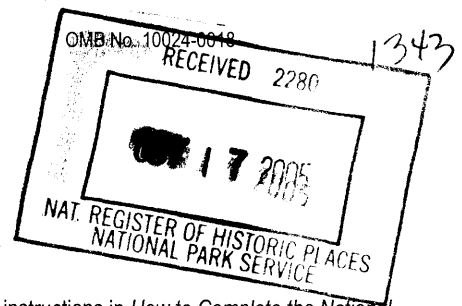


United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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 10-9000a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

Historic name Ebenezer Baptist Church
Other name/site number 005-0260-0708

2. Location

Street & number 826 Riley not for publication
City or town Atchison vicinity
State Kansas Code KS County Atchison Code 005 Zip code 66002

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 forth 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] 10/12/05
Signature of certifying official/Title Kansas State Historical Society Date

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 commenting 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:)

[Signature] for
Wilson H. Beall 11.30.05
Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

Ebenezer Baptist Church
Name of Property

Atchison Co., Kansas
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 the count.)

| Contributing | Noncontributing | |
|--------------|-----------------|------------|
| 1 | | buildings |
| | | sites |
| | | structures |
| | | objects |
| 1 | | total |

Name of related multiple property listing

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

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

N/A

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)

Late Gothic Revival

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

Foundation: Brick; Limestone

Walls: Brick

Roof: Asphalt

Other: Limestone

Narrative Description

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

Ebenezer Baptist Church

Name of Property

Atchison Co., Kansas

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

- 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 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 a birthplace or grave.
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)

Architecture

Period of Significance

1911-1923

Significant Dates

1911, 1923

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Smothers, Reverend William

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):

- 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:

Ebenezer Baptist Church
Name of Property

Atchison Co., Kansas
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property Less than one

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1

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| 1 | 5 | 3 | 1 | 7 | 5 | 2 | 0 | 4 | 3 | 8 | 1 | 8 | 9 | 0 |
| Zone | | Easting | | | | | Northing | | | | | | | |

2

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|------|--|---------|--|--|--|--|----------|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|
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| Zone | | Easting | | | | | Northing | | | | | | | |

3

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| Zone | | Easting | | | | | Northing | | | | | | | |

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| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Zone | | Easting | | | | | Northing | | | | | | | |

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 Kathy L. Morgan

Organization Morgan Consulting Date March 12, 2004

Street & number 1207 W. 14th St. Telephone 316-267-8821

City or town Wichita State KS Zip code 67203

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 SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

Name Board of Ebenezer Baptist Church

Street & number 826 Riley Telephone 913-367-5146

City or town Atchison State KS Zip code 66002

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 listings. 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 20503

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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 7 Page 1

Ebenezer Baptist Church
Name of property

Atchison County, Kansas
County and State

LATE VICTORIAN: Gothic Revival

Architectural Description Overview

Located at 826 Riley, the Ebenezer Baptist Church is a Gothic Revival structure built in 1911-ca. 1923. The current configuration of the structure remains as it was completed by 1923, built on the side of a hill. The building remained unchanged until 1962 during the tenure of Reverend Harry L. Smith. For the next 13 years multiple improvements were made; the church sanctuary was redecorated, aisles and restrooms were carpeted, tiles installed in the vestibules and back rooms, building was re-wired, restrooms were improved, front doors were modernized and all of the stained-glass windows were repaired.

The church was designed by Rev. William Smothers and was the third home of the congregation. The building was completed over several years. The cornerstone of the building to the east of the tower entrance is engraved with the name of the church, the date, and a scripture reference dedicating the building. The basement and first-floor auditorium were completed by spring of 1912 and the sanctuary was completed between January 1919 and January 1924.¹ It is a very good example of the Gothic Revival style commonly used for religious buildings through the early 20th Century.

The brick church is a front gable, two-story side-facing, T-plan structure with a gable wing on the west side of the building. The roof is composite shingle with stepped parapets on the gable ends and modillions in the open eaves. The brick is laid in a running bond with intricate limestone detailing. The buttresses and continuous sill wrap the length of the east and north façades. The sill continues south around the corner on the west elevation and the north side of the gable wing. The stained-glass windows located on the east side of the sanctuary, the large stained-glass tracery window in the front gable, and the windows in the tower and side entrance are original. The large stained-glass tracery window in the front gable is a memorial to Rev. Smothers.

