United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic   Third Baptist Church
(Hopewell Missionary Baptist Church and Parsonage)

and/or common Hopewell Missionary Baptist Church and Parsonage

2. Location

street & number   908, 906 Monroe Street   ____ not for publication

city, town   Nashville   ____ vicinity of   congressional district   5th

state   Tennessee   code   47   county   Davidson   code   37

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
____ district	____ public	X occupied	____ agriculture	____ museum
X building(s)	X private	____ unoccupied	____ commercial	____ park
____ structure	____ both	____ work in progress	____ educational	X private residence
____ site	**Public Acquisition**	**Accessible**	____ entertainment	X religious
____ object	____ in process	X yes: restricted	____ government	____ scientific
	____ being considered	____ yes: unrestricted	____ industrial	____ transportation
		____ no	____ military	____ other:

4. Owner of Property

name   Hopewell Missionary Baptist Church

street & number   908 Monroe Street

city, town   Nashville   ____ vicinity of   state   Tennessee   37208

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc.   Davidson County Register of Deeds

street & number   Metropolitan Nashville-Davidson County

city, town   Nashville   state   Tennessee   37201

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Historical and Architectural Survey   has this property been determined elegible?   X yes ____ no

date   April 1979   ____ federal   X state ____ county ____ local

depository for survey records   Tennessee Historical Commission

city, town   Nashville   state   Tennessee   37221

7. Description

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Hopewell Missionary Baptist Church stands at the northeast corner of the intersection of Monroe and Tenth Streets. Conflicting records indicate that construction began in either 1902 or 1903. It was formally dedicated as the Third Baptist Church in 1906. The red brick building is 200 feet wide and roughly 300 feet deep. Its style is eclectic, though it is quite similar in plan and visual effect to a number of revival style churches built at the same time and during the preceding fifteen years.

In plan the building is basically a rectangle filled with a half-circle of seating focused on a point midway back along the east wall. The seating is divided in two by a wall running east-west with large sliding doors which can be opened to combine the two spaces. On the south (Monroe Street) side of the wall is the main sanctuary, with simple yet distinguished curved oak pews oriented toward an elaborately carved pulpit and a small choir loft at the northeast corner of the room. At the three other corners are small vestibules which screen the sanctuary from the outside doors.

To the north (rear) side of the dividing wall is a less formal auditorium of nearly equal size with two offices partitioned off on the east side. Its ceiling is much lower than that of the sanctuary. Above is a classroom area reached by a stair at the rear.

The building is largely original throughout, both in detail and in arrangement of rooms. The stained glass is almost completely intact. The simple, pleasant woodwork has not been painted. The lamps in the sanctuary are of recent vintage, but the church preservation committee is currently seeking more appropriate replacements.

The building's exterior is red brick trimmed with stone. Window openings are simple rectangles. A gabled bay projects slightly from the center of the Monroe Street facade and two similar bays are located on the Tenth Street side. Entrances are at all four corners with a fifth entrance in the center of the Tenth Street facade. Over the main entrance at the southwest corner is a tower and steeple with its original polychrome slate roof. The relatively simple exterior, while not of any revival style in particular, resembles, overall, several contemporary Nashville churches with similar plans and decorated with Gothic or Romanesque details. The exterior is largely original with the exception of the doors which have been covered as a temporary protection measure, and the roof where black shingles have replaced the original slate.

The parsonage stands directly to the east of the church building at 906 Monroe Street. No records of its exact construction date have been found, but the Nashville City Directory indicates that the Third Baptist Church pastor began living there in 1907.

It is a house much like many other comfortable middle-class houses of the period. Its eight rooms are arranged on either side of a central hall running back from an entry hall which opens onto the front porch. The Tuscan-columned porch extends around the left front corner of the house, a common feature of many contemporary Nashville houses. Its red brick walls, slate roof, and overall angularity form a visual link between house and church at the front, and the buildings are physically linked at the rear by a covered walk. Inside and out, the parsonage, like the church, is largely intact, with generously proportioned rooms and pleasant decorative details. The house, which is in a mild state of disrepair, is not currently used as a parsonage, but ownership is retained by the Church.

