

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number _____ Page _____

SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING RECORD

NRIS Reference Number: 05000300

Date of Listing: April 20, 2005

Property Name: First Baptist Church, Kingston

County: Jefferson

State: Alabama

The Civil Rights Movement in Birmingham, Alabama, 1933-1979
Multiple Name

This property is listed in the National Register of Historic Places in accordance with the attached nomination documentation subject to the following exceptions, exclusions, or amendments, notwithstanding the National Park Service certification included in the nomination documentation.

for Daniel J. ...
Signature of the Keeper

April 20, 2005
Date of Action

Amended Items in Nomination:

Section 8. Statement of Significance

The period of significance is hereby changed to 1961-1962, to more accurately reflect the period in which the church and its congregation played an important role in the Civil Rights movement in Birmingham.

These changes were discussed with and approved by the National Register staff of the Alabama SHPO.

The Alabama State Historic Preservation Office was notified of this amendment.

DISTRIBUTION:

- National Register property file**
- Nominating Authority (without nomination attachment)**

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 First Baptist Church, Kingston
other names/site number Lighthouse Church Ministries

2. Location

street & number 4600 Ninth Avenue North N/A not for publication
city or town Birmingham N/A vicinity
state Alabama code AL county Jefferson code 073 zip code 35212

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] March 3, 2005
Signature of certifying official/Title Date
State Historic Preservation Office, Alabama 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.)

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:)

for Signature of the Keeper Date of Action
Daniel J. Vivian 4/20/05

First Baptist Church, Kingston
Name of Property

Jefferson County, Alabama
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
- public-State
- public-Federal

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

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1		buildings
		sites
		structures
		objects
1	0	Total

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

Birmingham Civil Rights Movement, 1933-1979 MPS

Number of Contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

RELIGIOUS: church

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

RELIGIOUS: church

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

Colonial Revival

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Brick; Concrete
walls Brick
roof Asphalt Shingle
other Metal; Vinyl; Glass

Narrative Description

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

See continuation sheets.

First Baptist Church, Kingston
Name of Property

Jefferson County, Alabama
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 the 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 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Narrative Statement of Significance
(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

Areas of Significance
(Enter categories from instructions)

Social History
Ethnic Heritage: African American

Period of Significance
1956-63

Significant Dates
1961-62

Significant Person
(Complete if Criterion B is marked)
N/A

Cultural Affiliation
N/A

Architect/Builder
N/A

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: Birmingham Historical Society,
Birmingham Public Library; Birmingham Civil Rights Institute

First Baptist Church, Kingston
Name of Property

Jefferson County, Alabama
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property Less than one acre

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1 16 521520 3711180
Zone Easting Northing
2 _____

3 _____
Zone Easting Northing

4 _____

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 Carroll Van West, with earlier material by Linda Nelson and Marjorie White
organization Center for Historic Preservation date March 24, 2004
street & number Middle Tennessee State University—Box 80 telephone 615-898-2947
city or town Murfreesboro state TN zip code 37132

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 Lighthouse Church Ministries (Rev. Roderick J. Holt)
street & number 4600 Ninth Avenue North telephone 205-
city Birmingham state Alabama zip code 35212

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.

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First Baptist Church, Kingston, Jefferson County, AL

VII. Description

The historic First Baptist Church, Kingston (now Lighthouse Baptist Ministries) is at 4600 Ninth Avenue North, situated on a corner lot within a late 1960s public housing project. It is a Colonial Revival-styled one-story gable-front brick building, which rests on a full basement. It has an asphalt shingle gable roof and a brick and concrete foundation.

The west façade has three symmetrical bays. The center bay is a paneled double-door entry under a blind round-arched over-panel over which a projecting portico with pediment, supported by wrought iron posts and with a wrought iron railing. The portico dates c. 1951, but the iron posts date c. 1970. Both main and porch gables are faced with lapped composition boards; a belfry, louvered lantern, and steeple, the latter of which was added to the belfry c. 1970, rises from a front roof-beam, giving the building a distinctive Colonial Revival appearance. Flanking the central entrance are metal-framed four-pane rectangular slag glass windows painted blue. The sanctuary level is reached by flight of concrete and brick staircases from either the north or south side. The staircases have metal rails. A parapet wall exists between the stairs, with a door centered into its wall; the door has a small barrel canvas awning, supported by metal poles, over it

The north elevation has six symmetrical bays with 12-light metal-frame slag glass windows painted blue with central hoppers. Shallow brick pilasters define the bays. The basement level windows are also symmetrical, with 6-light metal-frame of stippled glass, each with a concrete sill. The north elevation also has an entry for the basement and the sanctuary at the second bay from the rear. The basement entry is original but the sanctuary entry was installed c. 1985 to make the building more handicap accessible. The entry is reached by a long brick and concrete handicap access ramp that has a metal railing. This is a flat metal awning over the sanctuary entrance. The ramp lies along the length of the elevation.

