

JUN 13 1994

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES REGISTRATION FORM
INTERAGENCY RESOURCES DIVISION

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in "Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms" (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

historic name Tennille Baptist Church
other names/site number n.a.

2. Location

street & number 201-205 North Main Street
city, town Tennille (n.a.) vicinity of
county Washington **code** GA 303
state Georgia **code** GA **zip code** 31089

(n.a.) not for publication

3. Classification

Ownership of Property:

- private
- public-local
- public-state
- public-federal

Category of Property

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Number of Resources within Property:

	<u>Contributing</u>	<u>Noncontributing</u>
buildings	1	0
sites	0	0
structures	0	0
objects	0	0
total	1	0

Contributing resources previously listed in the National Register: 0

Name of related multiple property listing: Buildings Designed by Charles Edward Choate, Constructed in Washington County, Georgia, between 1896 and 1919

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets the National Register criteria. () See continuation sheet.

Elizabeth A. Lyon
Signature of certifying official

6/19/94
Date

Elizabeth A. Lyon
State Historic Preservation Officer,
Georgia Department of Natural Resources

In my opinion, the property () meets () does not meet the National Register criteria. () See continuation sheet.

Signature of commenting or other official

Date

State or Federal agency or bureau

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

entered in the National Register

Edson H. Beall 7-26-94

determined eligible for the National Register

determined not eligible for the National Register

removed from the National Register

other, explain:

see continuation sheet

Entered in the
National Register
ber Signature, Keeper of the National Register Date

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions:

Religion: religious facility

Current Functions:

Religion: religious facility

7. Description

Architectural Classification:

Late Victorian: Gothic

Materials:

foundation	brick
walls	brick
roof	asphalt shingles
other	stone (trim)

Description of present and historic physical appearance:

The Tennille Baptist Church is a one-and-one-half-story brick building with a solid foundation and a gabled roof now covered in multi-colored (gray and pink tones) asphalt shingles. There are three bays across the front, and the windows are Gothic arched with stained glass. A one-story arched porch is located across the front facade. There is a metal cornice with detailing, and a dormer arch on the front facade is a decorative feature which shows a dripstone detail.

There are two towers on the church's front--a three-story tower on the main corner, at the intersection of North Adams and North Main streets, and a single bay tower on the other front corner. The elaborate three-story tower on the north side of the structure has engaged conical columns on each corner, Gothic arched windows, a granite string course between the first and second floor, and a dripstone configuration on the sides to allow rainwater to run off. The single-story tower, also located on the front facade, has pilasters and buttresses. It features a recessed bay over the windows and simple brick corbeling above the arched windows. A keystone configuration is centered in the Gothic arch. Gothic arch dormers appear on the roof with the same finial which is repeated on the top of all the towers. There is a large stained glass window on the center of the front facade. The steps into the church are also set on the center of the front facade, and are granite. The cornerstone of the building reads: "Tennille Baptist Church organized March 24, 1876. This is none other but the House of God and this is the Gate of Heaven, Genesis 22:17." Another cornerstone reads: "Building erected 1900 A.D. Know weapon that is formed against thee shall prosper. Isiah 64:17."

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section 7

Two additions have been made to the structure. One is an international, boxy style addition extending from the rear or west side of the building. The concrete and brick of this addition is not the same color as the original structure. A newer addition, also located to the rear or west, is much more sympathetic to the original structure. Two small entrance vestibules are located to the sides of the exterior porch that extends across the front.

The church is located on North Main Street at Adams Street, near the town center of Tennille. It is situated on an oversized urban lot and the structure occupies a large portion of the site. There is a gravel drive on the south side of the structure. The grass lot has a few large hardwood trees in informal placements and very manicured foundation shrubs.

Inside the sanctuary, the ceilings are vaulted with tongue-in-groove wood paneling; the vaulting has fluted wood columns. The floor plan is in a semi-circular arrangement. The floor is now carpeted with original wood underneath. There are some signs of tongue-in-groove on the risers in the steps on the pulpit. Walls are plastered with tongue-in-groove wainscoting. Ceilings are tongue-in-groove wood and all the natural wood remains. Gothic details in carved wood are found throughout the rest of the church. The pews and light fixtures are typical of churches of the same period. Sunday school windows are set to the side of the sanctuary and all the Sunday school rooms have stained glass windows in them. Inside the sanctuary there is wainscoting and pocket doors that go up and separate the sections of the sanctuary. The larger pocket doors in the sanctuary have small grooved wood panels and the others have large plank panels. The doors have bull's-eye trim around them, and there is an illusion of stained glass window on the interior of the structure.

