United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property		
historic name St. Peter's	Rock Baptist Church	
other names/site number	Greater Little Rock Quartet Singing Center/ PU8171	
2. Location		
street & number 1401 We	est 18 th Street	not for publication
city or town Little Rock		vicinity
state Arkansas	code AR county Pulaski cod	de119 zip code72206
3. State/Federal Agency Ce	ertification	
request for determination of elig Places and meets the procedural does not meet the National Reg nationally statewide Signature of certifying officia Arkansas Historic Pres State or Federal agency and be	servation Program	National Register of Historic the property ⊠ meets □
Signature of certifying officia	al/Title Date	
State or Federal agency and by	ureau	
4. National Park Service C I hereby certify that the property is: entered in the National Reg See continuation si determined eligible for the National Register. See continuation si determined not eligible for the National Register. removed from the National Register. other, (explain:)	gister. theet theet theet	Date of Action

St. Peter's Rock Baptist Church Name of Property	Pulaski County, Arkansas County and State			
5. Classification				
Ownership of Property (Check as many boxes as apply) Category of Property (Check only one box)	Number of Resources within Property (Do not include previously listed resources in count.)			
 □ private □ public-local □ district □ di	Contributing Noncontributing			
public-State site	1buildings			
public-Federal structure	0 0 sites			
object	0 0 structures			
	0 0 objects			
	1 0 Total			
Name of related multiple property listing (Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)	Number of Contributing resources previously listed in the National Register			
N/A	N/A			
6. Function or Use				
Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)	Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)			
RELIGION/Religious Facility	RECREATION AND CULTURE/Music Facility			
7. Description				
Architectural Classification	Materials			
(Enter categories from instructions)	(Enter categories from instructions)			
OTHER/Plain/Traditional	foundation Brick			
	walls Brick			
	roof Asphalt			
	other			

Narrative Description (Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

St. Peter's Rock Baptist	Church
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SUMMARY

The original building for St. Peter's Rock Baptist Church, now known as The Greater Little Rock Quartet Singing Center, located at 1401 West 18th Street in Little Rock, Arkansas, was built in 1941 in the Plain/ Traditional style. The brick building has a raised basement level with the main sanctuary level above. The building is crowned by a gable with parapet roof sheathed in composition shingles. Eight of the building's windows are stained glass, located on both of the side elevations, with a small casement section located at the very bottom of each window. These casement sections are three and a half panes wide, and a pane and a half tall. The majority of the windows, however, are wood-frame, stationary, four-light. All of the windows on the raised basement level have been in-filled.

ELABORATION

The Greater Little Rock Quartet Singing Center is located at 1401 West 18th Street, one mile from the main commercial downtown area of Little Rock, and a block and a half northwest of Dunbar Junior High School. The property is located in the inner city of Little Rock, approximately 15 blocks from the central business district. The major thoroughfares for this area are Broadway, Main, 17th Street, Interstate 630, Interstate 30, and Roosevelt Road, all of which are very near and easily accessible to the building. The building was begun in 1941, and was designed in the Plain/Traditional style.

The building is faced with red brick and built on a raised basement level. The sanctuary level is above the basement level, and contains a balcony. A beautiful stained-glass rose window is visible on the balcony level. The cornerstone has been removed by the St. Peter's Rock Baptist Church congregation, and now rests at their home on Brown Street.

The building is crowned by a gable with parapet roof, which is covered with composition shingles. Some of the windows in the sanctuary are stained-glass, while other windows in the building have clear glass.

Front/North Elevation

The front façade of the building is divided into three main sections. The left section consists of two windows, with the basement level window being in-filled. The main sanctuary level contains a wood-frame rectangular stationary window with four panes, and the balcony level of the sanctuary level also contains a wood-frame rectangular stationary window with four panes.