North Façade

The Ebenezer Baptist Church is oriented to Riley Street. The front gable is accentuated by a course of five rows of running bond brick that runs parallel to the rake of the gable. The front façade is anchored with an entrance at either end. Stairs with brick wing walls capped with limestone slab lead up to a projecting two-and-one-half-story square tower marking the main entrance on the east end of the building. The secondary entrance replicates the design of the tower entrance but doesn't project as far out from the building as the main entrance. Both pointed-arch entrances are capped with limestone pointed-arch hoods with engaged pommels at the point. Above both limestone pointed-arch hoods are shaped pediment limestone molded coping cornices with a flowing tracery rakes. The cornice on the tower entrance rests on pilasters flanking the entrance. The cornice on the secondary entrance rests on stepped ribbed

¹ *100th Anniversary of the Ebenezer Baptist Church of Atchison: March 26, 1877 to March 26, 1977*, pg 1-2.

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Section 7 Page 2

Ebenezer Baptist Church
Name of property

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limestone atop buttresses flanking the entrance. Stepped ribbed limestone courses continue above the ears of the shaped limestone pediments. A free-standing pommel sits on the peak of the shaped pediment. The original wood flowing tracery transom remains above modern glass panel double doors on both entrances. Between the entrances on the first floor are triple one-over-one sash windows with a continuous limestone sill. Immediately above the triple windows is the large stained glass tracery window dedicated to the memory of Rev. Smothers. A limestone lintel stretches between the two entrances. The limestone pointed-arch hood used in the entrances is replicated over the stained glass window.

The second story of the tower has two, one-over-one sash with pointed-arched stained-glass transoms. Engaged limestone piers rise up to a limestone, blind-flowing tracery capped by limestone cornice. Above the cornice, the tower is decorated with a Latin cross on a shield surrounded by acanthus leaves centered in a pedimented merlon. The peak of the merlon rises above the corner merlons. There is a stepped embrasure between the center and corner merlons. The corner merlons have limestone quoins.

East Façade

The east side of the tower has the same detailing as the north elevation in the upper façade. There are two offset one-over-one, stained-glass sash windows that light the landings of the interior stairwell. These windows have limestone label hoods. There is a one-over-one wood sash window in the first floor that lights the vestibule. The tower projects from the east wall about eight feet. Buttresses ascend the entire height of the tower ending in the stepped cornice. Five buttresses create five bays in the wall. Below the continuous limestone sill is a solid brick wall at the basement level. Each bay has a one-over-one wood sash window in the first floor with the exception of a wood panel door with a transom in the bay at the south end. There are no stairs down to grade from this door. A one-over-one sash, stained-glass window is in the second floor. This window lights the stairwell that leads to the chancery. The three center bays have pointed-arch stained glass tracery windows. The last bay is solid brick. The center bay has a segmental arched window in the basement level that has been blocked in. There is a single segmented arch one-over-one stained glass sash window in the first floor in the east side of the projecting square bay as the south end of the building.

South Façade

The gable end of the south façade has a two-and-one-half-story projecting square bay which accommodates the chancery in the auditorium and sanctuary. The bay has a shed roof with asphalt shingles. There is a single one-over-one sash window in the first floor. Centered in the gable end above the shed roof of the chancery is a circular louvered attic vent. A one-over-one wood sash window is in the first floor east of the projecting bay. On the west corner of the projecting bay is a sloped cellar door providing an exterior entrance to the basement. The south side of the two-story wing has two segmented-arch, one-over-one, stained-glass wood sash windows in the second story. A one-over-one wood sash window is paired with a glass panel door in the first floor. This paired opening has a

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Ebenezer Baptist Church
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segmental arch lintel. A small stoop comes off the back door with stairs down to the yard. To the east of the door are two segmental arch one-over-one wood sash windows.

