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United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

JAN - 203

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES REGISTRATION FORM



This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property
historic name ST. LUKE BAPTIST CHURCH
other names/site number St. Luke Missionary Baptist Church FMSF# JA1771
2. Location
street & number 4476 East Jackson Street N/A not for publication city or town Marianna N/A vicinity
state Florida code FL county Jackson code 063 zip code 32448
3. State/Federal Agency Certification
As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this 🖾 nomination properties 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 of does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide of locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)
Barbara C. Wattick DSHPO 12-20-02 Signature of certifying official/Title Date
Florida Division of Historical Resources State or Federal agency and bureau
In my opinion, the property \square meets \square does not meet the National Register criteria. (\square See continuation sheet for additional comments.)
Signature of certifying official/Title Date
State or Federal agency and bureau
4. National Park Service Certification
I hereby certify that the property is: Date of Action Signature of the Keeper Date of Action See continuation sheet
determined eligible for the National Register
☐ See continuation sheet. ☐ determined not eligible for the National Register ☐ See continuation sheet.
□ removed from the National Register.
□ other, (explain)

St. Luke Baptist Church		Jackson Co., FL				
Name of Property			County and State			
5. Classification						
Ownership of Property (Check as many boxes as apply)	Category of Property (Check only one box)	Number of Resources within Property (Do not include any previously listed resources in the count)				
□ private □ public-local	buildings district district	Contributing	Noncontribut	ing		
☐ public-State ☐ public-Federal	☐ site ☐ structure	1	0	buildings		
	□ object	0	0	sites		
		0	0	structures		
		0	0	objects		
		1	0	total		
Name of related multiple pro (Enter "N/A" if property is not part of		Number of contril listed in the Nati	buting resources p onal Register	reviously		
"N	.A"	0	1			
6. Function or Use						
Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)		Current Functions (Enter categories from instr	ructions)			
RELIGION: church		VACANT: not un use		,		
7. Description		The state of the s				
Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)		Materials (Enter categories from	n instructions)			
Gothic Revival		foundation CONG	CRETE			
		walls <u>BRICK</u>				
		roof ASPHALT				
		other <u>GLASS</u>				

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

St. Luke Baptist Church	Jackson Co., FL
Name of Property	County and State
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.)	Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions)
□ A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.	ARCHITECTURE
☐ B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.	
☑ 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.	Period of Significance
D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield information important in prehistory or history.	
Criteria Considerations (Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)	Significant Dates 1921
Property is:	
	Significant Person N/A
☐ B removed from its original location.	
C a birthplace or grave.	Cultural Affiliation N/A
D a cemetery.	
☐ E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.	Architect/Builder
☐ F a commemorative property.	unknown
☐ G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years	
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 Previous documentation on file (NPS):	or more continuation sheets.) Primary location of additional data:
☐ preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 36) 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 #	State Historic Preservation Office Other State Agency Federal agency Local government University Other Name of Repository
☐ recorded by Historic American Engineering Record	#

Name of Property	County and State
10. Geographical Data	
Acreage of Property less than one	
UTM References (Place additional references on a continuation sheet.) 1	3 Zone Easting Northing 4 See continuation sheet
11. Form Prepared By	
name/title Pender, Sarah/Robert O. Jones, Historic Sites Specialis	ıt
organization Bureau of Historic Preservation, Department of State	date <u>December 2002</u>
street & number 500 S. Brononugh St	telephone 850-245-6333
city or town <u>Tallahassee</u>	state <u>FL</u> zip code <u>32399-0250</u>
Additional Documentation	
Submit the following items with the completed form:	
Continuation Sheets	
Maps	
A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the	property's location.
A Sketch map for historic districts and properties ha	ving large acreage or numerous resources.
Photographs	
Representative black and white photographs of the	e property.
Additional items (check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)	
Property Owner	
(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)	
name St. Luke Missionary Baptist Church	
street & number 2871 Orange Street - PO Box 5806	telephone
city or town Marianna	state <u>FL</u> zip code <u>32447</u>

Jackson Co., FL

St. Luke Baptist Church

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and amend listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

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				JACKSON COUNTY, FLORIDA	

SUMMARY

Saint Luke Baptist Church is located at 4476 East Jackson Street, Marianna, Jackson County, Florida. The two-story, brick church was constructed in 1921, replacing a wood frame church building that was constructed on the same site in 1888. The church closed in 1985. The building is in the Gothic Revival Style with pointed windows and doors, two lateral towers on either side of a central nave, and the steep gable roof. The west tower has a polygonal roof/steeple, and includes a belfry. The pointed and round windows contain stained glass.

