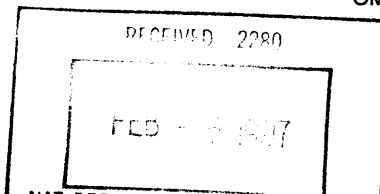


United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

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 making "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 First Baptist Church  
other names/site number NA

2. Location

street & number 510 Main Avenue NA  not for publication  
city or town Knoxville NA  vicinity  
state Tennessee code TN county Knox code 093 zip code 37902

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this  nomination  request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set for in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant  nationally  statewide  locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_  
Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer, Tennessee Historical Commission  
State or Federal agency and bureau \_\_\_\_\_

In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria. ( See Continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Herbert L. Hagen 2/3/97  
Signature of certifying official/Title \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_  
State or Federal agency and bureau \_\_\_\_\_

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:  
 entered in the National Register.  
 See continuation sheet  
 determined eligible for the National Register.  
 See continuation sheet  
 determined not eligible for the National Register  
 removed from the National Register.  
 other, (explain:) \_\_\_\_\_

Edson H. Beall \_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of the Keeper  
Date of Action 3/8/97

First Baptist Church  
Name of Property

Knox County, Tennessee  
County and State

**5. Classification**

**Ownership of Property**  
(Check as many boxes as apply)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

**Category of Property**  
(Check only one box)

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

**Number of Resources within Property**  
(Do not include previously listed resources in count)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1	1	buildings
		sites
		structures
		objects
1	1	Total

**Name of related multiple property listing**  
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

Knoxville & Knox County MPDF

**Number of Contributing resources previously listed in the National Register**

0

**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

RELIGION: religious facility

**Current Functions**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

RELIGION: religious facility

**7. Description**

**Architectural Classification**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

Neo-Classical

OTHER: octagon

**Materials**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation BRICK

walls BRICK; Indiana limestone

roof ASPHALT shingle; standing seam copper

other East Tennessee Marble

**Narrative Description**

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

First Baptist Church  
Name of Property

Knox County, Tennessee  
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.)

- A** Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- 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.
- D** Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

**Criteria Considerations**

(Mark "x" in all boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B** removed from its original location.
- C** moved from its original location.
- D** a cemetery.
- E** a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F** a commemorative property
- G** less than 50 year of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

**Areas of Significance**

(Enter categories from instructions)

Architecture  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Period of Significance**

1923--1924  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Significant Dates**

1923--1924  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Significant Person**

(complete if Criterion B is marked)  
NA  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Cultural Affiliation**

NA  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Architect/Builder**

Dougherty and Gardner, architects  
Worsham Brothers, contractor  
\_\_\_\_\_

**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 or more continuation sheets.)

**Previous documentation on file (NPS):** 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
- Name of repository:  
McClung Historical Collection, Knox Co. Public Library

First Baptist Church  
Name of Property

Knox County, Tennessee  
County and State

**10. Geographical Data**

**Acreage of Property** approximately 3 acres Knoxville 147 NW

**UTM References**

(place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	<u>17</u>	<u>236770</u>	<u>3983280</u>	3	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
2	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>	4	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>

See 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 Ann K. Bennett/Senior Planner  
organization Knoxville-Knox County Metropolitan Planning Commission date October 1996  
street & number 400 Main Avenue, 403 City-County Building, telephone 423-215-2500  
city or town Knoxville state TN zip code 37902

**Additional Documentation**

submit the following items with the completed form:

**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 acreage or numerous resources.

**Photographs**

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 First Baptist Church, c/o Mrs. Dorothy McGhee  
street & number 510 Main Avenue telephone NA  
city or town Knoxville state TN zip code 37902

**Paperwork Reduction Act Statement:** This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for 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 accordance 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.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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First Baptist Church  
Knox County, Tennessee

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## Narrative Description

The First Baptist Church of Knoxville, at 510 West Main Street, was built in 1923-24. The building was designed by the architectural firm of Dougherty and Gardner of Nashville, Tennessee and constructed by Worsham Brothers, a construction company in Knoxville, Tennessee. The building's design is Neo-Classical with Octagon influences evident in the portion of the building used for a sanctuary.

The First Baptist Church of Knoxville sits on an urban lot in downtown Knoxville. Most buildings surrounding the church are modern office buildings. The church's front (north) facade is raised above street level, and approached from limestone steps at the front sidewalk and through a landscaped front lawn. Additional limestone steps lead to the front entry, which is located on the second floor of the building. The north facade is composed of a two story pedimented portico supported by six stone columns with Corinthian capitals. A pediment also appears above the central entry door; flanking doors have no pediments. A frieze on the facade of the church contains carved stone festoons alternating with cherubs. Conical metal caps with spikes adorn the heads of the cherubs and were added shortly after the church was built, in 1924, to discourage pigeons roosting in the cherubs carved hair. Dressed, regular coursed limestone walls appear on the bottom third of the two story facade, with dressed limestone above a belt course on the top of the front wall. The entry porch on the north facade boasts a coffered porch ceiling with rosettes. The north facade is further enhanced by original cast iron electric lamps with leaf and Greek key motifs. They appear on dressed, regular coursed stone bases that form the buttresses for the entry steps. There are also lamps at the entrance to the lot at the sidewalk edge, where they decorate the entrance and a small limestone retaining wall.

In plan, the sanctuary, its front entrance, and choir rooms and other small support rooms to the rear of the sanctuary are designed as a modified octagon with flanking gable roof wings. The portion of the building that is derived from octagonal design is not a true octagon, since the eight sides are not equal in length. The sides that face the east, west, north and south are longer, while the angled sides that connect those four principal sides are approximately one-third their length. Gabled wings attach to the octagon-like structure on the north and south elevations, and a flat topped rectangular portion of the original building attaches at the rear and was built to house the Sunday School and church offices. To the rear of the Sunday School portion of the building, a second story walkway travels above Hill Avenue and, in turn, attaches to a rectangular brick three story structure (1959) on a lot at the rear of the original church. This building also houses Sunday School classes and an auditorium.

The first and second stories of the east and west elevation of the church building are constructed of dressed stone. On the second story, buff brick walls are framed by quoins and topped by a stone frieze with roundels. The clerestory of the eight sided portion of the building is inset slightly from the base. Arched stained glass windows mark the location of the sanctuary on the east and west elevations; the windows are separated by square pilasters topped with Doric capitals. The sanctuary occupies the eight-sided portion of the building.

