

HISTORIC RESOURCES OF COLUMBUS, MUSCOGEE COUNTY, GEORGIA
 GEORGIA ARCHITECTURAL AND HISTORIC PROPERTIES SURVEY-INVENTORY FORM

NO. 437 a

I. IDENTIFICATION	<p>PROPERTY NAME: First African Baptist Church HISTORIC NAME: First African Baptist Church</p> <p>STREET ADDRESS: 901 5th Avenue CITY: Columbus COUNTY: Muscogee</p> <p>PRESENT OWNER: First African Baptist Church; ATTN: Minister MAILING ADDRESS: 901 5th Avenue</p> <p>CITY: Columbus STATE: Georgia ZIP CODE: 31901</p> <p>CURRENT USE: Church ACREAGE: Less than one acre</p> <p>U.S.G.S. QUADRANGLE: Columbus, GA-AL U.T.M. REFERENCE: 16-689240-3593340</p> <p>V.B.D. OR TAX MAP NUMBER: 19/13/18</p>
II. DESCRIPTION	<p>ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION AND PRESENT CONDITION: Gothic Revival; two stories, rectangular plan with apse to rear, gable roof, porch on facade between towers; brick laid in common bond with balloon frame, asphalt shingle roof; front facade details include two square towers, the northernmost is three stories tall and the southernmost is four stories tall, openings are pointed arches, towers have rectangular louvered vents for ventilation and gable end has round vent, corners are corbelled brick to simulate quoins, towers have crenelated parapets, front porch section has three recessed entrances; interior has central and side aisles which lead from narthex to apse; situated among residential Victorian and Greek Revival residences (cont'd)</p>
III. HISTORY	<p>ORIGINAL OWNER: congregation ORIGINAL USE: same as today</p> <p>ARCHITECT/BUILDER: HISTORIC ACREAGE:</p> <p>DATE OF CONSTRUCTION: 1915 DATE(S) OF ALTERATIONS: c. 1950 classroom wing added to north of church building.</p> <p>HISTORICAL NARRATIVE (FROM ORIGINS TO PRESENT): This congregation was organized in the early 1840's as an outgrowth of Columbus' First Baptist Church. The worshippers built the present sanctuary in 1915 at a cost of \$75,000.00, after occupying three previous sanctuaries. The membership originally called itself "The African Baptist Church," when established in the early 1840's.</p>
IV. SIGNIFICANCE	<p>N.R. AREA(S) OF SIGNIFICANCE: Religion, Architecture LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE: Local</p> <p>STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE (ARCHITECTURAL AND HISTORICAL): <u>Architecture</u>: This church is an example of a very simple form of Gothic architecture. The only ornamentation on the church is the pointed arch windows with stained glass, and the quoins which are a part of the brickwork. This building suggests the trends in architecture within the black community in the early 20th century. <u>Religion</u>: The First African Baptist Church has been an established congregation for 140 years, an offspring of the local Baptist church; it is the oldest black congregation in Columbus.</p>
V. SOURCES	<p>FORM PREPARED BY: a) Nancy Alexander Roger Harris ORGANIZATION: a) Lower Chattahoochee APDC b) Janice P. Biggers b) Historic Columbus Foundation</p> <p>ADDRESS: a) P. O. Box 1908, Cols, GA 31994 TELEPHONE NUMBER: a) (404)324-4221 b) 700 Broadway, Cols, GA 31901 b) (404)322-0756</p> <p>REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS: Historic Structures Field Survey: Columbus-Muscogee County, Georgia. 1976 state survey, Historic Preservation Section, DNR, Atlanta, Georgia.</p> <p>SOURCES OF INFORMATION: Barbara Bogart and Margaret Laney Whitehead. <u>City of Progress: A History of Columbus, Georgia</u>. Columbus, Georgia: Columbus Office Supply Company, 1979, pp. 70-72.</p>

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PHOTOGRAPHER: F. Clason Kyle

DATE: 11 July 1978

ROLL NO. 7 FRAME NO. 18A NEGATIVES FILED: Historic Columbus Foundation
700 Broadway

DIRECTION PHOTOGRAPHER FACING: West

Columbus, Georgia 31901

USE SPACE BELOW FOR CONTINUATION FROM FRONT, SKETCH PLANS OR MAPS, ADDITIONAL COMMENTS, ETC.

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION: and c. 1900 commercial buildings; landscaping consists of grass, to the north is a small formal garden centered around a cast iron crane fountain, good condition.

SOURCES OF INFORMATION: Cornerstone

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