West Façade

The wing of the structure extends from the west elevation with the gable roof attaching to the main roof below the ridge line. The buttresses adorn only the north end of the west façade. The gable end of the wing and the south end of the façade lack ornamentation other than the stained-glass one-over-one, wood sash windows in the second floor. The first floor windows are one-over-one wood sash windows. A circular louvered attic vent is centered in the gable end.

Interior

Each entrance on the north exterior wall open into vestibules that provide access to the first floor assembly hall and stairways leading up to the second floor sanctuary. The vestibule at the main entrance has an airlock room created by a beaded board partition wall with glass panel double doors flanked by multi-light single sash windows. The interior woodwork has a clear varnish finish. The walls in the vestibules have been covered with 1970s blonde wood paneling and the stair treads and risers have been carpeted. With the exception of the double doors in the partition wall in the main entrance vestibule, the doors throughout the interior are wood panel. On either side of the chancery in the assembly hall and sanctuary are stairwells from the basement to the choir loft. The basement houses the mechanical systems for the building.

The first floor assembly hall and west wing have tile floors with painted plaster walls and beaded board ceilings. The assembly hall has a modest chancery at the south end of the room for informal services. A small kitchen is located in the west wing. A series of paneled doors separates the assembly hall space and the west wing.

The sanctuary is illuminated by a large, stained-glass tracery window in the north wall and three pointed-arch tracery stained-glass sash windows in the east wall. The vaulted, beaded board ceiling has exposed wooden ribs. Panel doors span the length of the west wall separating classrooms from the sanctuary. Three sections of wood pews face the pulpit and choir loft. The choir loft is situated behind the pulpit and separated by a four-foot, beaded board partition. The pulpit extends from the front wall into the sanctuary. A wide segmental-arch springs from Doric pilasters framing the choir loft and pulpit. The pews and the wood floors are original. The aisles were carpeted and padding added to the pews during renovations made after 1962.

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Section 8 Page 1

Ebenezer Baptist Church
Name of property

Atchison, Kansas
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Statement of Significance Overview

The Ebenezer Baptist Church meets Criterion C in the area of Architecture as a very good example of the Gothic Revival style. This masonry structure has well-executed stained glass gothic windows, distinctive use of limestone articulating windows, entrances, buttresses, blind flowing tracery details, and interior wood trim and ceilings. The building exemplifies the attention that was paid to craft and utility and form that expresses the interior shape. The sanctuary level of the building is emphasized with the use of stained glass windows and the stairwell stained glass windows leading up to the sanctuary. Opposite of the chancery is the memorial stained glass window dedicated to Reverend William Strothers, who designed the church building and served as the pastor from 1881 to 1913.

Historic Context

In May 1854, President Pierce signed the Kansas and Nebraska Act officially opening the land for white settlement. The United States government signed a treaty with the Kansa and Osage that ceded their claims on tribal lands that would become northeastern Kansas. Atchison was incorporated on August 30, 1855 by a special act of the territorial legislature¹.

Along with political, social and economic development came the religious beliefs and values that were ever present in the westward expansion of the country. Those organizations sharing their distinctive beliefs in the Kansas territory were Catholics, Quakers, Mennonites, Episcopalians, Lutherans, Methodists, Presbyterians and Baptists. The Baptists can document their presence in the Kansas territory to the establishment of a Baptist Shawnee Indian Mission in 1831 and the first Baptist Church in Indian Territory in 1832 established among the Creek Indians². The American Baptist Home Mission appointed missionaries William W. Hall and James Gulpatrick in 1854 to organize congregations. A Baptist congregation was established in Atchison in 1858³. Atchison hosted the first meeting of a Baptist Association in Kansas on October 1 – 3, 1858 in which six congregations were represented. Eight months later, Atchison once again was at the forefront when the Kansas Baptist Convention was organized with delegates from 22 churches from five associations represented. Three years later the convention met in Lawrence and recorded 40 churches and 29 ministers in the Kansas territory. The Baptist Convention recorded ten Baptist Associations, 146 churches – 24 were African American, 84 ministers – 23 were African American, and a membership of 6,087 of which 1,643 were African American⁴.