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# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 2

First Baptist Church  
Knox County, Tennessee

The cornice above the eight-sided portion of the building is topped by a stuccoed parapet wall, which appears above a frieze highlighted with roundels and dentil molding. A smaller eight sided structure rises from the sanctuary portion of the building, and is topped by a shingled roof. The structure forms the clerestory for the sanctuary and contains round stained glass windows which light the balcony of the sanctuary. The exterior walls of this structure are covered with brick with limestone quoins.

On the east elevation, a central entrance is marked by a pedimented portico with engaged stone columns with Doric capitals. Steps of limestone lead from the street to this side entrance. The rear of the building is a three story, brick, flat roofed section designed as a Sunday School and office building. Tripartite double hung arched wood windows are found on the ground floor at the rear, east, and west elevations of the building. Flat headed windows are found on the basement and first floors of the remainder of the building. Due to the slope of the lot, the basement level is visible at the rear of the east and west elevations and on the south elevation. A belt course separates the first and second stories. Windows throughout the Sunday School portion of the building are nine over nine double hung wood windows.

The steeple of the church is also built of regular course dressed limestone. A square base projects from the front portico, and is topped by a bell tower with four arched windows topped by pediments. They in turn support the eight sided steeple, which is topped by a weather vane.

A three story brick building with a flat roof and six over six double hung wood windows was added to the church complex in 1959 for additional classroom and office space. It is constructed of buff-colored brick which matches the brick of the original building. The structure is joined to the original church building by an enclosed walkway one block above street level. The walkway enters through one of the original windows on the rear of the church. Other changes made to the church include the replacement of a balustrade which once appeared at the edge of the roof covering the octagonally shaped sanctuary. It was replaced by the current stuccoed parapet wall. The replacement was made necessary by nesting pigeons. The current asphalt shingle roof covering of the sanctuary replaced an original copper roof.

The most noteworthy interior architectural features of the First Baptist Church are the sanctuary and the foyer which leads to it, both of which are in nearly original condition. The sanctuary of the church is derived from an octagonal design, reflecting the exterior shape of the front portion of the building. The central entrance to the sanctuary leads through a circular foyer furnished with a gray East Tennessee marble floor with a cedar East Tennessee marble inlay in the shape of an eight-sided Star of Baptism. Dark gum wood paneling forms interior wainscot in this entry, and a round vaulted ceiling is centered by an original hanging light fixture. The ceiling is divided into elongated wedges by decorated ridged ribs, which meet at the light fixture. A frieze below the round vault of the ceiling is finished in gold leaf and alternates fluted triglyphs with an applied raised flower in each metope.

On the north wall of the foyer, paired leather covered, hobnailed doors lead to the sanctuary, while leather covered doors on the east and west walls lead to stairs which service the sanctuary's balcony and the ground floor of the building. The balustrades on the stairs are of turned wood spindles. Each of the doors in the foyer is surmounted by a recessed marble panel, engraved with scripture verses, and other the doors to the sanctuary are engraved with the names and dates of John L. Moses and James C. Moses, founders of the First Baptist Church.

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# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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First Baptist Church  
Knox County, Tennessee

The sanctuary itself is two stories in height, and roughly octagonal in shape. The original semi-circular church pews with two off center aisles lead to the chancel of the sanctuary. A balcony is located on the north, east and west walls of the sanctuary; the balcony rail is of gum wood with alternating panels in two designs. One of these panels is rectangular in shape and contains a cross framed by fluted columns; the other raised panel is diamond shaped and contains crossed acanthus leaves centered by a floral motif. Above the balcony are a series of columns (triforium) which mark the entries to each bank of balcony seats and provide support for the sanctuary roof. On the shorter sides of the eight-sided sanctuary, the columns form a full arch with an applied bracket to resemble a keystone; the keystone is embellished with a carved Jerusalem cross. These engaged columns are square with Doric caps and a frieze molding in Greek fret pattern. At the center of each of these arches is an applied keystone with a square column with a Jerusalem cross. Above the balcony on the west, south and east walls are three full arches formed by round engaged columns with Corinthian capitals of acanthus leaves. The underside of each of these arches has a panel of raised design of a scallop shell. Arches are also formed perpendicular to the wall; the panels on the underside of these arches are patterned with tresse.

Stained and leaded glass windows are located on the balcony floor of the sanctuary and are fairly simple in pattern, with a full arch and a circular stylized dogwood. The color of the stained glass in the sanctuary is a mottled beige and white, selected to blend with the subdued colors of the sanctuary while being more subtle than brightly colored glass. In the panels formed by each arch on the sanctuary wall is a festoon. Rectangular acoustical tiles laid in a herringbone pattern form the ceiling of the main sanctuary floor under the balcony. Original light fixtures under the balcony are suspended from metal rosettes.

Another principal feature of the main floor of the sanctuary is a central rectangular vault in the ceiling, outlined by raised molding. The innermost molding is embellished by stylized anthemion. Dentils adorn the second molding, then there is a wave patterned molding, then a water leaf or lotus leaf molding. At the center of this vault is suspended a large, original Italian-made chandelier that holds one hundred bulbs. There is modern lighting in the sanctuary so that Sunday services can be broadcast on television. Below the sanctuary is the Fred Brown Chapel. It contains an elaborate stained glass window designed by Jacoby of St. Louis.

The chancel of the sanctuary is topped by a segmental arch with an octagonally patterned coffered ceiling. The dais is raised, and a recessed panel railing separates the choir seats. Behind the choir is the Baptistry, which is behind a balustrade of East Tennessee marble ornamented with a circular motif. Two engaged marbleized columns with Ionic capitals support a pedimented roof. Under the pediment is a full arched recess marked by a ribbed vault. A frieze embellished with carved modillions and paterae appears under the pediment, which is topped by flanking urns. Pierced panels obscure the organ pipes, and are separated by a frieze with a wave ornamentation.