8. Statement of Significance

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

nationally statewide locally

Applicable National Register Criteria:

A B C D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions): N/A

A B C D E F G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions):

Architecture

Period of Significance:

1903 (completion of construction)

Significant Dates:

1903 (completion of construction)

Significant Person(s):

n.a.

Cultural Affiliation:

n.a.

Architect(s)/Builder(s):

Charles E. Choate, architect

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section 8

Significance of property, justification of criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above:

Narrative statement of significance (areas of significance)

The Tennille Baptist Church is significant in architecture because it is the only example of religious architecture by the architect Charles Choate and the only example of Gothic design by Choate in the Sandersville-Tennille area where Choate began his architectural practice. As such, it demonstrates the range of Choate's early architectural design and commissions. Moreover, the church is an excellent example of design for religious structures from this period, featuring as it does an interpretation of the Gothic Revival style with its tall, narrow proportions, high irregular towers, and pointed-arched windows. The additions to the rear of the church are clearly nonhistoric and do not obscure or overwhelm the original church building. This structure is almost a mirror copy of two later documented structures by Choate--a Presbyterian Church in Greenville, South Carolina, and a Baptist Church in McRae, Georgia.

The architectural elements of the Tennille Baptist Church are rich in proportion and design, and excellent in craftsmanship. Among the significant exterior details are two towers with metal finials and dripstone configurations, stained glass windows, elaborate brick corbeling, a Gothic arch, and arched windows. The interior is rich in wood detailing which includes wainscoted doors separating the sanctuary from the former Sunday school area, large plank panels, tongue-in-groove ceilings, and decorative wooden pews which exhibit Gothic details in carved wood.

National Register Criteria

This property meets National Register Criterion C for its architectural significance as a significant and unusual work of religious architecture designed by Charles Choate very early in his local career.

Criteria Considerations (if applicable)

This property meets Criterion Consideration A (religious properties) because its primary significance is architectural, as a good example of Victorian Gothic religious architecture, and as an important work of the architect Charles E. Choate.

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section 8

Period of significance (justification, if applicable)

1903--completion of construction

Contributing/Noncontributing Resources (explanation, if applicable)

The one contributing resource is the church building, including its two nonhistoric and nonsignificant additions.

Developmental history/historic context (if applicable)

Construction of the Tennille Baptist Church was completed in 1903, according to the Sandersville Progress, while the cornerstone documents the start of construction in 1900. The church was organized in 1876 and moved into the Choate-designed structure upon completion in 1903. The pipe organ in the church, installed in 1913, was the first in Washington County; the Carnegie Foundation gave a large amount of money toward its acquisition, and Mrs. T. W. Smith was instrumental in the effort. The T. W. Smith family also donated the property for the church which is situated across from the Smith House. According to local sources, the Office and Education Building was constructed during the pastory of B. A. Winburn in the 1940s. It houses a secretary's office and choir meeting room as well as other meeting spaces. The newest annex was completed in 1978.

9. Major Bibliographic References

See the bibliography in the multiple property documentation form.

Previous documentation on file (NPS): (x) N/A

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey #
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record #

Primary location of additional data:

- State historic preservation office
- Other State Agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other, Specify Repository:

Georgia Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned):

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 2 acres

UTM References

A) Zone 17 Easting 330620 Northing 3645700

Verbal Boundary Description

The nominated property coincides with the current legal description of the property associated with the church building, represented by Lot 43 of Tax Map T-7. The boundary of the nominated property is drawn to scale with a heavy black line on the attached tax map.

Boundary Justification

The nominated property is the parcel of land historically and currently associated with the church building.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title (a) Dale Jaeger and Susan Casey (b) Richard Cloues
organization (a) Jaeger/Pyburn (b) Office of Historic Preservation,
Georgia Department of Natural Resources
street & number (a) 210 Washington Street (b) 205 Butler Street,
Suite 1462
city or town (a) Gainesville (b) Atlanta **state** Georgia **zip code**
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telephone (a) 706-534-7024 (b) 404-656-2840 **date** June 3, 1994

(HPS form version 11-02-90)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Photographs

Name of Property: Tennille Baptist Church
City or Vicinity: Tennille
County: Washington
State: Georgia
Photographer: James R. Lockhart
Negative Filed: Georgia Department of Natural Resources
Date Photographed: September 1992

Description of Photograph(s):