SETTING

The church is prominently located on one of the highest points in central Marianna, less than a half-mile west of the Chipola River, and one block South of U.S. 90, the city's main East/West thoroughfare (Photo #1). The church is a landmark to the community, and visible from the U.S. 90 easterly approach to the city. Two blocks to the west is the Jackson County Courthouse which serves as the center of the downtown commercial establishments located along East Jackson Street. The original church parsonage is located on the lot west of the church building (Photos #2&3). To the south is a residential neighborhood. The high ground surrounding the church slopes downhill to the east, south, and west, within a quarter mile.

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION Exterior

The two-story church has a basement, and complex gable roof surfaced with asphalt shingles. The exterior walls are constructed of solid brick. The brick walls are 16" thick at the basement level, and 12" thick for the upper elevations. Stained glass fills all the windows of the second floor except those that were replaced in the early 1990s. The basement has clear glass windows.

The <u>south, main façade</u> has a tower on each side of a gable roofed central nave (Photo #4). The western tower is taller, and contains a belfry with wooden louvers and a wooden shingled gable. A polygonal roof that forms a steeple, topped with a cross, surmounts the tower. The tower to the east has a castellated parapet. At the first story level are two pointed windows in the main wall. At the second story above the two windows is a round stained glass window centered in the main wall. Each tower has a rectangular window filled with two stained glass panels.

Each tower contains a double-door entrance, surmounted by a pointed transom. There are a door and rectangular window at the basement level. The double entrances are accessed by a double return stairs with quarter-turn stairs (Photo #5). The double return begins with two centrally located concrete steps at the basement level. The brick stairs have cheeks with concrete caps. At the first landing are down steps accessing

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two basement doors under the stairs. In the corner beside the east main doors is a marble cornerstone (Photo #6).

The <u>east and west elevations</u> display the length of the building. Evenly spaced cross the basement level are six rectangular windows (Photos #7&8). A rectangular window is in the tower at the southeast corner, and a door enters under the double-return stairs. The first story contains five pointed windows, with a sixth small one second from the north corner of the east elevation. On the west elevation, second from the north corner window are single doors on the basement and first story levels. The first story door is accessed by an exterior concrete stairs. The broad side of the gable roof is visible, and each elevation has a cross gable containing a louvered vent. A square brick chimney pierces the roof slope near the south end of the west elevation, and one pierces the roof slope near the north end of the east elevation.

The <u>north elevation</u> is a straight wall with five rectangular windows at the first story, and five windows at the basement level (Photo # 9).

Interior

The primarily access to the church is through the two double-door entrances in the east and west towers. The floors are wooden; the walls are plaster, and the main ceiling is textured tin. Within each door is a small narthex with wooden quarter-turn stairs rising against the exterior walls. Beneath these stairs, wooden quarterturn stairs descend to the basement. To the west and east of each narthex are two identical rooms. The one on the east side was used by the ushers. The one on the west side was used for communion preparation. The main sanctuary floor slopes from the south to the north; presently there are no pews in the sanctuary. Vertical wainscoting lines the east and west walls, and four stained glass windows fill each wall. The north end of the building behind an arched opening is a recessed central chancel (Photo #10). Beneath the arch the chancel is denoted by a short wooden railing with balusters, and is open at either end. On the wall above the arch is painted the inscription "One Lord, One Faith, One Baptism, Eph. 4:5," and two figures, Jesus and John, are painted above the inscription. The painting was done by Roger Glynn. The chancel has three risers for the choir, and a step-down immersion baptismal. Across the north end are curved wooden risers with three distinct areas. Across the center, aligned with the chancel is a riser with three narrow steps on the sides. Adjacent risers in the corners are curved as well with short knee walls (Photo #11). In the north wall by the west corner riser is a rectangular door. In the north wall by the east corner riser is a door with a pointed top. There is one room on the east and on the west side of the chancel. The west room was the pastor's office, and the east room was used by the choir.

The stairway within each narthex leads to a balcony at the south end of the nave (Photo #12). It too has a wooden floor and a solid, paneled wooden railing.

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The basement level was used for classrooms and an assembly area, and is accessed by a central door in the south façade, northwest corner, and two stairs in each narthex (Photo #13). Six large square chamfered columns are aligned in two rows through the center of the main great room. Two small rooms with open arched access are in the southeast and southwest corners, and contain stairs. A riser stage spans the north end of the room. Two doors to the north of the stage access a narrow hall that runs east/west and leads to the northwest exterior door. Four doors along the north side of the hall access three rooms. Basement level windows provide light to all the rooms.