Arches flank the chancel and are supported by engaged columns with Doric capitals and a composite frieze with a wave ornament and a water leaf or lotus leaf molding. The chancel is further separated from the walls of the sanctuary and balcony by an angled engaged panel of marble ornamented to resemble a column, with a styled Ionic capital with volutes in gold leaf. At the top of the column capitals around the sanctuary is another frieze embellished with paterae. Above that frieze is a series of bull's-eye clerestory windows with a

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National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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First Baptist Church  
Knox County, Tennessee

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palm leaf swag under each. The sanctuary is rich with ornamentation, and includes an abundance of gold leaf, marble, and dark gum wood paneling and pews. Ornamentation includes the Greek key, a wave pattern, tulips, lotus, dogwood, and urns. Above each arched door entering the sanctuary is an applied garland, a symbol of welcome. The original organ in the sanctuary is a Schantz pipe organ, with 58 ranks and 3,153 pipes.

The remainder of the interior of the building is largely intact, but without the exuberant ornamentation of the church. One office on the second floor to the rear of the sanctuary still boasts the dark gum wood beams that form its coffered ceiling. In the Sunday School portion of the building, rooms at the rear are marked by a balcony. The balustrade is of square posts and flat spindles with cut out stylized tulips and flowers, all executed in gum wood. The raised portion of the room is divided into classrooms, while the lower portion of the floor is used as general assembly space. The balcony has been divided by walls added c. 1960, which bisect the balcony and the elevated and lower portions of the room; however, the balcony's materials and the original floor and room divisions were left intact.

Changes to the interior include the replacement of the original sanctuary ceiling dome plaster with a lighter, material (the design exactly duplicates the original). Carpet has been installed in the sanctuary, and the original interior baptistery surfacing of gold leaf and East Tennessee marble has been replaced with a lighter, plastered surface. The remainder of the building contains tiled floors, plaster walls and other features commonly found at the time of the building's construction. Under the sanctuary on the first floor of the building, original storage and classroom space was remodeled in the 1960s to contain a chapel.



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# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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First Baptist Church  
Knox County, Tennessee

## Statement of Significance

The First Baptist Church, 510 West Main Street, Knoxville, Tennessee, is being nominated to the National Register of Historic Places under criterion C, for its significant architectural design, which includes elaborate interpretations of Neo-classical design elements coupled with a building plan influenced by the Octagonal style. Built in 1923-1924 from plans by Dougherty and Gardner, the highly ornamented building retains its integrity on the exterior and interior.

The First Baptist Church was organized on January 15, 1843, through the efforts of brothers James C. and John L. Moses. Its first church service was held on January 22, 1843, and its first baptismal service on January 28 of that year in the Tennessee River near First Creek. The church's first building was on Gay Street and was constructed in 1850. The church also assembled one of the earliest libraries in Knoxville, within a few years of its founding.

In 1863, when the Union Army occupied Knoxville, the First Baptist Church was closed, as were all other churches in Knoxville except for the Episcopal Church, whose rector was an outspoken advocate of the Union. The church building became a Union hospital and, later, a school for freedmen, who were housed in the basement and attended classes on the upper stories. The building was returned to the church with extensive damages, for which some reparations were paid, after the Civil War. In 1866, the First Baptist Church was again functioning with a full-time pastor.

The church's growth made a new church building necessary. The first of these was built on the location of the original church building, on Gay Street, in 1887. However, by 1919, the church had outgrown that building, with a membership that totaled 1,115. As the church continued to grow, Dr. F. F. Brown became pastor of the First Baptist Church in 1921. From May of 1921 until May of 1925 church membership increased by 1,019. There were 1,200 individuals in the Sunday School in 1922. The land on which the present building stands, at the corner of Walnut and Main, was purchased in 1921, when Main Street was still a residential street. The cornerstone for the building was laid in 1923. The building cost about \$600,000.00 to build over the course of a year and one hundred fifty workmen were employed in its construction. The new church included a sanctuary that could hold 1,200 people and Sunday School space for 2,685 students. The church building required an enormous amount of building material. Common brick (1.6 million) came from Georgia; 120,000 face brick came from Ohio; seventeen car loads of terra cotta arrived from New Jersey; Tennessee and Mississippi supplied twenty-five car loads of lumber; structural steel came from Chattanooga; and thirty-three car loads of limestone came from Indiana. Also included in the building of the church were thirteen car loads of cement, twenty-five car loads of gravel, four car loads of lime, marble from Tennessee, steel windows from Detroit, and glass from Chicago.

The building was formally dedicated on September 7, 1924, and again, in 1929, rededicated because the indebtedness on the building was paid off. In 1958, the church developed the building program that led to the construction of the education building located on the block south of the Sanctuary, a connecting elevated, enclosed walkway across Hill Avenue. At this time, major maintenance and the installation of central air conditioning in the older building were also accomplished. The work was completed in March, 1960.

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First Baptist Church  
Knox County, Tennessee

The First Baptist Church was designed by the Nashville architectural firm of Dougherty and Gardner, and is listed as one of their most noteworthy accomplishments. They specialized in the design of southern churches, including the Baptist Church of Winston-Salem, North Carolina, St. Mary's Community Group of New Orleans, Louisiana and the Baptist Church of Eldorado, Arkansas. They also were the architects of the Belle Meade Country Club in Nashville, Tennessee and cooperated with the firm of McKim, Meade and White in the design and construction of the War Memorial Building in Nashville.

Edward Dougherty was born in Atlanta, Georgia in March, 1876, and attended the University of Georgia and Cornell University. He began his architectural practice in Atlanta, moving to Nashville in 1916, and forming the partnership with Gardner in 1917. The partnership lasted until 1930. Thomas W. Gardner was born in 1882 in Winchester, Tennessee. He attended Peabody College for two years, and began working for Cumberland Telephone and Telegraph in Nashville, Tennessee, at age 18; within two years he was the draftsman in the chief engineer's office, and soon became the chief engineer. The company merged with Southern Bell in 1912, and Gardner elected to stay in Nashville rather than move to Atlanta. He formed the architectural partnership of Hart and Gardner, and, in 1917, became a partner in Dougherty and Gardner. In 1926 the firm maintained an office in Knoxville as well as well as Nashville.

In designing the First Baptist Church, the architects relied on several suggestions embodied in contemporary church literature. In particular, the form of the church, with its sanctuary elevated above grade, and the large Sunday School facility to the rear, is one espoused in publications by the Sunday School Board of the Southern Baptist Convention in Nashville, Tennessee. They did not, however, adhere to all of the advice contained in that publication, since the publication strongly advised that an architect be selected based on credentials, and not asked to participate in a design competition. The architectural firm selected to design the First Baptist Church was selected through a design competition. The Architectural Department of the Sunday School Board of the Southern Baptist Convention in Nashville published a booklet about the building of the church. Titled "A Church Building Planned To Meet Present Day Needs," it contains information on the building, selection committee, and what the committee wanted for the new church building. The building was to have space for congregational worship, mid-week services, lectures and entertainment, training and teaching, recreation and social activities, and office spaces.

