

PH0003085

10th Congressional District  
Robert G. Stephens, Jr.

Form 10-300  
(July 1969)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Georgia	
COUNTY: Richmond	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
MAR 23 1972	

1. NAME

COMMON:  
First Baptist Church of Augusta

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:  
S/W Corner of Greene and Eighth Streets

CITY OR TOWN:  
Augusta

STATE: Georgia      CODE: 13      COUNTY: Richmond      CODE: 245

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Comments _____

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:  
First Baptist Church of Augusta

STREET AND NUMBER:  
S/W Corner of Greene and Eighth Streets

CITY OR TOWN: Augusta      STATE: Georgia      CODE: 13

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:  
Courthouse - Clerk of Superior Court, Richmond County

STREET AND NUMBER:  
Municipal Building, 500 Block Greene Street

CITY OR TOWN: Augusta      STATE: Georgia      CODE: 13

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:  
None

DATE OF SURVEY:       Federal     State     County     Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:      STATE:      CODE:

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

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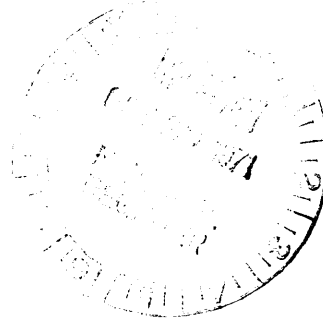
7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unaltered		<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site	

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Rising on park-like Greene Street, the First Baptist Church of Augusta remains today essentially as designed and completed in the first decade of the 20th century. It replaces the original classical revival church erected on the site in 1820. In the Beaux-Arts school of eclectic classicism, the overall character of the structure is one of massiveness, symmetry and restrained Baroque monumentality.

The exterior features a heroic pedimented portico with six modified Corinthian columns. A Palladian window is centered in the tympanum which is also ornamented with festoons in relief. The stone end piers form a pilaster of quoin work with a cartouche at the top of the pier visually giving support to the denticulated and modillioned entablature which runs around the entire facade. Above the entablature on a series of bases rises a low Palladian dome. Especially noteworthy is the intricate geometry of high quality stained glass windows over the triple doors. The window patterns here are continued on the sides. Educational buildings at the rear and side of the church were added before 1920 and in 1940 respectively.



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**SIGNIFICANCE**

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- Pre-Columbian |  16th Century |  18th Century |  20th Century  
 15th Century |  17th Century |  19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) 1820, 1845, 1902-03

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- |                                                  |                                                 |                                                         |                                                     |
|--------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> -Aboriginal             | <input type="checkbox"/> Education              | <input type="checkbox"/> Political                      | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric             | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic                | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry               | <input type="checkbox"/> Science                        | <u>History</u>                                      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture             | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention              | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture                      | _____                                               |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian            | _____                                               |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art                     | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature             | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater                        | _____                                               |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce                | <input type="checkbox"/> Military               | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation                 | _____                                               |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications          | <input type="checkbox"/> Music                  |                                                         | _____                                               |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation            |                                                 |                                                         | _____                                               |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The First Baptist Church of Augusta is one of many monumental buildings on Greene Street, a landscaped parkway through the historic downtown area. Designed by Atlanta-based architect Willis Franklin Denny, the building is the major Augusta example of Beaux-Arts Classicism, an architectural style which dominated monumental American architecture in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. A major feature of the building is its collection of stained glass windows, two of which bear the inscription "Tiffany Studios, New York." The site has been the location of Augusta's First Baptist Church since 1820 and in 1845 was the birthplace of the Southern Baptist Convention.

The origin of the church goes back even further to March 15, 1817 when 18 Augusta citizens organized the Baptist Praying Society. (A descendent of one of the charter members is still numbered among present day membership.) Perhaps the most significant aspect of the church's history occurred in 1845 when delegates from Maryland, Virginia, North and South Carolina, Kentucky, Florida, Alabama, Mississippi, Louisiana, Georgia and the District of Columbia met at the church. From this meeting evolved the Southern Baptist Convention, an important influence in religious life in the South today.

The original Classical Revival style church was demolished in 1902 to make way for the present structure. Relatively little is known of the architect Willis Franklin Denny (1872-1905) but from his building designs we can be certain that he had formal training in the architectural styles of the period. Dying at age 33 still he designed a number of major buildings in Georgia, some of which survive. His known designs follow two distinct architectural veins. In Atlanta three buildings which still stand (St. Mark's Church, 1902; First Methodist Church, 1903; Rhodes Memorial Hall, 1903) reflect the Richardsonian Romanesque style with its emphasis on mass and medievalistic character. Denny's designs in Beaux-Arts Classicism are represented by Atlanta's Piedmont Hotel (now demolished) and the First Baptist Church of Augusta, completed in 1903. The architectural features of First Baptist unmistakably distinguish it as a fine example of Beaux-Arts Classicism. The massiveness of the entire structure is climaxed by an imposing dome; arched and linteled openings are featured together on the main facade; varied textures highlight the many planes - from the motif of the pediment, to the Corinthian columns, to the masonry, to the stained glass windows. These windows are of cathedral proportions and further emphasize the monumentality of the church. The two inscribed

(continued)

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Jones, Anna Olive, History of the First Baptist Church, Augusta, Georgia, 1817-1967. (Augusta: First Baptist Church, 1967).  
 Malone, Dumas, Dictionary of American Biography, Vol. IX. (New York: Charles Scribner's Sons, 1935).  
 Whiffen, Marcus, American Architecture Since 1780: A Guide to the Styles. (Cambridge: MIT Press, 1969).

**10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY				OR	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES				
CORNER	LATITUDE		LONGITUDE		LATITUDE		LONGITUDE		
	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
NW	°	'	"	°	'	"	33	28	21
NE	°	'	"	°	'	"	81	58	02
SE	°	'	"	°	'	"			
SW	°	'	"	°	'	"			

UTM  
17/410100,  
3703910  
CD

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: one acre

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**11. FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME AND TITLE: William R. Mitchell, Jr., Director, Georgia Historic Sites Survey  
Carole Summers, Assistant

ORGANIZATION: Georgia Historical Commission DATE: October 21, 1971

STREET AND NUMBER: 116 Mitchell St., S.W.

CITY OR TOWN: Atlanta STATE: Georgia CODE: 13

**12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION**      **NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION**

As the designated State Liaison 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. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National  State  Local

Name: Mary Gregory Jewett Title: State Liaison Officer Date: October 26, 1971

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

Ernest A. Connally  
 Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation  
 MAR 23 1972

ATTEST: William H. Hentges  
 Keeper of The National Register  
 JAN 28 1972

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

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	
Georgia	
COUNTY	
Richmond	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

(Number all entries)

8. STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

"Tiffany Studios, New York" are noteworthy in their own right. (Louis Comfort Tiffany established his firm Tiffany Studios in 1900 only three years prior to the completion of the church.)

When the original Classical Revival style church was replaced by the present monumentally classical building, no expense was spared in erecting a structure that would appropriately express the significance of the site. Designed in the latest academic style of the day by an accomplished young Atlanta architect and decorated with the widely popular work of New York's Tiffany Studios, the First Baptist Church of Augusta was indeed an impressive addition to Augusta's park-like Greene Street. To see such an important site in Southern Baptist history discarded along with this building which continues such a proud architectural tradition is unthinkable.