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United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

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National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

NATIONAL REGISTER

NATIONAL REGISTER

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

historic name First Baptist Church

other names/site number 8 Po 1161

2. Location

street & number 338 East Central Avenue

n/a not for publication

city, town Lake Wales

n/a vicinity

state Florida code FL county Polk

code 105 zip code 33854

3. Classification

Ownership of Property

- private public-local public-State public-Federal

Category of Property

- building(s) district site structure object

Number of Resources within Property

Table with 2 columns: Contributing, Noncontributing. Rows for buildings, sites, structures, objects, Total.

Name of related multiple property listing: Lake Wales Multiple Property Group

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, 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 forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet.

Signature of certifying official Florida State Historic Preservation Officer

Date 7/14/90

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet.

Signature of commenting or other official

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register. determined eligible for the National Register. determined not eligible for the National Register. removed from the National Register. other, (explain):

Signature of the Keeper Andy Federman

Date of Action 8/31/90

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Religion/religious structure

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Religion/religious structure

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(enter categories from instructions)

Late 19th & 20th Century Revival/ Classical
Revival: Neo-Classical Revival

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation Concrete
walls Brick
roof Metal
other Stone

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

PLEASE SEE CONTINUATION SHEETS

8. Statement of Significance

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

nationally statewide locally

Applicable National Register Criteria A B C D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) A B C D E F G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

Architecture

Period of Significance

1923

Significant Dates

1923

Cultural Affiliation

n/a

Significant Person

n/a

Architect/Builder

Unknown/Unknown

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

PLEASE SEE CONTINUATION SHEET

See continuation sheet

9. Major Bibliographical References

- Ahl, Janyce B. Crown Jewel of the Highlands - Lake Wales, Florida. Lake Wales, 1983.
- Blumenson, John. Identifying American Architecture, A Pictorial Guide to Styles and Terms, 1600-1945. Nashville, TN, 1977.
- Kaucher, Dorothy. They Built A City. Lake Wales, 1970.
- Maddex, Diane, Ed. Built in the U.S.A.: American Buildings from Airports to Zoos. Washington, D.C., 1985.
- Poppeliers, John C., et al. What Style Is It?, A Guide to American Architecture. Washington, D.C., 1983.

See continuation sheet

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 Record # _____

Primary location of additional data:

- State historic preservation office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Specify repository: _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of property Less than 1 acre

UTM References

A

1	7	4	4	2	5	6	0	3	0	8	6	1	4	0
Zone		Easting				Northing								

C

Zone		Easting				Northing								

B

Zone		Easting				Northing								

D

Zone		Easting				Northing								

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

All that property contained in Lot 1, Block 36 of the original community of Lake Wales, Polk County, Florida.

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

The boundary includes the entire city lot that has historically been associated with the property.

See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Stephen Olausen, Barbara E. Mattick/ Historic Sites Specialist

organization Bureau of Historic Preservation date July 1990

street & number R.A. Gray Blq., 500 S. Bronough Street telephone (904) 487-2333

city or town Tallahassee state Florida zip code 32399-0250

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National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetSection number 7 Page 1 First Baptist Church, Lake Wales Multiple Property
Group

SUMMARY:

The First Baptist Church at 338 East Central Avenue contributes to the Lake Wales Multiple Property Group under Associated Property Type F.3, **Public, Transportation, and Religious Buildings of Lake Wales, 1919-1928**. Built in 1923, the church is an excellent example of high-style Neoclassical architecture. It is situated on a large corner lot dotted with palm trees. Its style is expressed by its modified cruciform plan with a central dome, full-height pedimented gable portico with classical entablature and Ionic columns, round-arch stained glass windows with brick and keystone surrounds, and poured concrete foundation.

PRESENT AND ORIGINAL PHYSICAL APPEARANCE:

The First Baptist Church at 338 East Central Avenue is a two-story Neoclassical style building with a full basement. Notable architectural features include a modified cruciform plan consisting of two cross-gable roof blocks. A prominent octagonal dome projects from the intersection of the two gable roofs. The dome has a rounded cap with an urn finial. All roof surfaces are clad with pressed metal shingles. The cruciform plan is modified by the use of diagonal walls at the junction of the two main building blocks. The exterior fabric of the building is buff brick.