References to church design in literature published by the Methodist Church can also be seen in the design of First Baptist Church. In particular, the incorporation of the Sunday School rooms is specifically mentioned in literature published by the Cokesbury Press in Nashville, Tennessee in 1928. Whether the congregation of First Baptist Church was aware of the various church publications is not known, but concepts contained in them can be seen in the architectural design of the church.

First Baptist Church, throughout its history, has been instrumental in developing ministries that address social problems in Knoxville and in the mission field. First Baptist Church provided a leadership role in race relations. There were forty-six members in the newly organized church in 1843, fifteen white men, eleven white women, eight African-American men and twelve African-American women. By 1844, there were seventy-three regular members. The church organized a Sunday School in 1845, the first in East Tennessee. A library was essential because teaching reading was one of the Sunday School's important functions. Over half (thirty-nine of seventy) of its members were African-Americans. The church conducted a Sabbath School to teach Knoxville's African-Americans to read; the teacher in charge of the school was a

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**National Park Service**

# **National Register of Historic Places**

## **Continuation Sheet**

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First Baptist Church  
Knox County, Tennessee

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twelve year old who had two younger assistants. It was not until the Civil War that the African-American members of First Baptist left that church to form a separate one.

After the Civil War, First Baptist Church turned many of its energies to the growing Baptist mission field, supporting missionaries in locations as diversified as China and the Indian Territory in Norman, Oklahoma. The church has continued its strong mission involvement. First Baptist Church sponsored one of the first radio stations in Knoxville, in 1924, and has long had an active college program reaching out to students at the University of Tennessee. It also has an active ministry to the deaf. The congregation of First Baptist Church over the years has sponsored new churches such as the Broadway Baptist Church/Second Baptist Church, Calvary Baptist Church, Deaderick Avenue Baptist Church, and West Hills Baptist Church. All except the Deaderick Avenue church have large and active congregations. (The Deaderick Avenue church building burned.)

The design of the First Baptist Church in Knoxville, Tennessee is unique for churches in this community. First Baptist Church's own literature describes it as reflecting the design of London's St. Martin-in-the-Field and the style as being a mixture of Baroque Classical, English Renaissance, and Romanesque. The use of the octagonally inspired sanctuary, as well as the extensive use of Neo-classical ornamentation, is not seen on other church buildings in the community. The history of First Baptist Church is also noteworthy for its involvement in the community. The stately building on Main Street, which retains so much of its original fabric and design, symbolizes its significance and the importance of the congregation in Knoxville's history. From its inclusion in Knoxville's Dogwood Festival tours, to the sound of its carillon marking the hours in downtown Knoxville, to the use of its sanctuary for community functions as well as worship through out the year, the unique architecture of its main building and Sanctuary fulfills the role of community and religious leadership that First Baptist Church embodies.

The property meets the registration requirements set forth in the Knoxville and Knox County multiple property nomination.

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National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 9 Page 8

First Baptist Church  
Knox County, Tennessee

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## Bibliography

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- "Dogwood Arts Festival Architectural Tour of Downtown Churches, First Baptist Church." Brochure, N.D.
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- Siler, Nancy J. *First Baptist Church, Knoxville, Tennessee, 1843-1993*. First Baptist Church, Knoxville, TN: 1992.

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# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 10 Page 9

First Baptist Church  
Knox County, Tennessee

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## Verbal Boundary Description

The property is mapped on Knox County CLT Map 94 as Parcels 11 and 20.

## Boundary Justification

The parcel described above is the entire parcel on which the church sits.

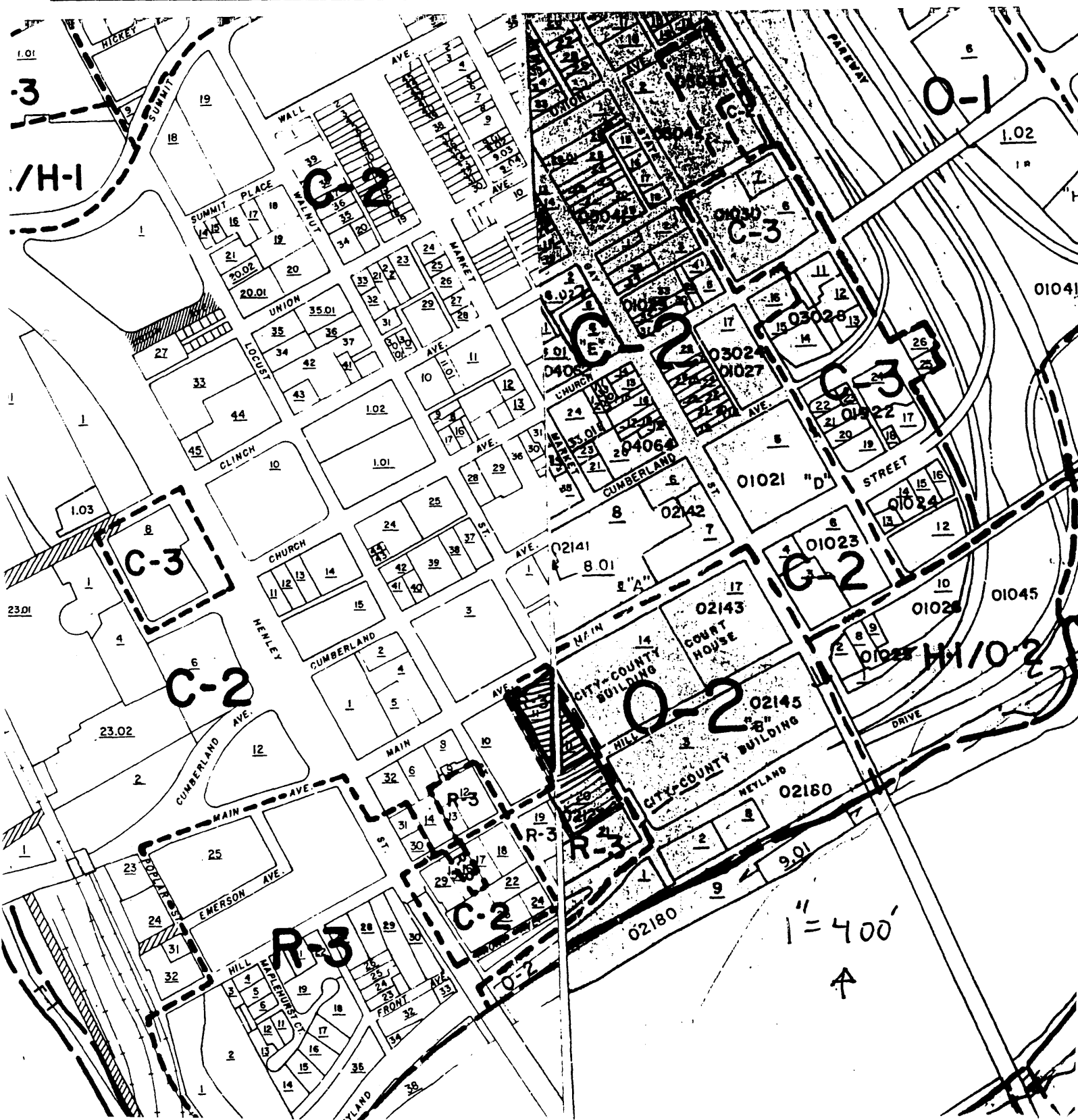
The tax map has a scale of 1" = 400'. This is the only map scale available.

