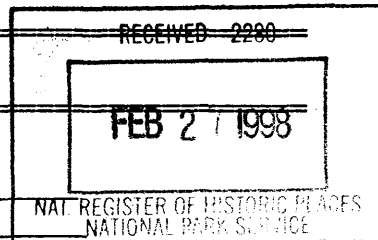


285

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES REGISTRATION FORM

1. Name of Property **ST. PAUL BAPTIST CHURCH**



historic name: _____

other name/site number: _____

2. Location

street & number: 821 B Street

not for publication: N/A

city/town: St. Albans

vicinity: N/A

state: WV

county: Kanawha

code: 039

zip code: 25177

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.)

Susan M. Pierce 2/19/98
Signature of Certifying Official Date

State or Federal agency and bureau Date

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 Date

St. Paul Baptist Church
Name of Property

Kanawha County, WV
County and State

4. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby certify that this property is:

Signature of Keeper

Date of Action

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): _____

[Handwritten Signature] 4/13/98

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	
<u>1</u>		buildings
		sites
		structures
		objects
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	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

St. Paul Baptist Church
Name of Property

Kanawha County, WV
County and State

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

Current Functions

RELIGION: Church

RELIGION: Church

7. Description

Architectural Classification:

Materials

Gothic Revival

Foundation

Brick

Walls

Wire Brick

Roof

Asphalt Shingles

Other

Narrative Description

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

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.

X 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.

St. Paul Baptist Church
Name of Property

Kanawha County, WV
County and State

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.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

Architecture

Period of Significance

1921-1925

Significant Dates

1921

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Brown, Albert G.

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):

- 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: _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property: Less than one acre

UTM References (Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

17	426740	4248600	St. Albans Quad Map
Zone	Easting	Northing	

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.)

St. Paul Baptist Church
Name of Property

Kanawha County, WV
County and State

11. Form Prepared By

Name/Title: Katherine Jourdan, SHPO , with Eugene Washington, church member

Organization: WV SHPO

Date: November 20, 1997

Street & Number: 1900 Kanawha Blvd East

Telephone: 304/558-0220

City or Town: Charleston

State: WV

Zip: 25305

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

Name: Rev. G. Lind Taylor, St. Paul Baptist Church

Street & Number: 821 B Street

Telephone: 304/727-1742

City or Town: St. Albans

State: WV

Zip: 25177

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

St. Paul Baptist Church
Name of Property

Kanawha County, WV
County/State

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Sited on the corner of 8th Ave and B Street, the red brick church has an elevated first floor with the fellowship hall on the lower level. The corner entrance is at the base of a square tower. The tower has a rusticated roof edge and arched windows on the two levels above entrance. This main entrance has two pairs of double doors under a pointed arch with stained glass transom. The bronze metal doors have religious symbols embossed on the surface. A metal awning was later attached to cover the doorways and handicapped ramp.

The front facade has two rows of ribbon windows, the second story with arched transoms and a center Palladian effect. In the peak of the gable end is a round window. The side facade of the church has five bays besides the tower. The lower level windows are paired 1/1 double-hung with a Queen Anne effect in the design. The first floor has six lights with arched transom. The windows also have stone lintels and sills, with keystones, and voussoirs. Between the openings are small flying buttresses. There is a gable dormer on the roof with aluminum siding in the peak. Over time, metal awnings were added over the entrance doors. In the 1980s a handicapped ramp has been added for one of the entrance doors.

Inside the front doors are steep steps leading to the sanctuary and a short set leading down to the fellowship hall. Outside the sanctuary is a small office and hallway with steps to the balcony. From the hall two doorways lead into the sanctuary which has two aisles. The altar and pulpit are in front of a curtained area which can be opened to reveal the baptismal pool. Over the pool is a choir loft facing the congregation with several tiers of seats. To the sides are two doors leading to the pastor's office (R) and to a hall on the left which has steps to the choir loft and to the lower fellowship hall. Between these two rooms is a rear passageway which has a ramp leading into the baptismal pool. The church interior has oak woodwork, with plaster walls and wainscoting. The stained glass windows are colorful and have awning openings in the bottom.

The fellowship hall has a small stage, but is an open room with supports. There is a small kitchen area. The windows have a center panel of clear glass, and small panel encircling with colored corner glass panes, in a Queen Anne style window.

