

I. IDENTIFICATION	<p>PROPERTY NAME: First Presbyterian Church of Columbus HISTORIC NAME: First Presbyterian Church of Columbus STREET ADDRESS: 1100 1st Avenue CITY: Columbus COUNTY: Muscogee PRESENT OWNER: First Presbyterian Church of Columbus, c/o Dr. James V. Johnson MAILING ADDRESS: 1100 1st Avenue CITY: Columbus STATE: Georgia ZIP CODE: 31902 CURRENT USE: Church ACREAGE: approx. 1 acre U.S.G.S. QUADRANGLE: Columbus, GA-AL U.T.M. REFERENCE: 16-688755-3593760 V.B.D. OR TAX MAP NUMBER: 4/13/1</p>
II. DESCRIPTION	<p>ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION AND PRESENT CONDITION: Romanesque, stucco over brick, gable roof is slate. Facade of church is divided into three sections—two square bell towers and the central entrance. Central entrance is three bays wide, with three rounded arch doorways; a complete entablature divides the first floor from the second, which has three rounded arch windows, the center one taller than its two flanking members. Gable is corbelled. The southern tower built in four graduated sections which end in a six sided slate roofed spire. Northern tower is three graduated sections which end in a low four sided spire. Both of these towers, like the remainder of the church, have buttressing, round arch windows, (CONT.)</p>
III. HISTORY	<p>ORIGINAL OWNER: First Presbyterian Church of Columbus ORIGINAL USE: Church ARCHITECT/BUILDER: Col. Asa Bates (during construction of 1862 church) HISTORIC ACREAGE: DATE OF CONSTRUCTION: Dedicated Feb. 2, 1862 DATE(S) OF ALTERATIONS: Restoration of interior and addition of entrance porch (CONT. ON BACK) HISTORICAL NARRATIVE (FROM ORIGINS TO PRESENT): The First Presbyterian Church houses a 150-year-old congregation which worshipped in two sanctuaries (each at different locations) prior to the present one. Today's church was dedicated Feb. 2, 1862, at a cost of over \$30,000. On Nov. 29, 1891, the building was seriously damaged by fire, although in Feb. 1893, it was re-opened for services, fully restored. Supposedly the only change in the church's exterior design was the addition of an entrance porch on the south side. However, the fire caused extensive interior renovation to be necessary as the flames damaged much within the walls of the structure. The well-known "City Clock" was added to the church's (CONT. ON BACK)</p>
IV. SIGNIFICANCE	<p>N.R. AREA(S) OF SIGNIFICANCE: Religion, Architecture LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE: Local STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE (ARCHITECTURAL AND HISTORICAL): <u>Religion</u>: The First Presbyterian Church of Columbus is significant as it serves the oldest and most influential Presbyterian congregation in the city. <u>Architecture</u>: This church has been called by one authority "Lombardy Romanesque" in style. Through the combination of arches, corbelling, buttresses, and spires, this is one of the outstanding downtown churches.</p>
V. SOURCES	<p>FORM PREPARED BY: a) Nancy Alexander ORGANIZATION: a) Lower Chattahoochee APDC Roger Harris b) Historic Columbus Foundation b) Janice P. Biggers ADDRESS: a) P. O. Box 1908, Cols, GA 31994 TELEPHONE NUMBER: a) (404)324-4221 b) 700 Broadway, Cols, GA 31901 b) (404)322-0756 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS: Historic Structures Field Survey: Columbus-Muscogee County, Georgia. 1976 state survey, Historic Preservation Section, DNR, Atlanta, Georgia. SOURCES OF INFORMATION: Worsley, Etta Blanchard. <u>Columbus on the Chattahoochee</u>. Columbus, Georgia: Columbus Office Supply Co., 1951, pp. 145-49 (CONT. ON BACK)</p>



PHOTOGRAPHER: F. Clason Kyle

DATE: 1 August 1978

ROLL NO. 4 FRAME NO. 9 NEGATIVES FILED: Historic Columbus Foundation
700 Broadway

DIRECTION PHOTOGRAPHER FACING: Southeast Columbus, Georgia 31901

USE SPACE BELOW FOR CONTINUATION FROM FRONT, SKETCH PLANS OR MAPS, ADDITIONAL COMMENTS, ETC.

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION: and corbelling. The sanctuary of the church is a square space with pews spaced in a semi-circular arrangement around the pulpit and choir loft. A balcony is in the rear. The interior has white plaster walls with dark wood beams supporting the roof.

Additions are sympathetic to the original design, including the use of rounded arch openings, corbelling, and buttressing. South: 11th Street and parking lot, North: Parking lot and Trinity Episcopal Church, East: 2nd Avenue and St. Luke's Methodist Church, West: 1st Avenue and 5 story parking garage.

DATES OF ALTERATIONS: on south side (following the 1891 fire); 1969 renovation; addition of freestanding chapel (and wing which is attached to main sanctuary by covered walkway) in 1952.

HISTORICAL NARRATIVE: main bell tower after the fire of 1891; also, after the fire came a three-story addition across the east end of the sanctuary and a two-story wing, joining the sanctuary by covered walkways. A chapel was added in 1952.

SOURCES OF INFORMATION: Barbara Bogart and Margaret Laney Whitehead. City of Progress: A History of Columbus, Georgia. Columbus, Georgia: Columbus Office Supply Co., 1979, pp. 72-74.

Interview with James V. Johnson, Jr., pastor, First Presbyterian Church of Columbus, 27 March 1980.

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