

Nineteenth Century Churches of South Nashville Thematic Resources
 Architectural and Historic Properties Inventory Form

IDENTIFICATION	Historic name: <u>Primitive Baptist Church</u>	STATUS	Open to public: <u>Yes</u> <u>No</u> <u>X</u> <u>Restricted</u>
	Common name: <u>The College Street Primitive Baptist Church</u>		Visible from road: <u>Yes</u> <u>X</u> <u>No</u>
	Address: <u>627-629 Third Avenue South</u> <u>Nashville, Tennessee</u>		Occupied: <u>Yes</u> <u>No</u> <u>X</u> Present use: <u>Vacant</u>
	Owner's name: <u>Third Avenue Equities</u>		Current condition: <u>Fair</u>
	Owner's address: <u>P.O. Box E</u> <u>Nashville, Tennessee 37219</u>		Alterations: <u>the roofline appears to have been changed from its 1850 appearance probably at the time the vestibule and **</u>
	Classification: <u>Building</u>		Site features: <u>church sits on a slightly sloping lot; a concrete sidewalk with curb extends across the front.</u>
	Tax map reference: <u>93-11-126</u>		
	Acreage: <u>.19 acres</u>		
UTM reference: <u>16/520510/4000860</u> <u>Nashville West, TN</u>			
HISTORY	Date of construction: <u>1850</u>	SOURCES	Bibliographical data: <u>See Nomination Form</u>
	Architect/builder: <u>unknown</u>		
	Original or previous owners: <u>N/A</u>		
	Original use: <u>Church</u>		Form prepared by: <u>Shain Dennison</u>
	Theme/s: Primary <u>Architecture</u> Secondary <u>Religion</u> Other <u>N/A</u>		Title: <u>Architectural Historian</u> Organization: <u>Metro Historical Commission</u> <u>Nashville</u> Date: <u>11/83</u>
DESCRIPTION	<p>The Gothic Revival-style brick church is rectangular-shaped and has a broad gable roof covered with raised seam tin. Simple in plan and detail, the building features a gable-roofed narthex with a Gothic-arched entranceway with double-leaf wood door. The Gothic arch is repeated on the facade of the sanctuary; its stained glass window is intact, although boarded over. The sanctuary facade and the narthex are stuccoed and scored to imitate stone. Windows on the side elevations have segmental-arched lintels with radiating brick voussoirs. The sanctuary is entered from the narthex by stairways and through two double-leaf doorways. Exposed trusses, now covered by an early twentieth century drop ceiling, are intact as well as truss support columns, window and door molding, a pulpit platform, and plain arched chancel.</p>		
SIGNIFICANCE	<p>The Primitive Baptist Church began as a result of divisions arising in the Baptist Church in Tennessee and Kentucky in 1836 and 1837. Nashville's first Primitive Baptist congregation was organized in 1838 and built this building in 1850, making this one of the three oldest church buildings standing in Davidson County. It was used continuously until 1953 when declining membership forced the congregation to disband. The building gains significance from its association with this historic congregation. For twenty-one years it was led by Dr. J. Bunyon Stevens, a leading figure on Rutledge Hill, who served as minister from 1866 to 1887. Dr. Stevens was a graduate of the University of Nashville Medical School and, in addition to his ministerial duties, chaired the Department of***</p>		

PHOTOGRAPHIC DATA

Photographer: John Compton

Date: November 1983

Negatives on file: Metro Historical Commission
Nashville, Tennessee

Photographer facing: N, W and interior

Photograph number 10-15 of 27.

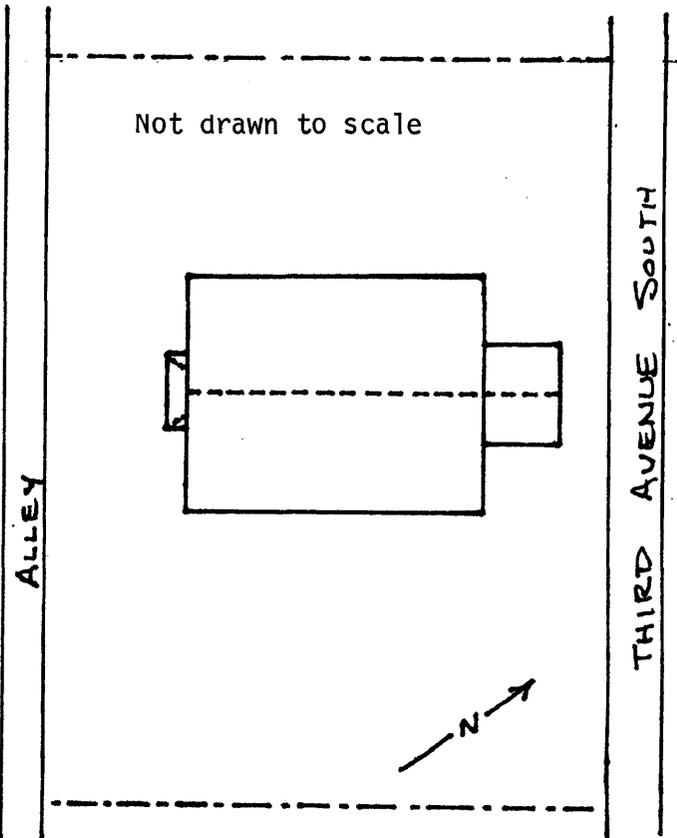
CONTINUATION

** stucco were added.

*** See Continuation Sheet

SITE PLAN - Include North Arrow

Not drawn to scale



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Significance continued:

Obstetrics and Gynecology at the University. His residence, on Rutledge Avenue one block from the campus and two blocks from the church, has been demolished. Architectural significance lies in the building's design. It was built resembling extremely simple rural churches with separate entrances for men and women. Later it was modified with the addition of a vestibule and a change in roof and structural system, becoming a fine, if simple, example of the Gothic Revival style. The exposed trusses in the sanctuary are among the most elegant Gothic Revival work in Nashville. These modifications do not completely mask the original design of the building, and the two architectural styles peacefully coexist.