St.	Peter?	S	Rock	Ba	ptist	Churc	h
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The central section of the façade on the basement level is mostly obscured by the staircase to the main entrance. The staircase consists of two flights that meet in the center before making a 90-degree turn to approach a central flight that leads to the entrance. Black iron railing lines the staircase, and the front end of the initial two flights of stairs is covered in brick. A small circle is centered at the top of this end. The double wood doors on the main sanctuary level of the central section are flanked on either side by two tall, rectangular, wood-frame, four-pane, stationary windows. A black and white metal awning covers the entrance, and the three light transom is obscured from view by this awning. The balcony level of the façade is highlighted by a beautiful rose window that is centrally-located on the bay, in the peak of the gable. A few feet below the rose window is a sign that reads "Greater Little Rock/Quartet Union/Convention Center/FRANK DOLPHUS, FOUNDER." The sign appears to be placed over the nameplate. Flanking the sign on either side are two tall, rectangular, wood-frame, four-pane, stationary windows.

The right section consists of two windows, with the basement level window being in-filled. A slightly recessed area on this level, close to the edge of the building, is where the cornerstone once was located. According to the current president of the GLRQSC, St. Peter's Rock Baptist Church congregation members relocated the cornerstone to their new facility at 2201 Brown Street. The main sanctuary level contains a wood-frame rectangular stationary window with four light panes, and the balcony level of the sanctuary level also contains a wood-frame, rectangular, stationary window with four light panes. A cast concrete cross is located at the peak of the gable end.

Side/East Elevation

The east façade consists of four sections, with the raised basement level visible, as well as the two sanctuary levels. The basement level window has been in-filled. The next two levels above contain one window each that is rectangular, wood-frame, and stationary with four panes.

The next section moving to the right projects slightly from the rest of the façade. On the basement level are three in-filled window areas. The sanctuary level is fenestrated by a ribbon of three rectangular, wood-frame, and stationary stained-glass windows. The balcony level is fenestrated by a ribbon of three stationary, wood-framed, four-pane windows.

Moving to the right, the next section is rather narrow in comparison to the other bays on this elevation. The basement level contains an in-filled window area, as does the left adjacent wall that is one-window wide. The sanctuary level is fenestrated by a single wood-framed stationary stained-glass window, as is the left adjacent wall. The balcony level is fenestrated by a single wood-framed, stationary, four-paned window, as is the left adjacent wall.

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The last section of the side façade slightly projects from the rest of the building, though not as far as the second section. The basement level consists of the in-filled window area. The sanctuary level consists of a wood-frame stationary, rectangular, four-pane window, as does the balcony level.

Rear/South Elevation

The basement level of the rear façade has a central door that is flanked on either side by two in-filled window areas.

The sanctuary level of the rear façade is fenestrated by four windows. The two outer windows are tall, wood-frame, stationary, with four panes. The two inner windows are small, square, wood-frame, stationary, with four panes. In the center of the sanctuary level is a boarded-up arched window. This middle window is located behind the baptismal pool, and the two smaller windows which flank it are also located at the baptismal pool level.

The balcony level consists of two wood-framed, stationary, rectangular, four-pane windows.

Side/West Elevation

Like the east façade, the west façade consists of three levels, the basement, sanctuary and balcony levels. The right section of the façade on the basement level is the in-filled window area. The sanctuary level of the section is fenestrated by a single wood-framed, stationary, four-pane window. The balcony level is fenestrated by a taller wood-framed, stationary, four-pane window.

The next section moving to the right is recessed slightly from the rest of the façade. On the basement level, is the in-filled window area. A wood-frame, stationary, stained-glass window fenestrates the sanctuary level. A wood-framed, stationary, four-pane window fenestrates the balcony level.

The third section, moving to the right, projects slightly from the rest of the façade. Three in-filled window areas mark the basement level. The sanctuary level is fenestrated by a ribbon of three rectangular, woodframe, and stationary stained-glass windows. The balcony level is fenestrated by a ribbon of three stationary, wood-framed, four-pane windows.

The last section of the west façade consists of three levels. The basement level is pierced by a single door that is several feet from the southwest corner of the building. Both the sanctuary and balcony levels are each fenestrated by a single wood-framed, stationary, four-pane window. The metal chimney rises above this level.

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Name of Property	County and State

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Interior

The sanctuary on the upper level dominates the interior of the building while the lower level has the secondary spaces. The walls of the interior are plastered and painted, and the original woodwork is still in place throughout the sanctuary. Behind the stage on the sanctuary level is the baptismal pool, which is accessed on either side by a flight of steep and narrow steps.

