

PH0029843

6th Congressional District  
John J. Flynt, Jr.

Form 10-300  
(July 1969)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

### NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

11/30/72

STATE: Georgia	
COUNTY: Bibb	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER 14 SEP 1972	DATE

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

#### 1. NAME

COMMON:  
First Presbyterian Church

AND/OR HISTORIC:  
First Presbyterian Church

#### 2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:  
690 Mulberry Street

CITY OR TOWN:  
Macon

STATE: Georgia      CODE: 13      COUNTY: Bibb      CODE: 021

#### 3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No

PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural	<input type="checkbox"/> Government	<input type="checkbox"/> Park	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	<input type="checkbox"/> Comments
<input type="checkbox"/> Commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> Industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Educational	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Religious		
<input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Scientific		

#### 4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:  
Trustees of First Presbyterian Church

STREET AND NUMBER:  
690 Mulberry Street

CITY OR TOWN: Macon      STATE: Georgia      CODE: 13

#### 5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:  
Bibb County Court House

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: Macon      STATE: Georgia      CODE: 13

#### 6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:  
\* 1. The Historic Architecture of Macon by Carl Feiss and Russell Wright

DATE OF SURVEY: 1970       Federal       State       County       Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:  
Middle Georgia Historical Society

STREET AND NUMBER:  
Macon Coliseum

CITY OR TOWN: Macon      STATE: Georgia      CODE: 13

\* 2. Historical Survey by Middle Georgia Historical Society  
1970 Local

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: Georgia

COUNTY: Bibb

ENTRY NUMBER: 14 SEP 1972

DATE: 14 SEP 1972

FOR NPS USE ONLY

## 7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The original building of the First Presbyterian Church in Macon, completed in 1858, was built during the Romanesque revival that occurred in American architecture during the 1840-60's. The exterior details are largely Romanesque and the mass of the building is symmetrical. In plan the building is wide in proportion to the length, resembling some of Wren's London churches. Forgetting the details, the observer can find some resemblance in the general shape of the tower with that of St. Martin-in-the-Fields, designed by James Gibbs. The interior was altered considerably in 1893. A Sunday School building, parallel to the original building, was added in 1926. In 1963 a large, attached addition was made to the rear of the original building.

The tower dominates the exterior of the building. In the base of the tower is the large, semicircular headed main entrance, whose threshold is approximately eight feet above grade, and reached by wide granite steps. This height above grade was evidently determined by the need for a ground floor to house Sunday School rooms. Full light for the ground floor windows was provided by a full length brick paved and brick walled area-way on the west side. Such an area-way was not necessary on the east side, where natural grade was lower. All windows serving the main floor have semicircular heads and so have the ornamental, shallow niches that are placed in the front wall one on each side of the tower. Above each niche is a projecting mold which is semicircular and which stops about six inches below the spring-line of the curve. Above the main entrance is a wheel, or spoke, window which admits light only to the tower. As set-backs occur in the tower the plan becomes octagonal, with four wide and four narrow sides. In each wide face of the octagon is a tall circular headed opening with frames similar to the main floor windows, but these frames contain louvres for ventilation. Above each louvred opening is a circular opening, now having reinforced sheet metal fillers. Earlier photographs show that these were once handsome wheel windows. Above the circular openings the octagonal masonry tower is crowned by a highly ornamental brick and stucco cornice, which forms a base for the copper shingled spire. Finally, the spire terminates in a fourteen foot high copper finial, whose apex is one hundred, eighty-three feet above the ground.

It is the ornament and openings in exterior surfaces that show most clearly Romanesque inspiration. Down the sides of the Sanctuary there are no typical buttresses to reinforce the wall supporting the interior trusses, but the walls are thicker under the trusses and panels. At the top of each panel are two rows of brick corbels covered with stucco. The outstanding feature of these walls is the octagonal buttress at each of the four corners of the building. If the reader will think of each buttress as being divided into four quarters, the inside quarter is filled with walls of the building leaving five full sides and two narrow sides of the octagon exposed to view. The buttresses extend above the horizontal cornices and are high enough to receive the rake cornices at a point just below the octagonal metal roof of each buttress. Over the entire building the brick walls have been stuccoed, then a design to look like stones laid in a coursed ashlar pattern has been created by tuck pointing. Time has eroded much of this but earlier photographs

(continued)

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	
Georgia	
COUNTY	
Bibb	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
14	SEP 1972

(Number all entries)

7. Description First Presbyterian Church, Macon, Georgia

show clearly the pattern created by this applied pointing.