8. Significance

Period

___ prehistoric
___ 1400–1499
___ 1500–1599
___ 1600–1699
___ 1700–1799
___ 1800–1899
_X_ 1900–

Areas of Significance—Check and justify below

___ archeology-prehistoric
___ archeology-historic
___ agriculture
_X_ architecture
___ art
___ commerce
___ communications

___ community planning
___ conservation
___ economics
___ education
___ engineering
___ exploration/settlement
___ industry
___ invention

___ landscape architecture
___ law
___ literature
___ military
___ music
___ philosophy
___ politics/government

_X_ religion
___ science
___ sculpture
___ social/
    humanitarian
___ theater
___ transportation
___ other (specify)

Specific dates   **Builder/Architect**   Henry Gibel

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Hopewell Baptist Church gains significance from its assoication with both the German and the black communities of North Nashville and its architect, Henry Gibel. North Nashville has historically been the home of two cohesive communities. Before social mores permitted racially mixed neighborhoods, the eastern and northern sections of the area were populated by whites, most of them German immigrants. Henry Gibel (1859-1906), a native of Zurich, Switerland who came to Nashville in the early 1880s, lived in the area and was a prominent member of the German community. His architectural commissions suggest a degree of prominence in Nashville as a whole. With Herman Gaebler, another North Nashville German, he designed the Mineral and Forrestry building for the 1897 Tennessee State Centennial Exposition. As a member of the firm Thompson,Gibel and Asmus, he designed the original Nashville Carnagie Library (1904, demolished) and the Nashville Arcade (1902-03). The Hopewell Baptist Church and the Arcade are the two remaining Nashville buildings certain to be of Gibel's design. It is not known who designed the parsonage.

A strong black community formed soon after the Civil War in the south western sector of North Nashville in the area of the Fisk University and Meharry Medical College campuses. In the 1950s as whites began to leave the city for the suburbs, blacks began to occupy a greater portion of North Nashville. The Third Baptist Church, for whom Gibel had designed the nominated church building, decided to move out in 1959. They sold the building and parsonage to Hopewell Missionary Baptist Church a North Nashville church organized in 1914 as an offshoot of Mt. Zion Baptist, one of Nashville's oldest black churches.

While not an architectural masterpiece, the Hopewell Church and parsonage are architecturally significant to the area. These solid, unpretentious buildings are reminicent of the solid, unpretentious builders of North Nashville and while the quieter streets contain clusters of significant buildings, Monroe Street is a thoroughfare and has lost many of its older buildings. The Hopewell Church and parsonage lend a visual dignity to the western end of Monroe Street and are indicative of the neighborhood that lies behind on quieter streets. In addition, these two buildings are the only such pair, church and parsonage of contemporary date, left intact in Nashville.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Information provided by Larry Perry, Hopewell Baptist Church.
Nashville City Directories, 1900-1907.
Clayton, W.W. _The History of Davidson County, Tennessee,_ 1880.
Interviews with Emma Gibel Mason & John L. Connely, Aug. 9, 1979.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property ___.2461___
Quadrangle name __Nashville West__, Tenn.   Quadrangle scale __1:24000__
UMT References

A |_16_| |5|1|8|4|2|0| |4|0|0|3|1|8|0| B |__| |__|__|__| |__|__|__|
  Zone Easting   Northing   Zone Easting   Northing

C |__| |__|__|__| |__|__|__| D |__| |__|__|__| |__|__|__|

E |__| |__|__|__| |__|__|__| F |__| |__|__|__| |__|__|__|

G |__| |__|__|__| |__|__|__| H' |__| |__|__|__| |__|__|__|

Verbal boundary description and justification

The property's dimensions are 116.25 feet (along Monroe) by 78 feet (along Tenth Street) by 100 feet by 137 feet which enclose a .2461 acre area. The property nominated is the entire area of the two lots owned by the Hopewell Missionary Baptist Church.

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
state	code	county	code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title   David H. Paine/Architectural Historian

organization Metropolitan Historical Commission   date   August, 1979

street & number Second Avenue North at Broadway   telephone   615-259-5027

city or town   Nashville   state   Tennessee   37201

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

_____ national   _____ state   _X_ local

As the designated State Historic Preservation 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 Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature _Herbert L. Harper_

title _Exec. Director, Tennessee Historical Commission_   date _9/19/79_

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