

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

SEP 30 1997

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2125
FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
309 East Adams Street
Muncie, Indiana 47305
1928-29

Owner: Trustees of the First
Baptist Church
309 East Adams Street
Muncie, Indiana 47305

DESCRIPTION:

Building #192, Photo #52

The First Baptist Church, located at the southeast corner of Adams and Jefferson streets is an excellent example of ecclesiastical architecture built in the Gothic idiom. The structure is built of Indiana Limestone and occupies roughly one-quarter block.

It was constructed from 1928-29 copying its two great windows in great detail from the windows at Westminster Abbey.. An arched portal serves as the double-leaf door entry which leads into the main sanctuary. The window openings are the familiar pointed arch along the second story with two smaller arched panels within the opening. The third story clerestory has groupings of three pointed arched windows that are set into a rectangular opening.

The plan of the main structure is a crucifix with a smaller two story classroom area adjoining to the west. The roof is gabled and constructed of slate. There is a low parapet wall surrounding the perimeter of the two story portion of the structure. There is an engaged tower occupying the north western most point of the sanctuary that rises roughly five stories.

SIGNIFICANCE:

The structure was designed by Samuel Hannaford & Sons, Cincinnati, Ohio, and constructed by the firm of Morrow & Morrow of Muncie. The building's fine architecture is strongly associated with the Gothic Style of English churches, Westminster Abbey serving chiefly as a model for its design. The building was constructed in 1928 to serve as a church for the First Baptist congregation in Delaware County. The baptists had occupied an earlier structure

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located due north of the present structure, at 300 East Jackson since 1873. The structure represents the period of the largest growth of the Baptist Church in Muncie.

Geographical Data:

Acreage: Less than one acre

UTM Reference: 16 637 580 4450 060

Boundary: Map #11-15A, Block #107, Parcel #001