The main entrance leads to the narthex, the center of which is directly below the center of the tower. The plaster ceiling is shaped like intersecting groined vaults. The vault from front to rear is a true semicircle, but the one from left to right is narrower and takes on a slightly lancet shape so that the apex lines with the apex of the front to rear vault. The true masonry vaults, which connect the massive brick piers at each corner of the tower, occur much higher and appear to be in line with the masonry semicircle over the front entrance. At both ends of the narthex are twisting, steep steps leading to the balcony. These are heavy in detail but definitely the work of master carpenters.

Upon entering the Sanctuary one finds a considerable width in proportion to length, 57 by 75 feet long at the main floor and 87 feet from front to back balcony wall on either side of the tower. The roof is supported by four massive wooden scissors trusses, with false trusses at front and rear walls. The plane of the roof framing is divided into panels, using heavy ribs which match the design of the upper chord of the trusses. All of the roof framing is not exposed. Beginning at the side walls, and just below the spring-line of the trusses, a false coved ceiling extends out about six feet below the plane of the roof framing. This vertical space between the coved ceiling and the plane of the roof is ornamented with semicircular arches resting on attached, rounded two-thirds columns. The colored glass windows, in the plane of the roof framing, and triangular dormers were added during alterations in 1893.

The five windows in each side wall have semicircular heads. Each opening is divided into two windows by a heavy wood mullion, each of the two windows having semicircular heads with the same spring-line as the larger circle. To use the space above there is a full circular glazed opening on each side of the circle. These shaped openings in the head of the window provide more glass area and give the window a "lighter" appearance.

The choir loft at the chancel end of the Sanctuary was added in 1926. The original design had the pulpit in front of an apse-like bay which now houses the organ pipes. This masonry apse was one-half of an octagon. Time and stricter fire safety code have added two additional exit doors, one on each side of the choir loft. (To the present day builder (1971) it is almost unbelievable that this building was erected for a reported cost of \$30,000.)

**8. SIGNIFICANCE**

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- Pre-Columbian;       16th Century       18th Century       20th Century  
 15th Century       17th Century       19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) **1858**

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- |  |   |   |   |
|--|---|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal              | <input type="checkbox"/> Education              | <input type="checkbox"/> Political                      | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric             | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic                | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry               |   | <u>Local history</u>                                |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture             | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention              | <input type="checkbox"/> Science                        | _____   |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture                      | _____   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art                     | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature             | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian            | _____   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce                | <input type="checkbox"/> Military               | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater                        | _____   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications          | <input type="checkbox"/> Music                  | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation                 | _____   |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Presbyterians were one of four denominations that were chartered three years after Macon was laid out in 1823; the present First Presbyterian Church is the third building erected by Macon Presbyterians. Today, First Presbyterian is one of Macon's affluent and well-attended churches. It has long been a major historical, architectural landmark.

In design, First Presbyterian, is a symmetrical Romanesque revival structure, with broad, smooth wall surfaces decorated and pierced by round arched ornament and openings. The corner octagonal buttresses, the dominating tower and the massive wooden truss supports give the appearance of substantial dignity and strength. The First Presbyterian Church in Augusta, by Robert Mills is similar to the Macon church, both of which reflect Presbyterianism in design.

The church is located across from Macon's Grand Opera House (which is on the National Register) in an area which has almost completely changed character in that it was originally a very high quality neighborhood adjacent to downtown Macon. The church and the opera house are two anchors in this changing environment.

The church, completed in 1858, is a particularly romantic addition to the downtown Macon scene; its towering Romanesque revivalism enriches the fabric of historical Macon.