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# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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First Baptist Church  
Knox County, Tennessee



United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number photos Page 11

First Baptist Church  
Knox County, Tennessee

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## Photographs

First Baptist Church  
510 Main Avenue  
Knoxville, Knox County, Tennessee  
Photo by: Cathryn E. Irwin  
Date: June 5, 1996  
Neg: Tennessee Historical Commission

Northeast corner of lot, facing west, church marquee  
#1 of 24

North elevation, facing south  
#2 of 24

Southwest elevation of sanctuary, facing northeast  
#3 of 24

Southwest elevation, facing northeast  
#4 of 24

South elevation, facing northeast  
#5 of 24

Southeast elevation, facing northwest  
#6 of 24

Southeast elevation, facing northwest  
#7 of 24

East elevation, facing west  
#8 of 24

East elevation of sanctuary, facing west  
#9 of 24

East elevation of addition, facing west  
#10 of 24

Detail, east side of steeple, facing west  
#11 of 24

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# **National Register of Historic Places**

## **Continuation Sheet**

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First Baptist Church  
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Detail, northeast corner of portico, facing southwest  
#12 of 24

Detail of portico, northwest corner of portico, facing south  
#13 of 24

Detail, portico lantern, east corner of portico, facing northeast  
#14 of 24

Interior detail, ceiling of sanctuary baptismal font, facing south  
#15 of 24

Interior detail of sanctuary, west elevation, facing northwest  
#17 of 24

Interior detail, marble base of baptismal font, south elevation, facing southwest  
#18 of 24

Interior detail of sanctuary, west elevation, facing southwest  
#19 of 24

Interior detail of sanctuary balcony pilasters, east elevation, facing northwest  
#20 of 24

Interior detail of sanctuary balcony woodwork, west elevation, facing west  
#21 of 24

Interior detail of sanctuary, original light fixture, east aisle ceiling, facing east  
#22 of 24

Interior detail, staircase to second floor balcony, northeast vestibule in sanctuary, facing south  
#23 of 24

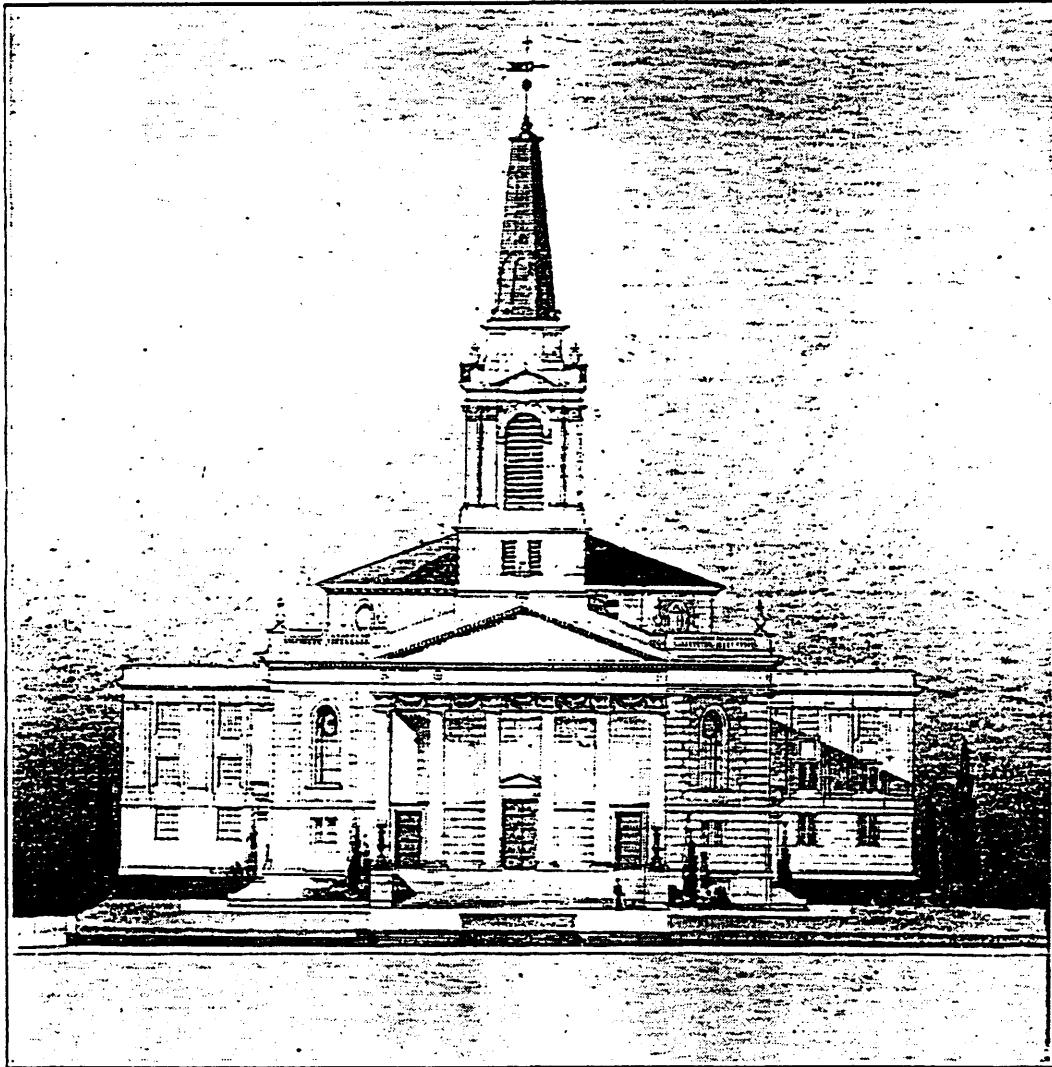
Interior detail, leather covered hobnailed door, 2nd floor balcony, northeast corner, facing north  
#24 of 24



