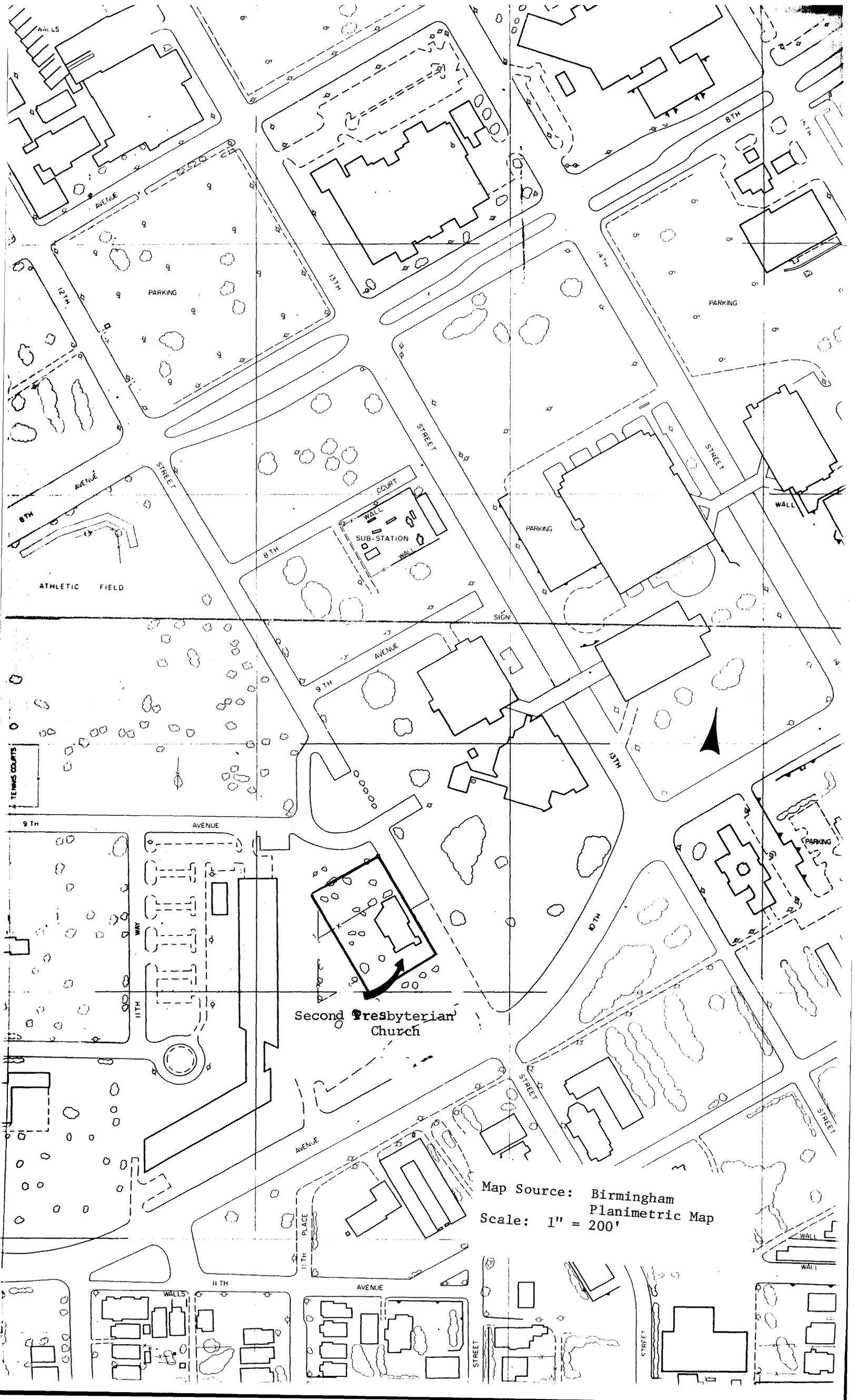
Map Source: Birmingham Planimetric Map

Scale: 1" = 200'

WALL

WALL

WALLS

11TH

AVENUE

STREET

STREET