The main (north) facade is dominated by a full-height pedimented gable portico (photo 1). The pediment is outlined by a classical entablature with dentil molding. A stained-glass oculus window is located in the gable end of the pediment. The roof of the portico is supported by Ionic columns, which are echoed by rectangular pilasters on the main facade. A large cement stairway leads to the sidewalk and is flanked by concrete rails and two lamp posts with globe lights. The facade of the building is symmetrical, radiating around an axial double door entrance with pediment and pilaster surrounds. The entrance is flanked by two double-hung sash, stained-glass windows with concrete slab lintels and sills. The second story fenestration consists of round-arch stained glass windows, decorative brick, and keystone surrounds.

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Section number 7 Page 2 First Baptist Church, Lake Wales Multiple Property
Group

Other notable architectural features include three-panel double door entrance on the east side, with a pedimented gable roof on carved brackets (photo 3). The east facade bays are partitioned by rectangular Ionic pilasters. A rear flat roof extension is located in the southeast junction of the main blocks (photo 4). There is an end, exterior brick chimney located on the south end of the rear extension, and a similar end, interior stack located on the south slope of the east extension.

The interior of the church is adorned with decorative trims and mouldings. They consist of a chair rail, milled window and door frames, and a classical entablature that encircles the building at the junction of the walls and ceiling (photos 5 and 6). The main entrance opens into a vestibule flanked by stairs leading to a second story balcony (photo 7). The vestibule leads to an auditorium that is focused around a semicircular altar. A rectangular choir box and baptistry are located behind the altar. The two side extensions of the building encompass ancillary rooms used for Sunday school classrooms and the pastor's study. The interior has undergone some alteration due to the conversion of the sanctuary into an auditorium and classroom building. The original pews have been replaced, and the original pipe organ has been partially removed (photos 8 and 9).

The most significant alteration to the building is a large, 1950s, three-story addition on the southwest corner (photo 10). Other alterations include the replacement of the original double front panel doors with a modern glass door with aluminum surrounds and the addition of a handicap ramp to the east side. Aside from those alterations, the building retains its architectural integrity to a large degree.

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Section number 8 Page 1 First Baptist Church, Lake Wales Multiple Property
Group

SUMMARY:

The First Baptist Church 338 East Central Avenue is locally significant under Criterion C in the area of architecture. It is an excellent example of high-style Neoclassical architecture, a popular contemporary design for public, religious and institutional buildings. The church contributes to the Lake Wales Multiple Property Group under Associated Context: **Boomtime Development, 1919-1928** and Associated Property Type F.3: **Public, Transportation, and Religious Building, 1919-1928.**

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE:

The First Baptist Church is one of two churches in Lake Wales that are exceptional examples of high-style architecture constructed during the Florida land boom period of development. Built in 1923, the church is the best example of the contemporary Neoclassical style in Lake Wales. Architectural features which distinguish as such include its monumental portico with colossal Ionic columns and pilasters, grand stairway at the main entrance, pedimented gables, and dentil cornice.

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Photographs _____ 1 First Baptist Church, Lake Wales Multiple Property
Section number _____ Page _____ Group

- 1 1) First Baptist Church, Lake Wales Multiple Property
 Group
 2) Lake Wales, Polk County, Florida
 3) Stephen Olausen
 4) 1989
 5) Historic Property Associates, St. Augustine, FL
 6) Main (N) facade, camera facing S
 7) 1 of 10

Items 1-5 are the same for the following photographs unless noted otherwise.

- 2 6) N and W elevations, camera facing SE
 7) 2 of 10
- 3 6) E elevation, camera facing W
 7) 3 of 10
- 4 6) Rear (S) elevation, camera facing NW
 7) 4 of 10
- 5 3) Max Monarch
 4) 1990
 6) Interior, showing chair rails and window mouldings,
 camera facing NW
 7) 5 of 10
- 6 3) Max Monarch
 4) 1990
 6) Interior, showing window mouldings and ceiling
 cornice, camera facing NE
 7) 6 of 10
- 7 3) Max Monarch
 4) 1990
 6) Balcony, camera facing N
 7) 7 of 10
- 8 3) Max Monarch
 4) 1990
 6) Seats that replaced the original pews, camera facing
 NW
 7) 8 of 10

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Photographs _____ 2 First Baptist Church, Lake Wales Multiple Property
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- 9
 - 3) Max Monarch
 - 4) 1990
 - 6) Partially removed organ, camera facing S
 - 7) 9 of 10

