UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

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RECEIVED DEC 2 9 1981

DATE ENTERED FEB 8 1982

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC

First Baptist Church

AND/OR COMMON

LOCATION

street & number 302 West Monroe	St.	•			
CITY, TOWN			CONGRESSIONAL DISTR	ICT	
Phoenix	•	VICINITY OF			
STATE		CODE	COUNTY	CODE	
Arizona		04	Maricona	013	

CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESE	INTUSE
DISTRICT	PUBLIC	_XOCCUPIED partial	AGRICULTURE	MUSEUM
XBUILDING(S)		UNOCCUPIED	COMMERCIAL	PARK
STRUCTURE	вотн	WORK IN PROGRESS	EDUCATIONAL	PRIVATE RESIDENCE
SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	ENTERTAINMENT	RELIGIOUS
OBJECT	·IN PROCESS	_XYES: RESTRICTED		SCIENTIFIC
	BEING CONSIDERED	YES: UNRESTRICTED	_INDUSTRIAL	TRANSPORTATION
		NO	MILITARY	OTHER:

OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME H.A.V.C. Part	nership			
STREET & NUMBER				
6745 North Se	venth Avenue			
CITY, TOWN		•	STATE	
Phoenix	\	CINITY OF	Arizona	
LOCATION OF	LEGAL DESCR	PTION		
COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS,ETC.	Maricopa County Re	corder's Offi	ce	
STREET & NUMBER	111 South Third Av	enue	·	
CITY, TOWN	•		STATE	
	Phoenix		Arizona	
6 REPRESENTA	TION IN EXISTI	NG SURVEY	YS	
ŤĨTLE		•		
Phoenix Histor	ric Building Survey	, Sept. 1979;	Army Corps of Engineers	Feb. 1977
DATE .				•
Fridlund (ASU)	; Smith (PHS)	FEDER	ALSTATECOUNTY X_LOCAL	
DEPOSITORY FOR				
SURVEY BECORDS Phoen	ix Planning Departm	en <u>t</u>		
CITY, TOWN			STATE	
251 West Wash	ington	Phoenix	Arizona	

7' DESCRIPTION

CON	DITION	CHECK ONE	CHECK C	DNE
XEXCELLENT	DETERIORATED	XUNALTERED	X_ORIGINAL	SITE
_GOOD	RUINS	ALTERED	MOVED	DATE
FAIR	UNEXPOSED			

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The First Baptist Church is a four-story building of irregular massing with a square bell tower attached at the southeast corner. The structure is divided into two parts: the main building, which measures 92 feet wide by 138 feet long, and a two story addition to the west which is 54 feet wide by 133 feet long. The bell tower is seven stories tall. Italian Gothic features predominate in the design although Moderne overtones are to be found on the south and east facades. The central mass and addition both have gable roofs covered with red, Spanish tile. Red brick and tan stucco are the primary exterior materials. The building, centrally located in downtown Phoenix, is situated on the northwest corner of Monroe Street and Third Avenue with the main facade facing south onto Monroe.

The most dominant feature of the overall mass is the bell tower which offsets symmetry of the facade on the main building. Italianate in massing, the Moderne influence is expressed at the corners with stepped-back pilasters. A concrete water table wraps around the tower and beveled concrete band courses break the facade between every two floors.

Windows in the first four stories of the tower are grouped between the band courseseach group consisting of paired pointed-arch windows over paired rectangular windows. A single discrete pointed-arch window demarcates the fifth story and three discrete pointed-arch windows appear at the sixth story. The wood-framed bell tower windows are composed of small, multi-light, diamond-patterned muntin windows. The bell chamber has a triplicate set of long, pointed-arch openings on each facade, similar to the lower windows. The tower is topped with a red, Spanish tile roof and boxed eaves. The roof is hipped.

The main facade of the original building mass rises to a gable with stepped parapet. Stepped-back pilasters flank a set of three pointed-arch doorways at the ground level and rise nearly to the parapet. A triforium of cast stone tops the three doorways. The area above the triforium features a large, cast stone pointed-arch which is centered in the facade. Recessed inside the arch is a rose window. Above the arch a cross is inset into the wall.

The three doorways in the front facade of the main building are framed in wood and each contain a pair of single light doors which open outward. The doors appear to be original. Compound arches of cast stone surround each doorway. The arches are supported by cast stone pilasters decorated with elaborate Italian Gothic motifs and topped with modified Corinthian columns. The tympanums are decorated with a pattern of three circles. Scored cast stone facing rises between the doorways through the triforium to a band course decorated with square medallions.