INTEGRITY

Today, St. Peter's Rock Baptist Church remains virtually unaltered since it was built. The original design and much of the historic fabric are intact. Although some of the interior furnishings have been replaced or restored, the building remains otherwise as it was when the doors first opened.

St. Peter's Rock Baptist Church Name of Property	Pulaski County, Arkansas County and State
8. Statement of Significance	
Applicable National Register Criteria (Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)	Levels of Significance (local, state, national) Local
A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.	Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions) ETHNIC HERITAGE/BLACK
☐ B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.	
C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or	
represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.	Period of Significance 1941-1955
□ D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.	
Criteria Considerations (Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.) Property is:	Significant Dates 1941-1955
✓ A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.✓ B removed from its original location.	Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked)
 C. birthplace or grave of a historical figure of outstanding importance. D a cemetery. 	Cultural Affiliation (Complete if Criterion D is marked)
☐ E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.	
☐ F a commemorative property	Architect/Builder
☐ G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.	Unknown
Narrative Statement of Significance (Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)	
9. Major Bibliographical References	
Bibliography (Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one of	or more continuation sheets.)
Previous documentation on file (NPS): 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	Primary location of additional data: State Historic Preservation Office Other State Agency Federal Agency Local Government University Other Name of repository:

St. Pet	er's	Rock	Baptist	Church
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SUMMARY

The building at 1401 West 18th Street was first erected for St. Peter's Rock Baptist Church in 1941, and later purchased by the Greater Little Rock Quartet Singing Center (GLRQSC) on July 24, 1975. It has remained since its construction a pillar in Little Rock's African American community. The property is being nominated to the National Register of Historic Places with **local significance** under **Criterion A** for its associations with the religious, social and cultural life of Little Rock's African-American community.

ELABORATION

St. Peter's Rock Baptist Church History

Sometime during the spring in the late 1800s, a group of twelve believers met at 9th and Park Streets in a brush arbor with the Reverend Joe Woods and organized the St. Peter's Rock Baptist Church. Rev. Woods, the first pastor, and the small congregation held weekly services there until winter of the same year. Then they moved to 12th and High streets on the ground floor of an apartment building and remained there for two years.

From this location, the membership moved to 17th & High streets where they remained about a year. From this location, the congregation moved to 24th and High streets and remained there until 1936.

The next move was to 18th Street, between High and Pulaski Street, where they occupied the building called the "Dunbar Band Box." After two years, the building burned and the congregation purchased two small frame houses, pulled them together, and used these buildings as their church until the present building at 1401 West 18th Street was erected.

The ministers for the first 42 years were: Rev. Joe Woods, Rev. A. Ruffin, Rev. M. Hudson, Rev. Will Moore, Rev. C. Carter, Rev. Ed Moore, and Rev. S.J. Williams.

In the spring of 1938, the Rev. Felix Timothy Evans was called to pastor this congregation, which had commenced construction of their future home at 1401 W. 18th Street while continuing to worship in the two small frame houses.

During the early 1940s the old frame building was torn down and the present brick building was erected under the leadership of Pastor Evans.

From the record of activities held there, the members seemed never to tire of demonstrating their pride in their church and their gratitude to God for Pastor Evans and for the opportunity of worshipping in a bigger

St. Peter's Ro	ck Baptist Church
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and more comfortable building. Construction costs were paid as the work continued, and when it was finished, the costs were paid in full.

During the building of the church, the congregation marched to their first real church building singing their "song of Zion." One problem existed with the new construction—the basement was not adequately constructed to withstand the water when it rained. The membership was determined to fix this problem, and worked to raise money to make the necessary repairs.

Under Dr. Evans, the following organizations were organized: The Link of Love Club with Sis. Bertha Collins, President; The Willing Workers, Sis. A. Scott, President; The New Jerusalem Club, Sis. E. Harper, President; The Evergreen Club, Sis. L. Williams, President. The first choir of the church was organized with Sis. E. B. Evans, Pianist – some of the first members were: Sis. M. Duncan, Sis. R. Harris-Winfrey, Sis. Ida Williams, Sis. D. Gleen, Sis. S. Sheriff, Sis. A. Holmes, and Sis. T. Morgan.