# A CHURCH BUILDING

Planned To Meet Present Day Needs

P. E. BURROUGHS, Architectural Secretary



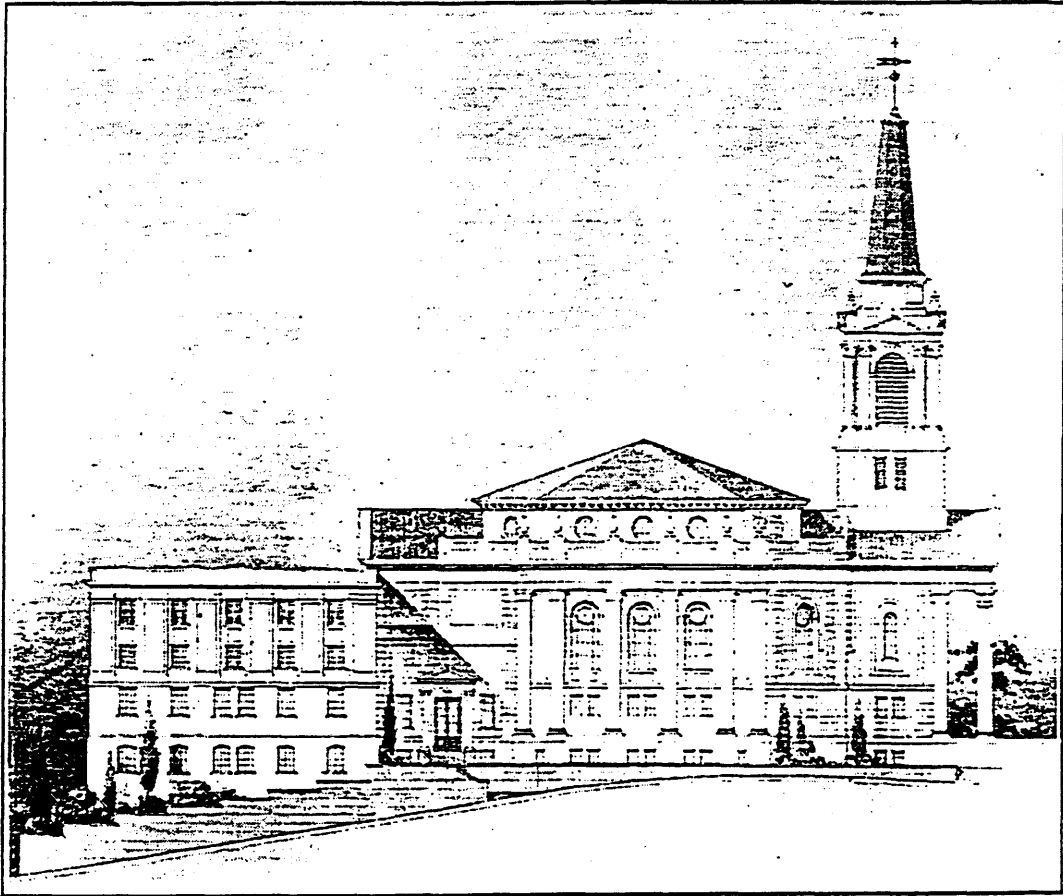
DOUGHERTY & GARDNER, Architects

Front Elevation, First Baptist Church, Knoxville, Tenn.