The south elevation is similar to the north, except that it lacks the handicap access ramp. The second bay from the rear also contains a metal door only on the basement level.

The east elevation is mostly a solid brick wall. An off-centered wood door is at the basement level and an eight-light metal-frame slag glass window painted blue exists in the center of the upper half of the sanctuary level.

The interior has experienced few changes since c. 1970. A small vestibule leads into the main sanctuary. The sanctuary has a slightly barreled plaster ceiling. A central aisle divides the room into two sections of wood pews. The dais and central pulpit has three rows of perpendicular pews against walls at front; the dais is set behind a broken archway with choir pews at the rear against a curtained rear wall. Other walls are plastered except for the balcony facing and the lower rear wall; the balcony, which has low headroom, is supported by boxed pine columns. The floor is carpet over hardwood.

The basement also retains its historic appearance. A large fellowship hall with modern kitchen is flanked by smaller rooms used for Sunday School instruction. Men's and women's restrooms are also in the basement.

The church meets the registration requirements for church buildings in the Birmingham's Civil Rights Movement, 1933-1979 MPS. It retains a high degree of integrity in setting, location, design, materials, workmanship, and association.

In 2001, the First Baptist Church of Kingston sold the property to Lighthouse Church Ministries.

Archaeological Component

Although no formal archaeological testing has been conducted, the potential for subsurface materials remains.

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First Baptist Church, Kingston, Jefferson County, AL

VIII. Significance

The historic First Baptist Church, Kingston is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A, as one of the leading Birmingham churches involved in the Alabama Christian Movement for Human Rights (ACMHR) during the Civil Rights era of the 1950s and 1960s. It meets the registration requirements as a locally significant strategy center for Criterion A found in the Birmingham's Civil Rights Movement, 1933-1979 MPS.

Rev. George W. Dickerson led the congregation from 1941 to 1972. He was an officer in the Alabama Christian Movement for Human Rights, and an active leader in the organization until his death. The church was one of the early activist congregations in the ACMHR. In its 1958 annual report, the ACMHR listed the church among a number of others "where we have met—so many times" and where the doors had been "generously opened for us." In this listing, the ACMHR asserted that "This is a people's movement—of all the people. Nothing stops the people from enthusiastically coming each night to sing, pray and to give. These are Mass heroes." Historians of the Civil Rights Movement have long discussed the intersection of faith and activism in the mass meetings held at various Birmingham churches. Historians of the Civil Rights Movement have long discussed the intersection of faith and activism in the mass meetings held at various Birmingham churches. Historian and Baptist minister Wilson Fallin, Jr., emphasized:

The influence of the African-American church and its peculiar culture on the ACMHR stands out most vividly in the organization's weekly mass meetings. These meetings were essentially African-American church worship services. The meetings began with a thirty-minute devotional service made up of prayers, spirituals, and meter hymns, followed by singing by the ACMHR choir. The presider, usually ACMHR vice-present, the Reverend Edward Gardner, offered brief remarks. A local supporting pastor delivered a sermon. President Shuttlesworth then made some remarks and the ushers took up the offering. The meetings were very emotional with much shouting. . . . The emotionalism of the mass meetings, as in an African-American church, provided not only emotional release but also the courage to fight the forces of segregation in a hostile environment. (Fallin, 15-16)

Furthermore, the mass meetings were important tools of oral communication for a society that had few other public options, since open discussion of civil rights strategies over the airwaves or in print could provoke severe reactions from white extremists. Furthermore, activists knew that to reach the core working-class residents of their neighborhoods, meetings in the churches were much more effective venues than print or electronic media. It was thus at the churches where activists, often a combination of local ministers, community leaders, and the occasional visitor from another Civil Rights hotbed, relayed the important messages and key strategies to be debated and carried out. The churches were safe havens in an often hostile environment.