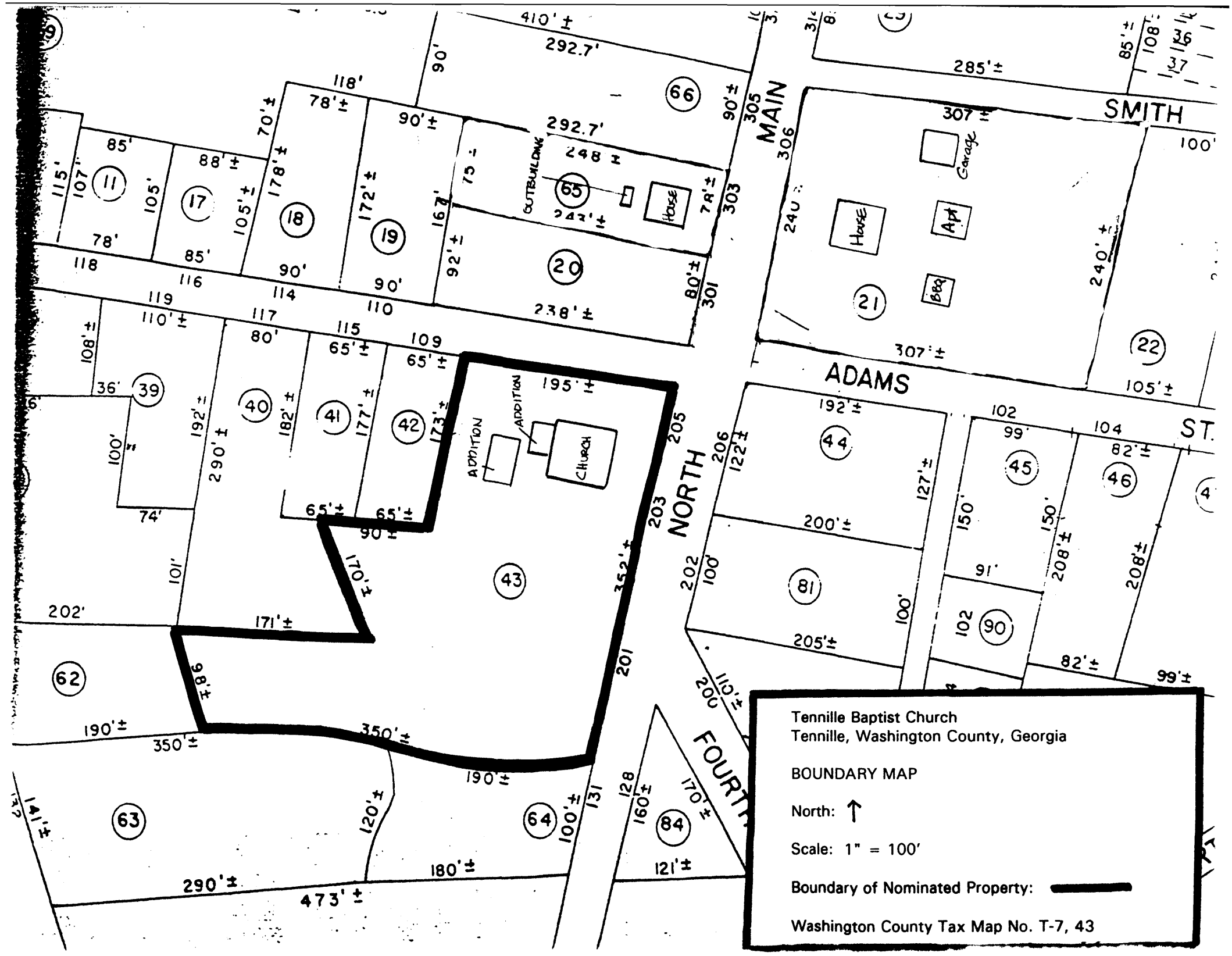
1 of 5. Front (North Main Street) facade; photographer facing southwest.

2 of 5. South side facade, showing historic church (center) and nonhistoric addition (left); photographer facing north.

3 of 5. Sanctuary; photographer facing northeast.

4 of 5. Sanctuary, looking toward pulpit, with sliding doors to Sunday School rooms (right); photographer facing southwest.

5 of 5. Sunday School rooms; photographer facing north.



Tennille Baptist Church
 Tennille, Washington County, Georgia

 BOUNDARY MAP

 North: ↑
 Scale: 1" = 100'

 Boundary of Nominated Property: **—————**

 Washington County Tax Map No. T-7, 43

Tennille Baptist Church
Tennille, Washington County, Georgia

FLOOR PLAN

North: →

Scale: not to scale