A-25

ISSUED BY THE  
ARCHITECTURAL DEPARTMENT OF THE SUNDAY SCHOOL BOARD  
SOUTHERN BAPTIST CONVENTION, NASHVILLE, TENN

First Baptist Church, Knox County, TN

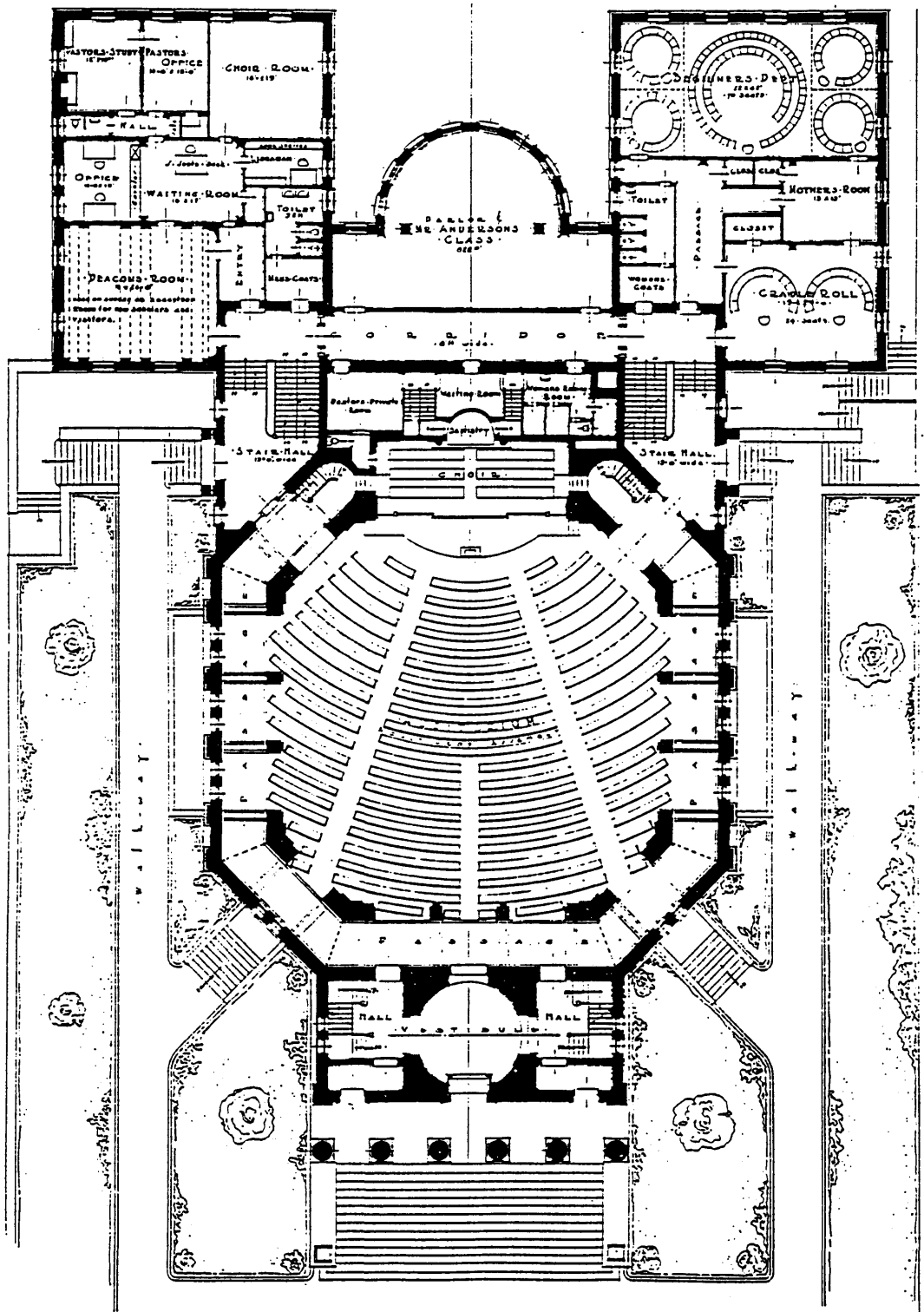


DOUGHERTY & GARDNER, *Architects*

Side Elevation, First Baptist Church, Knoxville, Tenn.

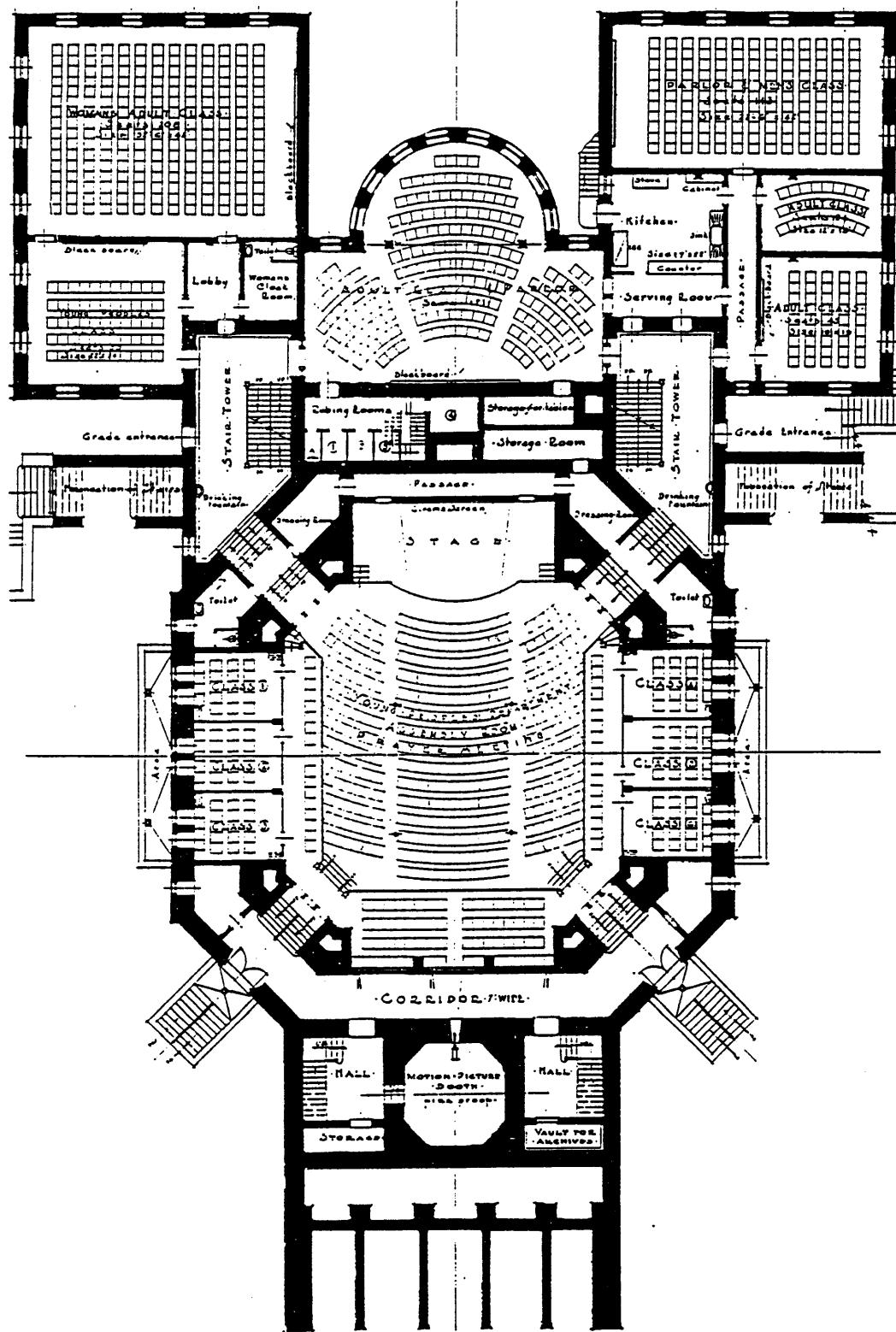
(Plans approved by the Church, July, 1922.)