According to the history of the Ebenezer Baptist Church of Atchison published in 1977, there were two African American Baptist churches in Atchison with a combined membership of approximately 265 people. The

¹ Wolfenbarger, Deon. *Atchison Historic Resources Survey Analysis: Summary Report*. September 25, 1998. pp 10-11.

² Bright, John D., Ph. D. *Kansas: The First Century, Vol II*. Lewis Historical Publishing Company: New York. pg.352.

³ Ibid. pg 353.

⁴ Ibid. pg 353.

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Section 8 Page 2

Ebenezer Baptist Church
Name of property

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congregations consolidated on March 29, 1877 and formed the Ebenezer Baptist Church⁵. Located at the northeast corner of Sixth and Santa Fe Streets, the first church building was wood frame, which was later torn down and a brick structure built. In 1911 this brick structure was completely destroyed by fire. The congregation held services at the True Eleven Hall until the auditorium of the existing structure was completed in the spring of 1912.

Criterion C - Architecture

The Gothic Revival style has been a popular church architecture since the 1840s. Trinity Church in New York City (1839-1846) designed by Richard Upjohn (1802-1878) is the best example of Early Gothic Revival. Upjohn is considered the father of Gothic Revival in America⁶. The American tradition of Gothic Revival for church architecture has its roots in Protestant England. By the time Gothic Revival arrives in the Midwest, it becomes a vernacular form of a Protestant Gothic Revival Church. Key characteristics of Gothic Revival Style are asymmetry, battlements, lancet-arch windows, foils, tracery, towers, label moldings, steeply pitched gable roofs with the gable at the center of the façade and vertical emphasis created by exterior wall materials that extend uninterrupted into the gables.

The Ebenezer Baptist Church exhibits the key characteristics of the Gothic Revival style architecture in its elaborate limestone details in the blind flowing tracery, the pointed-arch, stained-glass windows with limestone label hoods and pointed-arch hoods, the tower with an elaborate battlement, the steeply pitched roof and the asymmetry of the front façade. Interior spaces reflect the utility of the exterior form, and craft details are executed in the richness of wood panel doors and beaded board in the ceilings and wall treatments. This two-story church has remained relatively unchanged since its completion in 1923 and qualifies for listing in the National Register under Criterion C.

⁵ *100th Anniversary of Ebenezer Baptist Church of Atchison*, pg 1.

⁶ Harris, Cyril M. *American Architecture: An Illustrated Encyclopedia*. Norton & Company: New York, pg 155.

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Ebenezer Baptist Church
Name of property

Atchison County, Kansas
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Wolfenbarger, Deon. *Atchison Historic Resources Survey Analysis: Summary Report.* September 25, 1998.

100th Anniversary of Ebenezer Baptist Church of Atchison, 826 Riley Street, March 26, 1877 to March 26, 1977.

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Ebenezer Baptist Church
Name of property

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VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The nominated property is located on an interior lot on the south side of Riley Street. The legal description of the property is Lot 3, Block D, Old Atchison.

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

The boundary is the original location of the Ebenezer Baptist Church built in 1911.

PHOTOGRAPHS

The following information is consistent for all photographs:

1. Ebenezer Baptist Church
2. Atchison Co., Kansas
3. Photograph by Kathy L. Morgan
4. July 24, 2004
5. Negatives on file at KSHS

The following information is specific to each photograph:

| <u>Photo #</u> | <u>Description of View</u> |
|----------------|--|
| 1. | View of front elevation from the north |
| 2. | View from the northwest |
| 3. | View from the southwest |
| 4. | View from the southeast |
| 5. | View from the east |
| 6. | Detail above tower entrance |
| 7. | Detail above west entrance |
| 8. | Tower parapet detail |
| 9. | Eave bracket detail |
| 10. | View of sanctuary and west side classroom doors |
| 11. | View of memorial stained-glass window on north wall |
| 12. | View of stained-glass windows along east wall of sanctuary |
| 13. | View of ground floor assembly hall |
| 14. | View of ground floor kitchen |
| 15. | View of restroom on ground floor |