First Baptist Church, Kingston held one of the most significant ACMHR mass meetings on May 15, 1961, the night following the vicious mob attack on the Freedom Riders at the Trailways Station in downtown Birmingham. Historian Andrew Manis tells the story:

News of the events of the previous two days had raised attendance and stimulated the zeal of some 350 congregants anxious for a firsthand report from their leader. The vice president, Ed Gardner, began the rollicking meeting by poking fun at the detectives, noting with irony that 'our Commissioner [Bull Connor] sends them here each Monday night, but we can't find them when we need them.' As the meeting proceeded, Shuttlesworth moved back and forth between the sanctuary and the pastor's office, keeping posted on unfolding developments at the airport [where the Riders were scheduled to leave]. At 9:15 p.m., Fred took the pulpit to fire up the troops. Knowing he had wired Connor on Sunday morning with word of the riders' arrival, he complained bitterly of the absence of the police: 'This is the worst city in the world, where Mr. Connor or any other Commissioner of the Police Department will say, 'We didn't know violence would happen.' They are a damn liar.' He then held them spellbound, recounting the events of [the previous day]. . . . After he left once again and returned from another phone call with Robert Kennedy, the crowd cheered their leader who was on a first-name basis with the brother of the president of the United States.

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First Baptist Church, Kingston, Jefferson County, AL

They especially reveled in Shuttlesworth's boast that the attorney general had told him, 'If you can't get me at my office, just call me at the White House.' The triumphant meeting concluded with a congregation caught up in the shouting experiences of African American religion and with Ed Gardner leading the cheers for Shuttlesworth: 'Don't we have a great president who has courage and conviction!' (Manis, 270)

First Baptist Church of Kingston hosted several mass meetings before the Birmingham police kept detailed records, which are available from 1961 to 1963. The church was the location of five ACMHR mass meetings recorded in 1961 and 1962. In addition to the May 15, 1961 meeting, the church hosted a January 16, 1961 meeting at which the ACMHR leadership introduced Carl Braden of the Southern Conference Education Fund (an outgrowth of the New Deal era Southern Conference for Human Welfare that had met in Birmingham in the 1930s) to the members. Historians consider Braden to be one of the most important white Civil Rights leaders of the era. Voter rights and registration were major topics of that meeting. Another ACMHR mass meeting on November 12, 1962, addressed the strategy for the Selective Buying Campaign for the Christmas shopping season.

In the late 1960s, Rev. Dickerson and his congregation experienced a major change in their neighborhood as the historic owner-occupied residences that surrounded their church were replaced with a public housing project. The church continued in this building until 2000 when it completed a new building and then sold its historic building to Lighthouse Baptist Ministries in 2001.

The historic First Baptist Church, Kingston meets the registration requirements for Criterion A as listed in the Birmingham's Civil Rights Movement, 1933-1979 MPS. The church was an important strategy center for the Movement and was associated with the movement's reaction to the Freedom Riders riot of May 1961.

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First Baptist Church, Kingston, Jefferson County, AL

IX. Bibliography

Alabama Christian Movement for Human Rights (ACMHR) Meeting and Police Department Records, Eugene ("Bull") Connor Papers, Birmingham Public Library Department of Archives and Manuscripts, Birmingham, Alabama.

Annual Report, 1958, Alabama Christian Movement for Human Rights. Birmingham: ACMHR, 1958.

Birmingham News, May 16, 1962.

First Baptist, Kingston Church Files, Birmingham Historical Society Civil Rights Collection-Alabama Christian Movement for Human Rights and Civil Rights Churches Files, Birmingham Historical Society, Birmingham, Alabama. Files include Board of Equalization Records, City Directory Trace, and Photographs.

Eskew, Glenn T. *But for Birmingham.* Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 1998.

Fallin, Wilson, Jr. "Rock Solid Faith: African American Church Life and Culture in 1956 Birmingham." Marjorie L. White and Andrew M. Manis, eds. *Birmingham Revolutionaries: The Reverend Fred Shuttlesworth and the Alabama Christian Movement for Human Rights.* Macon, GA: Mercer University Press, 2000. 7-18.

Hendricks, Lola. Interviews with Marjorie L. White. 1999. Birmingham Historical Society.

Manis, Andrew M. *A Fire You Can't Put Out: The Civil Rights Life of Birmingham's Reverend Fred Shuttlesworth.* Tuscaloosa: University of Alabama Press, 1999.

McWhorter, Diane. *Carry Me Home.* New York: Simon & Schuster, 2000.