ALTERATIONS

The basement was used for Sunday School, but did not have a floor until the mid-1930s when a concrete floor was poured. About 1945, the straight rise front steps to the main doors were changed to the present quarter-turn brick steps that contained men's and women's bathrooms underneath them. In the 1950s a baptizing pool was installed in front of the choir, and behind the central pulpit, and new windows with textured clear glass were installed in the basement (History 1961:2). In 1984 a new church was built, and the historic church has remained unused. The theft of several stained glass windows in 2001 resulted in their being boarded up, and some were removed to storage.

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SUMMARY

The Saint Luke Baptist Church in Marianna, Florida, built in 1921, is nominated to the National Register for significance on the local level under Criterion C in the area of Architecture. The church is an excellent example of Gothic Revival Style elements applied to a brick church.

CONTEXT

Historic

One of the most influential black churches in the region, Saint Luke Baptist Church was founded on the banks of the Chipola River in August of 1867. The first worship service was conducted by the Reverend Samuel Brown, and they sang the hymn "All Hail the Power of Jesus Name (Britt 1913)." Through the historic period, baptisms continued to be held at that place on the river. A member who was a blacksmith allowed his shop to be used as a church (Hill 1961). In July 1888, the church trustees bought Lot #149 in the plan of the Town of Marianna (Jackson, Deed: 1888). Within several years a wooden church on the current site was constructed under the leadership of the Reverend William King, who was pastor from 1888-1894. Under the leadership of Reverend King David Britt, residents of the black and white community of Marianna worked together to build the present brick church in 1921. Many of the more prominent citizens of Marianna's black community were members of the congregation.

The church experienced a period of growth under the leadership of Reverend Britt, (1882-1958). It is not known who designed or built the church, but it is believed that Rev. Britt played a major role in its design. Britt was born in Marianna, on April 14, 1882, the son of H. W. and Fannie Britt. In August 1901, he preached his trial sermon and was granted a license the same day. He was ordained in 1902 by the late Rev. J. C. Blackshear. He attended Florida State Normal College (the present Florida A&M University) two years under the auspices of the State Board of Education. He also attended the Phelps Bible School at Tuskegee Institute, and he held diplomas from Princeton University. Rev. Britt also finished the ministerial course at Florida Normal College. He taught in the public schools for ten years, and for fifteen years taught in some of the best private schools in West Florida. He founded and was the president of the Baptist College, a seminary, and oversaw the building of it on Pennsylvania Avenue. It served as a theological training center, and provided an elementary school for Marianna's black community. Rev. Britt served as pastor of Saint Luke Baptist Church for a total of seventeen years, from 1911-12 and again from 1913-28. When he began he found a dedicated but disorganized congregation. The first year, more than one hundred fifty persons were baptized. As the result of this growth this church was built in 1921. The seventeen years he served as pastor of Saint Luke are affectionately known as the "golden years of Saint Luke" (Down Memory).

The minister and pulpit stood on the central riser, flanked by the church choir on the west riser, and deacons on the east riser. Deaconesses sat on chairs in front of the east riser. Singing was an important element of worship,

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and hymns were taught and learned person to person since hymnals were few to non-existent. During the historic period, a Ruth Wynn Glenn served as the music director/choir leader. Baptismal ceremonies were performed in the Chipola River where the first worship services were held through the historic period, and into the 1950s, when the baptismal pool was installed (Pender 2002). The traditional baptismal spot is directly east of the 1921 church and Jackson Street. The congregation organized religious revivals held at the church. Sunday School activities were viewed as a large part of the church's mission, as were the education and cultivation of the youth. There were numerous classes, divided into various age groups, that at times filled all areas of the basement. The importance of education for the community's children was reflected in that many High School commencements were held in the church.

Architectural

The time span from the 1880's until the Great Depression of the 1930's was an eclectic period in American architecture, with much borrowing from well-documented Colonial American and international historic designs. The circulation of portfolios, books, and magazines devoted to accurate recording and surveys of architectural and art works became sources for much design inspiration. Based on these works, popular revivals of Gothic, Colonial, Tudor, Chateauesque, Beaux Arts Classicism, Italian Renaissance, Spanish, Spanish Renaissance, and Mission Styles of building were national trends. American designers were constantly adapting historic precedents to current uses (Kidney 1978).