The first piano was purchased in the early 1940s, and about five years later, the church purchased an organ. In the 1950s, both the Young Adult Choir and the Junior Choir were organized. During this time, the membership increased from 180 members to 325.

Dr. Evans gave leadership to this congregation for 34 years until his death in 1968. He, fortunately, had prepared his members for the days when they would have to function without his leadership and guidance. During the interim year between Evans' death and the calling of the new pastor, Rev. Gusta Sams, a very loyal and dedicated Associate Minister of the church, the congregation carried on in a very effective way. Rev. Sams served until 1973. At that time, the Rev. J.E. Booker, a native of Tennessee, was called to pastor the congregation.

Because he was an astute businessman, as well as a spiritual leader with vision, Rev. Booker went to work immediately to see that all aspects of the church's activities were strengthened to put new spiritual life into the church. The powerful preaching and moving vocalizing of the new pastor had its impact on many of those who had strayed during the interim between the death of Pastor Evans and the calling of Rev. Booker.

The membership and pastor worked diligently for a year and a half, and the far-reaching vision of Rev. Booker was instrumental in leading the congregation into a quarter of a million dollar facility at 2201 Brown Street, an enormously spacious sanctuary with classrooms on the lower level, a building across the street which housed a Day Care Center, and another building on the lot housing a Religious Bookstore. The congregation also purchased a 45 passenger bus, and two 15 passenger church vans. Over a period of 17 years, the membership had grown to over 400 members.

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The great day was the fourth Sunday in May 1975, when Pastor Booker and his congregation formed a motorcade from 1401 W. 18th Street to 2201 Brown Street. A ceremony was held on the steps of the new church building and the pastor cut the ribbon. The congregation entered the church, and a glorious service of thanksgiving and praise was held.

On July 24, 1975, a mere two months after St. Peter's Rock Baptist Church moved to its new location at 2201 Brown Street, the property at 1401 W. 18th Street was purchased by the Greater Little Rock Quartet Singing Center. The adjoining parking lot was not purchased, but was rented from Professional Services, the team of doctors who owned the lot. However, the influence of the congregation in the neighborhood was great, facilitating several churches including: Holy Spirit Church, Pastor Baker; Paradise Baptist Church; Tabernacle Baptist Church; Independence Baptist Church, Pastor Michael Desmuke; Lamplight Baptist Church; The Temple Church of God in Christ I & II, Supt. F. E. Reed, Pastor; New Beginnings Church, Pastor A.C. Shelton, Jr.; and Turning Point Ministries.

Greater Little Rock Quartet Singing Center History

Located in a predominately black community, surrounded by middle-income homes, this building became the permanent headquarters for the Greater Little Rock Quartet Singing Union and given its location, was a gold mine to African American gospel groups. It was during this time, plagued by racism and poverty, that the greater majority of African Americans were not financially able to access the larger facilities downtown, such as the Robinson Auditorium. They were, however, able to hold their services and conventions at the GLRQSC. Radio Station KOKY even hosted a live remote broadcast every Sunday morning from this site, where gospel groups would come to be heard across the airwaves.

It has been through the continual efforts of current president, Finnie B. Harris, Sr., who has served for 25 years, and long time member since 1957, that the building has been preserved.

Former Presidents of the Greater Little Rock Quartet Singing Center are: Frank Dolphus – Founder, Carlie Bynum, George Agnew, Joe Leeks, Arthur Batch, Chester Martin, Lucius Lairy, and Arthur Turner. Finnie Harris serves as the current president.

Many notable gospel artists have appeared at the GLRQSC, including: Lee Williams & the Spiritual Q.C.'s, Tupelo, MS, (this group has won several Stellar Awards and was voted #1 gospel male quartet in the United States); The Canton Spirituals, Canton, MS, (this group has won several Stellar Awards and was voted #1 gospel Male Quartet in the U.S); Pilgrim Jubilees, Chicago, IL, (this group won a Grammy Award in the gospel category in the early 1970's; Slim & the Supreme Angels, Milwaukee, WI, (this group has been nominated for several prestigious awards in the gospel arena); and The Williams Brothers, Smithdale, MS, (this group has won several awards in the gospel field, including the Dove Award). In addition, many notable

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speakers have also spoken there for community and town hall meetings. Many of Little Rock's leading church ministries organized and got their humble beginnings at this site.