St. Paul Baptist Church is a good example of early 20th century church architecture. The ground level fellowship hall and elevated first floor sanctuary are typical church plans from this period of West Virginia history.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

St. Paul Baptist Church
Name of Property

Kanawha County, WV
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Section number 8 Page 2

St. Paul Baptist Church was organized in the mid-nineteenth century to serve the growing community of St. Albans, and its black population. Today the congregation is located in their third sanctuary near the downtown commercial area. Constructed in 1921, the Gothic Revival Church is contributing under Criterion C for Architecture with its fine brick facade, and interior workmanship.

This church was constructed at the corner of 8th and B Street under the leadership of Reverend J. Thomas Reid at a cost of \$50,000. "The church commissioned in 1920 an architect, A. G. Brown [Albert], Manual Arts Instructor at West Virginia Collegiate Institute, to work with Freddie Graves to design and resolve those necessary details that would serve as plans for a new church home." (Thompson, p. 3) West Virginia Colored Institute was established near St. Albans in 1891. Under the second Morrill Act of 1890, the college was intended to make available to black citizens training in agriculture and mechanic arts. Industrial arts, or trades, was a part of the program by 1915. Unfortunately, not much is known about Brown's work at this time.

The design of the church features a corner tower with paired entrances. The rustication of the tower and the pointed arch window openings and doors draws from the Gothic Revival style. The front facade has a large gable end with rose window. The sides of the church also have stained glass windows with a variety of religious symbolism such as: crown, anchor, bible, ark, altar, chalice, ten commandments, cross, dove, lily and star. Bronze doors were designed for the church in 1977, which repeat some of the religious symbols.

The interior of the church has white plaster walls, with rich oak woodwork on the stairs, wainscoting, and window and door trim. The interior is well proportioned with a choir stall behind the altar, and over the baptismal pool.

Established in 1867, in the home of a family in Amandaville, at the mouth of the Coal River, St. Paul Baptist Church grew as St. Albans expanded with the timber and coal industries. A small church was erected on Pennsylvania Avenue, which later became a school for the black community until it was razed in 1912. A new frame church building was constructed near 8th and B Street in 1884, as the church continued to purchase surrounding lots. The present St. Paul Baptist church was erected in 1921 on the "B" Street lots where the 1885 frame building stood. The church took some time to build as funds were found for completion. The first service was held in the basement on May 6, 1923, and the entire structure was completed for a dedication held during Christmas week of 1925.

St. Paul Baptist Church was designed by local architect and manual arts teacher, A.G. Brown, with the congregation of St. Paul working for four years to secure the necessary funds for completion. The interior design is rich in wood and stained glass, with the brick edifice reflecting Gothic Revival features.

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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

St. Paul Baptist Church
Name of Property

Kanawha County, WV
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Bibliography

Thompson, Mrs. Eria M, and others. MIRACLE ON B STREET, A COMPREHENSIVE HISTORY OF ST. PAUL BAPTIST CHURCH, 1985.

HOMEcomings AND 127th ANNIVERSARY OF ST. PAUL BAPTIST CHURCH, Bulletin, Sunday, July 31, 1994.

Interview with Eugene Washington, by Katherine M. Jourdan, fall 1997.

Obituary of Albert G. Brown:

“Noted Negro Teacher Dies,” CHARLESTON GAZETTE, Aug 29, 1924, p. 8 col 2.

“Albert G. Brown, Local Educator Dies,” CHARLESTON DAILY MAIL, Aug 29, 1924, p. 14, col. 5.

Randall, James D. and Anna E. Gilmer. BLACK PAST. Charleston, WV, 1989.

Marshall, Paul D. ST. ALBANS, WEST VIRGINIA, HISTORIC AND ARCHITECTURAL SURVEY. Charleston, WV: Marshall & Associates, 1983.

Personal Correspondence, from Ancella Bickley, to Eugene Washington, January 6, 1998.

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Verbal Boundary Description

Lots described as:

50 x 74 ft, Part Lot 7, Block 2 B Street, and 50 x 150, Part Lot 7, Block B Street

Boundary Justification

Lots are as described in the deed books, Kanawha County Courthouse.

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

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

**St. Paul Baptist Church
Name of Property**

**Kanawha County, WV
County/State**

Section PHOTOGRAPHS

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St. Paul Baptist Church
821 B Street
St, Albans, WV
Kanawha County

Photographer: Katherine M. Jourdan

Date: Fall 1997

Negatives: WV SHPO

Photo 1 of 4: Front (South) and East facade
 Camera looking Northwest

Photo 2 of 4: Front and West Facade
 Camera looking Northeast

Photo 3 of 4: Sanctuary Interior
 Camera looking North

Photo 4 of 4: Stained Glass windows in sanctuary
 Camera looking Northwest

