

MULTIPLE RESOURCES OF ANNISTON  
CALHOUN COUNTY, ALABAMA

Historic name: Parker Memorial Baptist Church      Owner: Parker Memorial Baptist  
Common name: Parker Memorial Baptist Church      Church, Inc.  
Address: 1205 Quintard Avenue      P. O. Box 2104  
Anniston, AL 36202  
Acreage: Approximately 1.9 acres      UTM: 16/608850/3724870

Verbal Boundary: Original Deed, dated August 9, 1887, recorded in Deed Book 1, page 107; Anniston City Land Company Map, Block 19, Lot 6, measuring 70 feet along the east line of Quintard and running back along the north side of Twelfth Street of equal width 190 feet.  
Presently, Parker Memorial owns all of Block 19.

Architectural Design: Gothic with Victorian influences

Date of Construction: 1888-1889

Architect: George Kennerly

Significance:

Criterion C - Architecture:

The Parker Memorial Baptist Church is significant architecturally as a fine local example of Victorian Gothic design as utilized in religious architecture. The church is also an example of the workmanship of master stonemason Simon Jewell who was stonemason on Grace Episcopal Church and St. Paul's Methodist Church, all of which were constructed during the late 1880s and early 1890s.

Description:

Located on the northeast corner of Quintard Avenue and Twelfth Street, the large Gothic-style church is of native pink sandstone ashlar randomly laid in courses with Kentucky bluestone trim. The master stonemason, Simon Jewell, cut and laid the stones. The nave, with short transepts, is covered by a broad gable roof with subordinate cross gables and triangular dormers. The dominant three-stage entrance tower at the northwest corner has a broach spire with paired lancet openings fronted by a bowed balcony on each face of the belfry opening. The two ground-level entrances (west and north) in the tower have Gothic pointed arches supported by short recessed columns with foliated capitals, bas-relief foliage in the spandrels, and tracery above the double doors. A secondary broach spire-topped tower is located at the re-entrant angle between the nave and the south transept.

The bisecting narthex opens on the west into an old lecture room (now the parlor) and on the east into a modified cruciform-shaped auditorium with Gothic wainscoting and heavily molded chair rail all around the sanctuary. The two shallow transepts contain large, traceried Gothic windows with rich-colored glass. The original roof structure with a pressed tin ceiling is carried on open hammerbeams with collar braces, decorated with carved finials. The rear balcony, carried on small Tuscan columns, has a rich railing composed of turned spindles with ornate Eastlake-style newels. The pulpit has four twisted colonettes and a concave frieze embellished with a floral motif.

The (east) pulpit end of the church was extended in 1951, reusing the original ashlar facing. Other building additions to the complex include a Sunday School auditorium and rooms in 1917, which were removed and replaced by an educational building in 1952, and an educational addition on the north wing in 1972. All additions have used the same design and materials, although the modern craftsmanship does not equal the work of Simon Jewell.

Historical Summary:

The congregation organized on July 3, 1887, as the Second Baptist Church. After meeting in various places, the members purchased the lot on the northeast corner of Quintard Avenue and Twelfth Street, changed their name to the Twelfth Street Baptist Church, and laid the cornerstone for a new building on July 3, 1888. During construction of the building in 1889, the wife and son of Duncan Parker, who was one of the leading figures in the business development of Anniston, died. In October of that year Parker bequeathed a large sum of money in their memory to pay for the construction of the main auditorium. The name of the church was shortly afterwards changed to Parker Memorial in honor of the Parker family. The original church building, designed by George Kennerly, has been added to over the years. The additions include a Sunday School auditorium and rooms in 1917, which were removed and replaced by an educational building in 1952, and the addition of another educational facility in 1972.

Rough Sketch Map

- #16 Parker Memorial Baptist Church
- #17 St. Paul's Methodist-First Christian Church
- #18 Temple Beth-El

Anniston, Alabama