According to John J. McKay, Jr., President, Middle Georgia Historical Society, a list of prominent citizens who were early members of this church would include: the Reverend Francis Goulding, author of The Young Marooners; Judge Clifford Anderson, member of the Confederate Congress, State Attorney General; Sidney Lanier, nationally known poet and musician; John C. Butler, local historian; and Harry Stillwell Edwards, author of Eneas Africanus.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Butler, John C. History of Macon and Central Georgia. Macon, Georgia, 1879.  
 First Presbyterian Church. A Thumbnail Sketch 1826-1963.  
 McKay, John J., Jr., President, Middle Georgia Historical Society, Inc.,  
 Macon, Ga. Presented first draft, with help of J. Edmund Ferguson, AIA.  
 Work Projects Administration. Georgia, A Guide to its Towns and Countryside.  
 The Georgia Board of Education, 1940.  
 Young, Cholson and Hargrove. The History of Macon, Georgia 1823-1949.  
 Macon, Georgia, 1950.

**10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY				OR	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES				
CORNER	LATITUDE		LONGITUDE		LATITUDE		LONGITUDE		
	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
NW	0	'	"	0	'	"	32°	50'	19"
NE	0	'	"	0	'	"	83°	37'	48"
SE	0	'	"	0	'	"			
SW	0	'	"	0	'	"			

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: **Less than one acre**

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

**11. FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME AND TITLE:  
**William R. Mitchell, Jr., Director, Georgia Historic Sites Survey**

ORGANIZATION: **Georgia Historical Commission**      DATE: **July 18, 1972**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
**116 Mitchell Street, SW**

CITY OR TOWN: **Atlanta**      STATE: **Georgia**      CODE: **13**

**12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION      NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION**

<p>As the designated State Liaison Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:</p> <p>National <input type="checkbox"/>    State <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>    Local <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Name <u>May Gregory Junott</u></p> <p>Title <u>State Liaison Officer</u></p> <p>Date <u>August 7, 1972</u></p>	<p>I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.</p> <p><u>Robert L. Utley</u>                  Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation</p> <p>Date <u>9/14/72</u></p> <p>ATTEST:</p> <p><u>[Signature]</u>                  Keeper of The National Register</p> <p>Date <u>9/13/72</u></p>
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4-26-71

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
PROPERTY MAP FORM

(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with map)

STATE <b>GEORGIA</b>	
COUNTY <b>BIBB</b>	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER <b>14 SEP 1972</b>	DATE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

1. NAME

COMMON: **First Presbyterian Church**  
AND/OR HISTORIC: **First Presbyterian Church**

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:  
**690 Mulberry Street**

CITY OR TOWN:  
**Macon**

STATE: <b>Georgia</b>	CODE <b>13</b>	COUNTY: <b>Bibb</b>	CODE <b>021</b>
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3. MAP REFERENCE

SOURCE: **Macon, Georgia Architectural Inventory by Carl Feiss, FAIA, AIP and Russell Wright, AIP**