Today, the GLRQSC still remains an integral part of the African American Community. The GLRQSC has been used many times for purposes other than worship. It is also known as a distribution center for the needy, providing them with food and clothing, as well as a place where travelers in distress can come for help to make it to their destination. This site is noted for its benefit programs for those diagnosed with catastrophic illnesses, and families that have fallen victim to fires and other disasters. It is also known as a place where political forums have been held for both local and state candidates. During the civil rights movement and the Central High School Crisis, many local and national dignitaries made appearances in this building.

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The building at 1401 West 18th Street was first erected for St. Peter's Rock Baptist Church in 1941, and later purchased by the Greater Little Rock Quartet Singing Center (GLRQSC) on July 24, 1975. It has remained since its construction a pillar in Little Rock's African American community. The property is being nominated to the National Register of Historic Places with **local significance** under **Criterion A** for its associations with the religious, social and cultural life of Little Rock's African-American community.

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BIBLIOGRAPHY

Abstract of Title, in possession of Finnie Harris, President.

History of the Greater Little Rock Quartet Singing Center, Newsletter, 2003.

History of St. Peter's Rock Baptist Church, Church bulletin, 1975.

St. Peter's Rock Baptist Church			County, Arkansas	
Name of Property		County and	State	
0. Geographical Data				
creage of Property Less than one acre				
Less than one acre				
UTM References				
Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)				
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Zone Easting Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
		4		
		L S	ee continuation sheet	
Verbal Boundary Description				
Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)				
Boundary Justification				
Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)				
11. Form Prepared By				
name/title Finnie Harris; Edited by Sarah Jampole/Survey Historian				
organization Arkansas Historic Preservation Program		date	September 24, 20	04
street & number 323 Center Street, 1500 Tower Building		telephone	501-324-9874	
city or town Little Rock	state	AR	zip code 72	2201
Additional Documentation				
Submit the following items with the completed form:				
Continuation Sheets				
continuation sheets				
Maps				
A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's	location			
A Sketch map for historic districts and properties having large a	creage o	r numerous r	esources.	
	0			
Photographs				
Photographs Representative black and white photographs of the property.				.40
Representative black and white photographs of the property. Additional items				
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Representative black and white photographs of the property. Additional items Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items.) Property Owner Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)				
Representative black and white photographs of the property. Additional items (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items.) Property Owner (Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.) name Greater Little Rock Quartet Singing Center			telenhone (
Representative black and white photographs of the property. Additional items (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items.) Property Owner (Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)	state	Arkansas	telephone	72206

listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listing. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accord with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.)

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P. O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20303.

St. Peter's	Rock	Baptist	Church
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VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

South 10 feet of North 70 feet Lots 36 and 37 and North 60 feet of Lots 36 and 37, Centennial Addition.

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

The boundary includes all land historically associated with St. Peter's Rock Baptist Church.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY St. Peter's Rock Baptist Church NAME:
MULTIPLE NAME:
STATE & COUNTY: ARKANSAS, Pulaski
DATE RECEIVED: 12/06/04 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 1/04/05 DATE OF 16TH DAY: 1/19/05 DATE OF WEEKLY LIST: 1/19/05
REFERENCE NUMBER: 04001492
REASONS FOR REVIEW:
APPEAL: N DATA PROBLEM: N LANDSCAPE: N LESS THAN 50 YEARS: N OTHER: N PDIL: N PERIOD: N PROGRAM UNAPPROVED: N REQUEST: N SAMPLE: N SLR DRAFT: Y NATIONAL:
COMMENT WAIVER: N ACCEPTRETURNREJECT/ZO/OS DATE ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:
National Register
RECOM./CRITERIA
REVIEWER DISCIPLINE
TELEPHONEDATE
DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y/N see attached SLR Y/N
If a nomination is returned to the nominating authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the NPS.