First Baptist Church, Knox County, TN



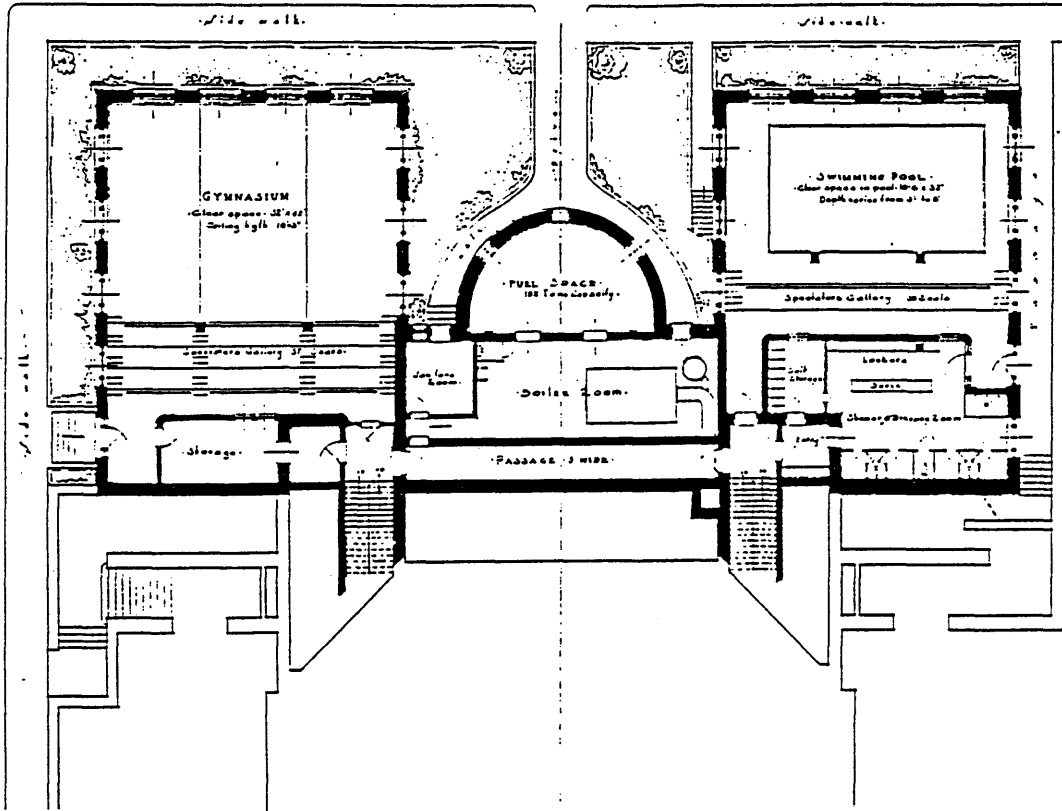
MAIN FLOOR PLAN

First Baptist Church, Knox County, TN



GROUND FLOOR PLAN

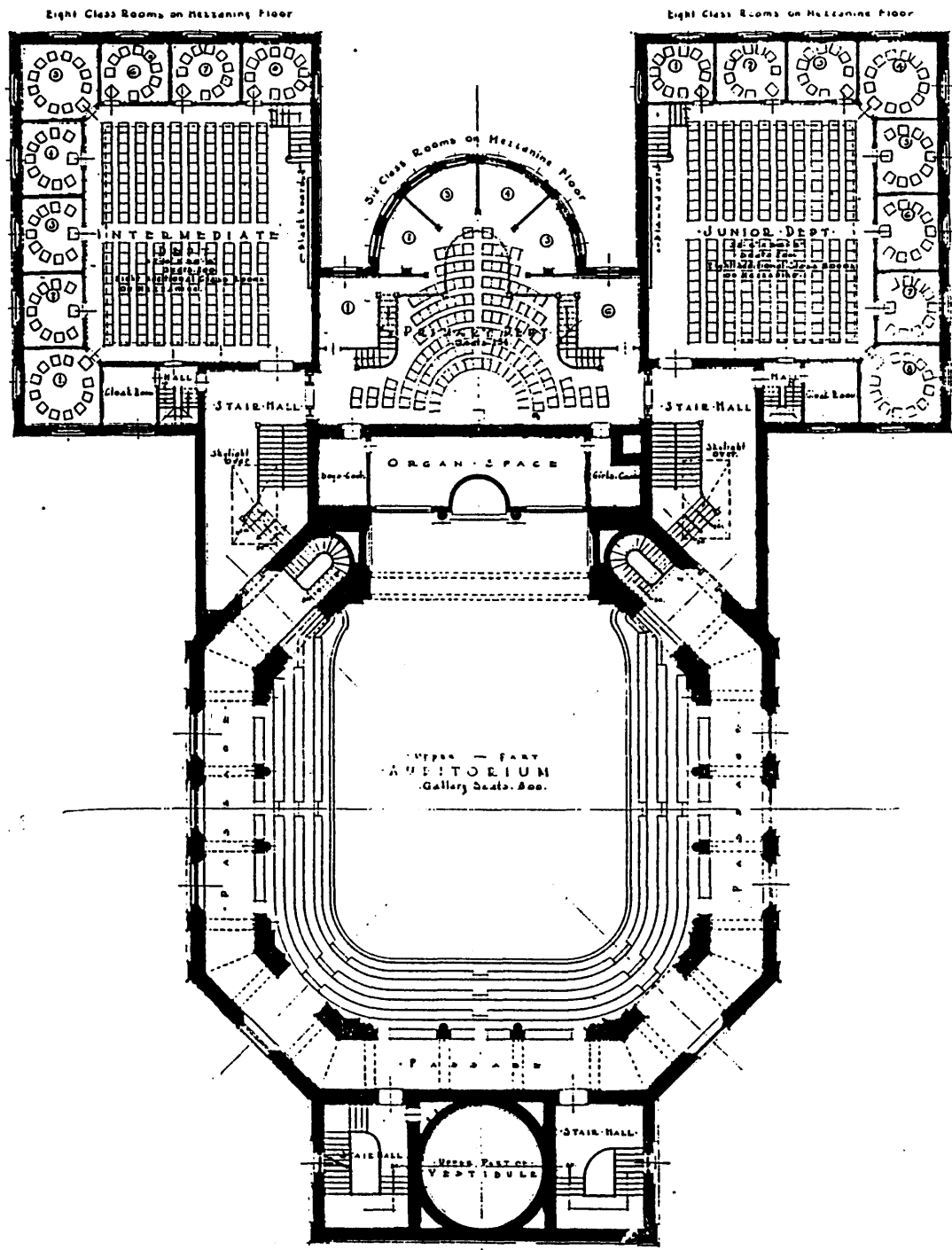
First Baptist Church, Knox County, TN



UNEXCAVATED

RECREATION (Basement) FLOOR PLAN

First Baptist Church, Knox County, TN



BALCONY FLOOR PLAN