The Gothic Revival has been one of the most enduring of historic styles, especially as applied to church construction. A revival of the style took place during the first half of the twentieth century, promoted by architect Ralph Adams Cram. The style is characterized by steeply pitched gable roofs sheltering elongated rectangular naves. Towers are frequently utilized to provide entrances, accommodate belfries, and support spires. Castellated parapets are occasionally used. Windows frequently have pointed arched tops that are filled with stained glass, and prominent doors also often have pointed tops. Exposed wooden roof trusses are frequently present, acknowledging the heritage of medieval construction techniques. Ornamentation often is expressed in wood carving. American Protestant denominations often varied the church form, reflecting the different liturgies of worship.

Many popular Protestant congregations located in urban areas in the late 19th century faced the difficulty of accommodating large numbers of worshipers. Because of the high cost of urban property limiting the size of church construction, church plans began to reflect theater and auditorium planning to seat large numbers, and retain good acoustics and visibility. Rather than long narrow buildings, auditorium plans had assembly areas with wider proportions. The focus of the worship was on the minister and pulpit, usually with the choir and organ/piano providing a backdrop. Floors were canted toward the pulpit so members of the congregation in the rear could see well. Walls were plaster, and enclosed ceilings, rather than open rafters, reverberated sound better. Seating was arranged with side aisles, eliminating the central aisle in many cases, so more people could be centrally seated near the pulpit (Jaeger 1984: 53,54). Between the last decade of the 19th century until the

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Great Depression, auditorium planning dominated church construction among the Protestant denominations. Architects, journals, and denominational groups produced and distributed church plans, so that they were widely available (Jaeger 1984: 73).

SIGNIFICANCE

The design of St. Luke Baptist Church incorporates many elements of the Gothic Revival Style, with its pointed arch windows, towers on either side of the central nave, the prominently accentuated steep gable roof and the emphasis on the verticality of the entire structure. One tower has a polygonal pointed roof with a spire, and the other has castellated parapets. The stained glass windows and the round window at the entrance end of the building complement the Gothic design. The engineering of the building is substantial with a continuous concrete foundation and solid brick walls 16 inches thick at the basement level, and 12 inches at the main story. The six basement chamfered posts that support the main floor are massive.

Although the exterior of the church is in the Gothic Style, the interior's proportions and arrangements reflect auditorium type church planning. The sloping main floor of the sanctuary, balcony, plaster walls, pressed metal ceiling, and broader width to length are in keeping with auditorium church planning. The central minister's riser, flanked by risers for choir, deacons and deaconesses, are architectural elements that are evident of a minister/pulpit focused ceremony and visual display. Pews were arranged in three sections with side aisles, which again reflected typical auditorium seating arrangements. Despite the neglect of the last eighteen years, the church is structurally stable, and retains its historic integrity and character to a high degree. Through its ambiance, St. Luke Baptist Church contributes to the sense of time, place, historic associations, and character of the city of Marianna.

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VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

West ½ of Lot #150 in the Plan of Marianna. Deed Book P, Page 94. The boundary runs approximately 135 feet north, and 125 feet east, from the northeast corner of St. John St. and Jackson St.

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

The boundary includes property historically associated with the St. Luke Baptist Church of Marianna, Florida. Originally deeded as lot #149, the lot was expanded and split between #149 and #150 when the north extension of St. John's Street through the block was closed.

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PHOTOGRAPHIC LIST

- 1. St. Luke Baptist Church, 4476 East Jackson Street, Marianna
- 2. Jackson County, Florida
- 3. Sarah Pender
- 4. April 2002
- 5. St. Luke Baptist Church
- 6. Main, south façade, and east elevation, looking northwest
- 7. Photo #1 of 13

Items 1-5 are the same for the following photographs.

- 6. Parsonage House on the adjacent lot to the west, looking north
- 7. Photo #2 of 13
- 6. Drive between church and parsonage, looking north
- 7. Photo #3 of 13
- 6. Main, south façade, looking north
- 7. Photo #4 of 13
- 6. Main entry steps, looking northwest
- 7. Photo #5 of 13
- 6. Cornerstone beside east main doors, looking north
- 7. Photo #6 of 13
- 6. South and east elevations, looking northwest
- 7. Photo #7 of 13
- 6. South and west elevations, looking northeast
- 7. Photo #8 of 13
- 6. North elevation and corner of west elevation, looking east
- 7. Photo #9 of 13

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- 6. Interior north end of main floor, looking north
- 7. Photo #10 of 13
- 6. Center and west risers in sanctuary, looking west
- 7. Photo #11 of 13
- 6. Balcony and textured metal ceiling, looking northeast
- 7. Photo #12 of 13
- 6. Basement, looking south
- 7. Photo #13 of 13