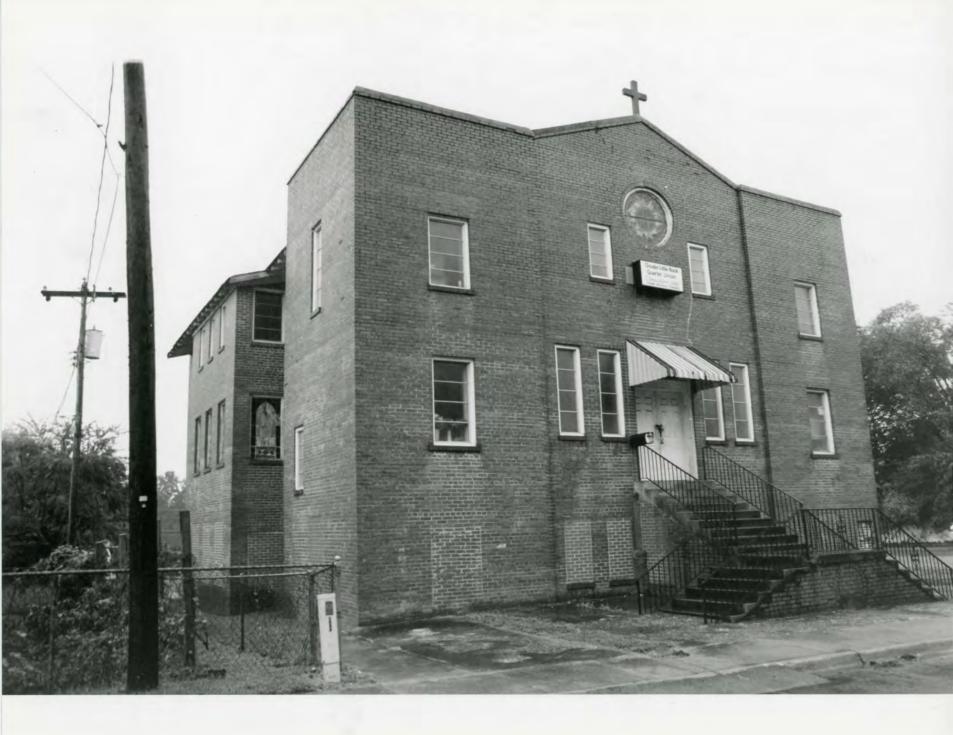


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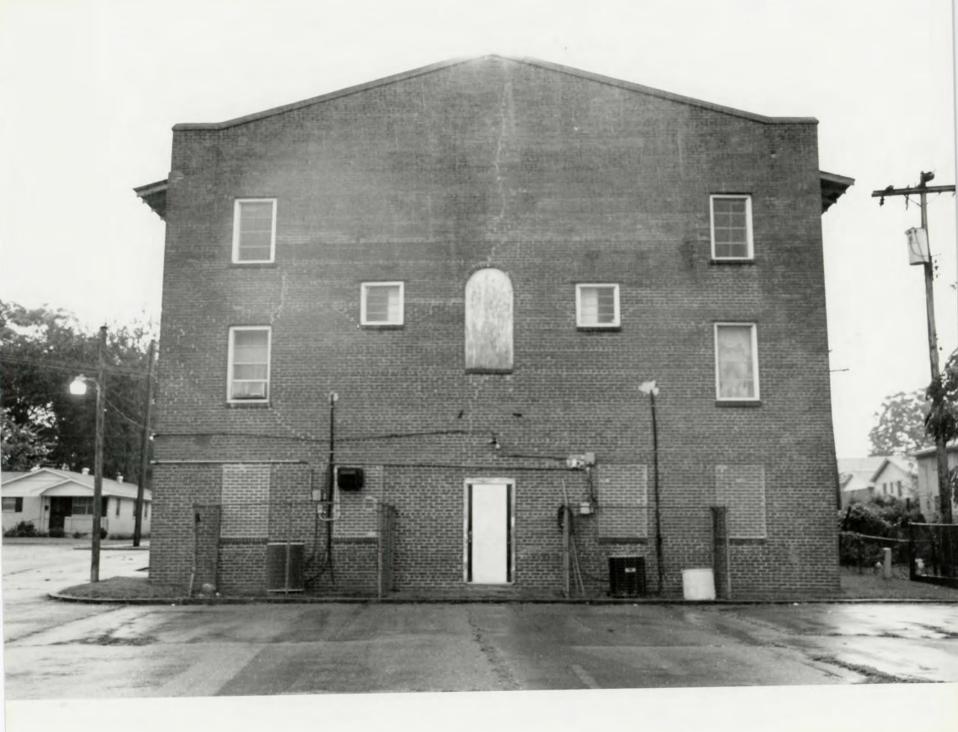
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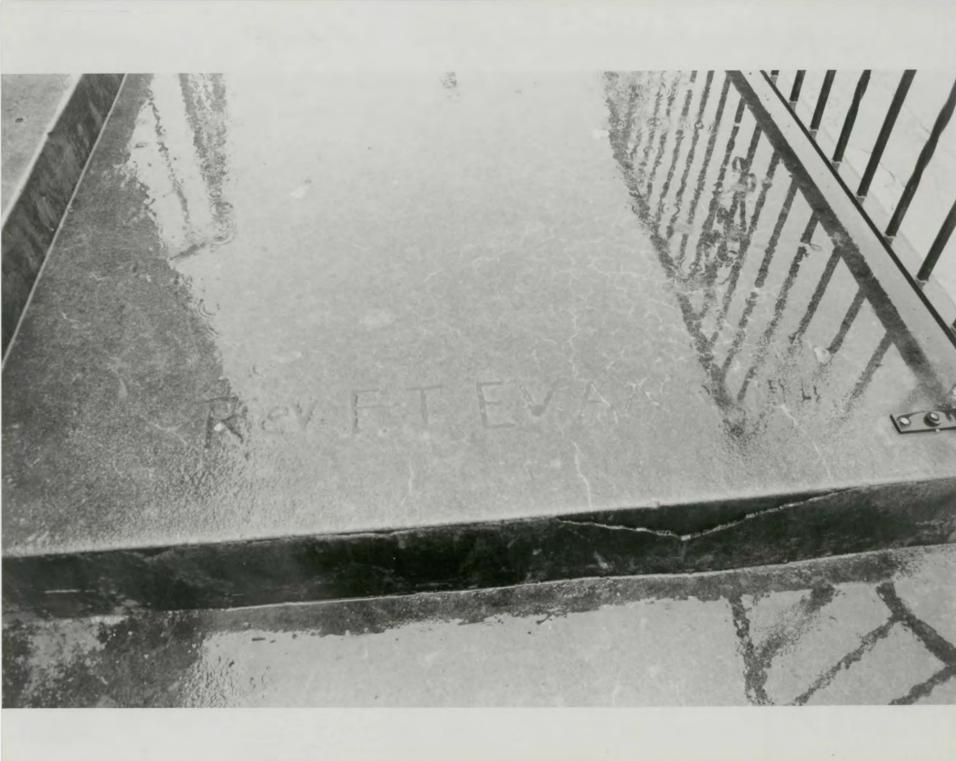


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The Department of Arkansas Heritage

December 1, 2004

Carol D. Shull
Chief of Registration
United States Department of the Interior
National Register of Historic Places
National Park Service
8th Floor
1201 Eye Street, NW
Washington, D.C. 20005



Mike Huckabee, Governor Cathie Matthews, Director

RE: St. Peter's Rock Baptist Church; Little Rock, Pulaski County

Arkansas Arts Council

Arkansas Natural Heritage Commission

Historic Arkansas Museum

Delta Cultural Center

Old State House Museum

Dear Carol,

We are enclosing for your review the above-referenced nomination. The Arkansas Historic Preservation Program has complied with all applicable nominating procedures and notification requirements in the nomination process.

If you need further information, please call Ralph S. Wilcox of my staff at (501) 324-9787. Thank you for your cooperation in this matter.

Sincerely,

Arkansas Historic Preservation Program

1500 Tower Building 323 Center Street Little Rock, AR 72201 (501)324-9880 fax: (501)324-9184

fax: (501)324-9184 tdd: (501)324-9811

e-mail: info@arkansaspreservation.org website: www.arkansaspreservation.org Cathei Matchers

Cathie Matthews State Historic Preservation Officer

CM:sj

Enclosure

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