"1956-Eight Years of Progress-1964." *Alabama Christian Movement for Human Rights, Inc., Annual Report.* Birmingham: ACMHR, 1964.

White, Marjorie L., *A Walk to Freedom-The Reverend Fred Shuttlesworth and the Alabama Movement for Human Rights.* Birmingham: Birmingham Historical Society, 1998.

X. Verbal Boundary Description and Justification

The nominated boundaries of First Baptist Church, Kingston at 4600 Ninth Avenue North are represented by Lots 19-20, I. W. Frith addition, as marked on the attached Jefferson County Tax Map 01-23-20-4, Sections SE ¼ 20, Township 17 South, Range 2 West. The boundaries contain all of the historic property significantly associated with the First Baptist Church, Kingston.

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Photographs Page

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First Baptist Church, Kingston, Jefferson County, AL

First Baptist Church, Kingston
Birmingham, Jefferson Co., AL

Photographs (exterior) by: Carroll Van West
MTSU Center for Historic Preservation
July 2003

Photographs (interior) by: Birmingham Historical Society
January 2000

West façade and north elevation, facing east
1 of 9

North elevation, facing southwest
2 of 9

East elevation, facing southwest
3 of 9

Sanctuary, facing east
4 of 9

Pulpit from balcony, facing northeast
5 of 9

Pulpit, facing east
6 of 9

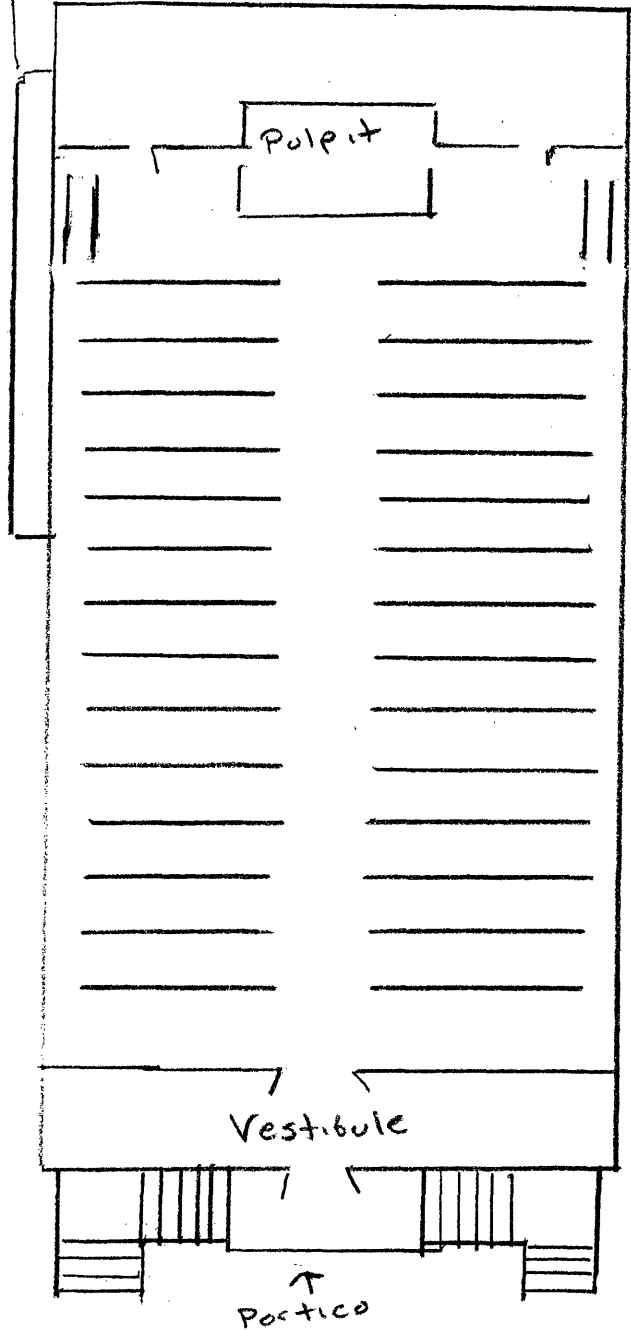
Sanctuary, from pulpit, facing west
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Sanctuary, facing northeast
8 of 9

Sanctuary, facing southeast
9 of 9

9th Ave N

handicap ramp



First Baptist, Kingston
4600 9th Ave N
Birmingham AL

← N
NTS:2004

465+ N