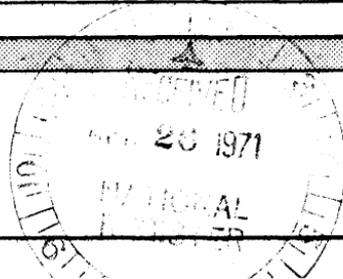
SCALE: **1" = 200'**

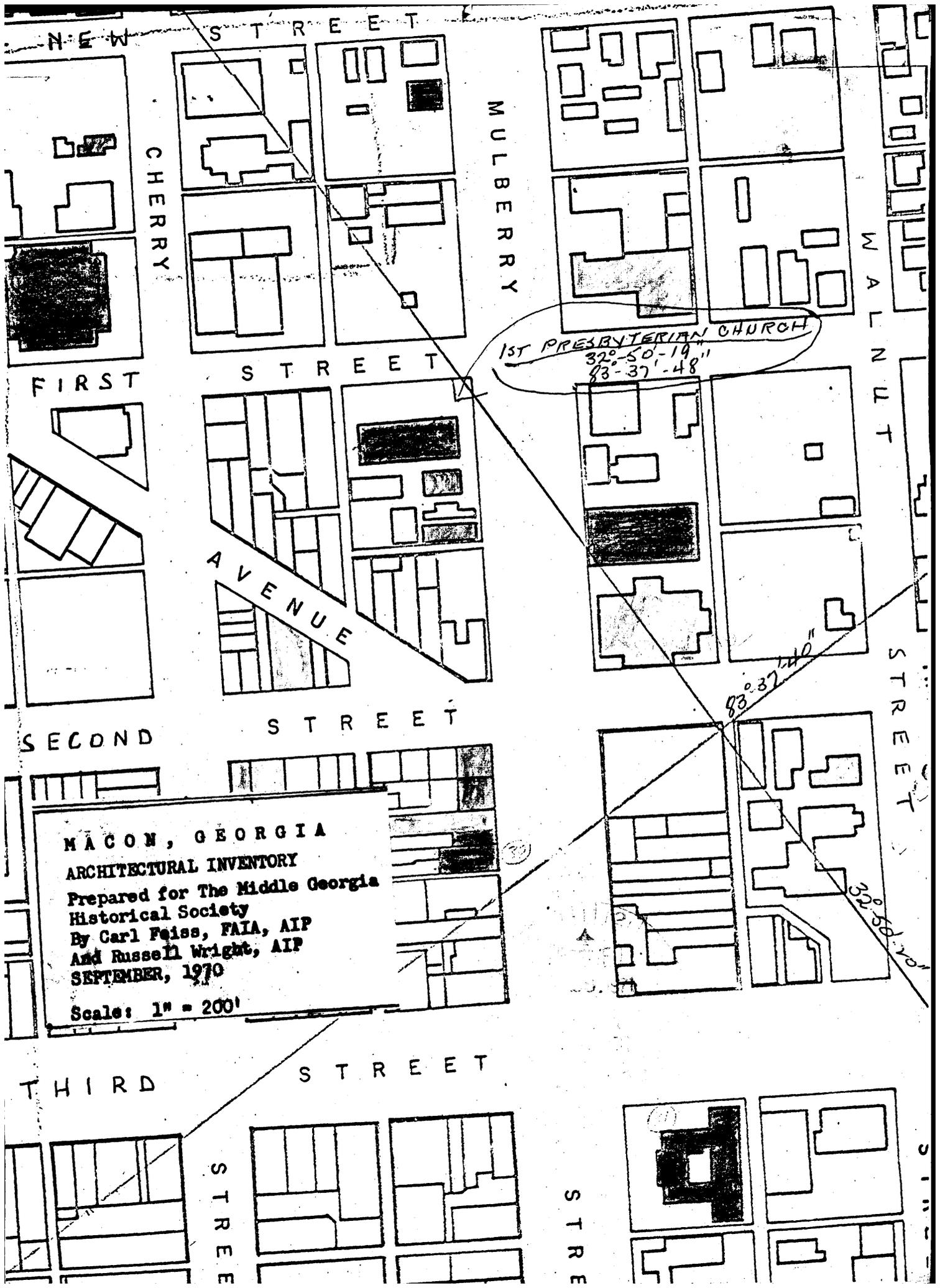
DATE: **September, 1970**

4. REQUIREMENTS

TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS

1. Property boundaries where required.
2. North arrow.
3. Latitude and longitude reference.





NEW STREET

CHERRY

MULBERRY

WALNUT

STREET

FIRST

STREET

AVENUE

SECOND

STREET

MACON, GEORGIA  
 ARCHITECTURAL INVENTORY  
 Prepared for The Middle Georgia  
 Historical Society  
 By Carl Feiss, FAIA, AIP  
 And Russell Wright, AIP  
 SEPTEMBER, 1970

Scale: 1" = 200'

THIRD

STREET

STREET

STREET

1ST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
 32°-50'-19"  
 83°-37'-48"

83°-37'-48"

83°-37'-48"