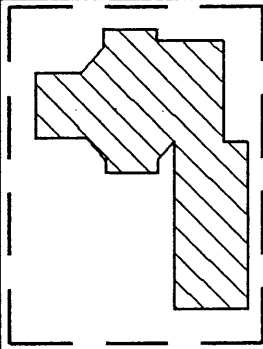
- 10
 - 6) Addition at SW corner of original building, camera facing SE
 - 7) 10 of 10

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

FOURTH STREET


E. CENTRAL AVENUE

328



KEY:

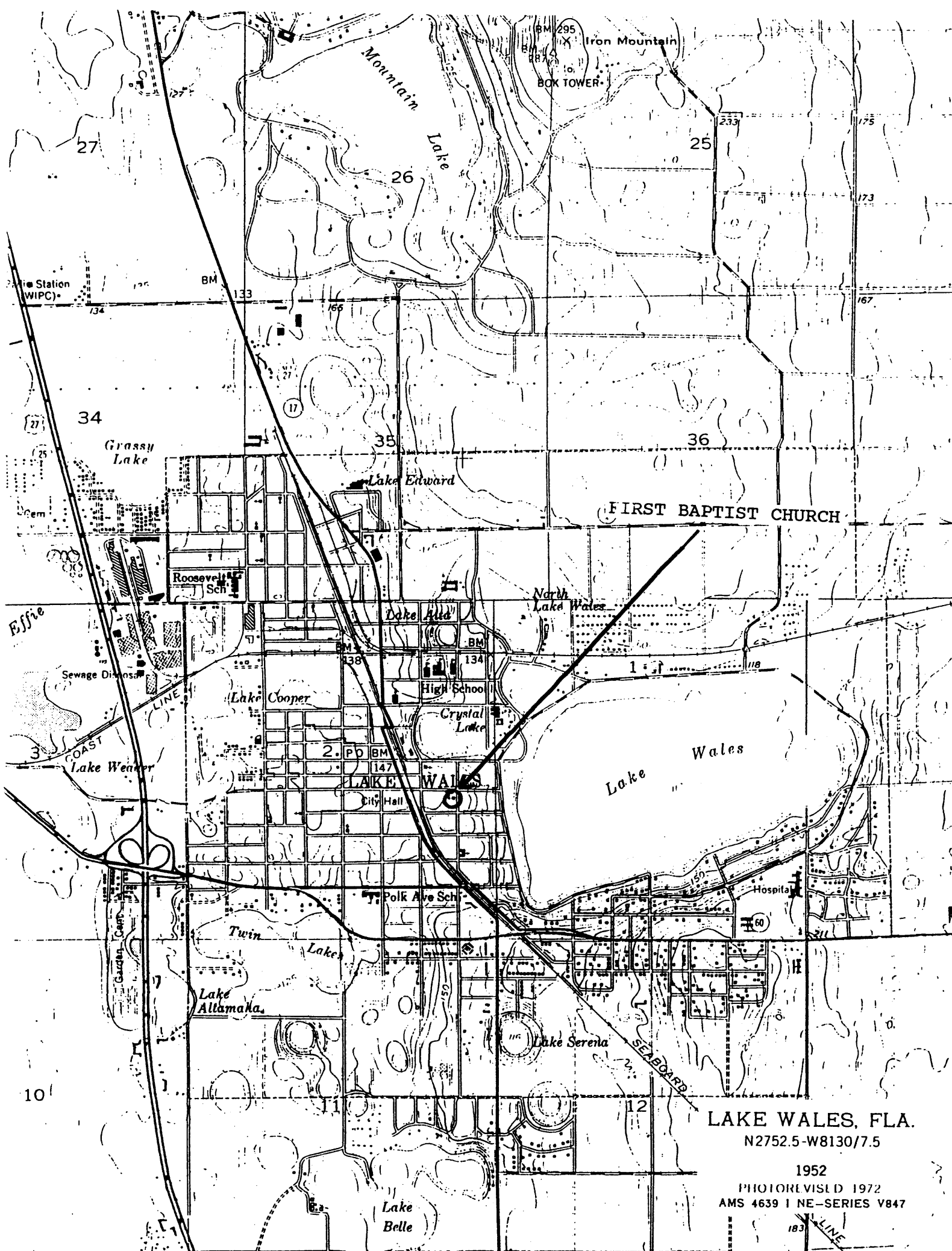
BOUNDARY ———

CONTRIBUTING PROPERTY 

SCALE: 1" = 80'



E. TILLMAN AVENUE



LAKE WALES, FLA.
N2752.5-W8130/7.5

1952
PHOTOREVISED 1972
AMS 4639 I NE-SERIES V847

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