The triforium is composed of three sets of pointed-arches. Each set contains three windows of diamond-pattern leaded glass. Four decorated pilasters frame and separate each triplet grouping. Above the triforium is a central clerestory, flanked on either side by a set of three recessed quatrefoils. The five clerestory windows also have pointed arches but they are longer and narrower than those in the triforium. The windows feature the same diamond patterned glass as those below. Decorative pilasters separate the windows. Above the clerestory is the rose window. It is formed of decorated, cast-stone tracery which fills the arch; the voids are filled with clear,

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leaded-glass lights. All compound arches and pilasters around the rose window and clerestory are decorated with Italian Gothic motifs.

The east side of the building has a three-story symmetrical central mass framed by the bell tower on the south and a three and a half-story projecting wing on the north. The central mass has three bays with vertical window groupings. Firststory windows are paired, rectangular, eight-light, two-leaf casement windows with eight-light transoms. A recessed band course separates the first and second stories. Second and third story windows are grouped under three rounded arch recesses. Second story windows are identical to those on the first story; third story windows are two-leaf, eight-light casements without transoms. The tympanum of these arches is decorated with three plain circles, matching the doorways on the south facade. Decorated band courses between the second and third story windows fill the spaces completely, but do not extend over the facade.

The roof of the central mass is flat and was originally intended for use as a roof garden. Three sets of three pointed arch multispaned, diamond-patterned clerestory windows are located in the fourth story wall plane which separates the east wing from the main body of the church.

A single entry at the north end of the central mass as a two-leaf single-light door with a twelve-light transom. Above the door on the second story is a discrete rectangular twelve-light window with a three-light transom; the third floor window is a discrete rectangular twelve-light window under a pointed arch.

The three and a half-story mass on the north end of the east facade features stepped-back Moderne pilasters rising to the parapet. Each story is marked with groupings of four rectangular, two-leaf, eight-light casement windows with eightlight transoms. A band course divides the first and second floors. A decorated band course fills the space between the second and third floors. Each third floor window is capped with a recessed pointed arch filled with a circular motif. An inset cross marks the facade below the parapet.

The four and one-half story north facade is of unfinished common bond red brick, featuring a gable and stepped parapet and concrete foundation. Cast-in-place concrete lintels cap discrete openings of either nine over nine or six over sixlight double hung windows, with plaster over brick sills. A brick chimney rises from the northwest corner of the central mass. The name "FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH" is painted in bold letters above the uppermost row of windows and is highly visible to the public. The north facade of the east wing is similar in appearance to the central mass. CONTINUATION SHEET

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The west facade of the central mass has eight bays of unfinished common brick. Reinforced concrete posts separate the bays. Triplet pointed arch wood-framed clerestory windows composed of small multi-light diamond-patterend muntins are visible above the later addition.

A two-story common bond red brick addition with cast-in-place concrete bond beams and concrete foundation is on the west side of the central mass. This 1948 to 1950 addition has paired aluminum frame, one over one-light, double-hung windows with steel lintels and concrete sills. The west facade is stuccoed, with both discrete and paired double-hung aluminum frame windows. The front or south facade of the addition features simplified cast-stone ornamentation and a continuation of the concrete beveled water table which wrapped the bell tower. A recessed doorway is located at the east end of the facade, outlined in cast stone with a beveled projection above a tympanum. The tympanum is divided in three sections, each with a tri-foil design. The tympanum design is repeated over three paired, steel-casement, six-light windows, each pair separated by a simple column with a leaf motif capital. Second story steel-casement windows are recessed in three paired, ten-light groupings. A corbel table adorns the wall beneath the boxed eave of a red Spanish tiled mansard roof. Over the doorway is a discrete, second-story steel casement window composed of small multi-paned diamond patterned muntins.

The main entrance to the church is at the sidewalk level from West Monroe Avenue into the narthex. Walls in the narthex are of scored plaster and the ceilings have wooden beams with brackets. Archways at the east and west ends are framed with decorated pilasters and arch bands. Two seating niches with pews are inset in the north wall. Art deco screens cover radiator niches also in the north wall.

The auditorium is entered from the narthex through four doorways. Two are twoleaf ten-panel, one-light and two are similar but one-leaf. All are of wood and appear original.

The desire for a great central hall is expressed in the expansiveness of the auditorium. The stage at the north end of the auditorium, with a squared proscenium arch, dominates the space. Four simple engaged columns of scored cast stone with modified Corinthian capitals outline the flat proscenium arch. Each column has a different decorative motif.

Italian Gothic motifs and stylistic features embellish the auditorium, but the Moderne overtones found on the building's exterior are lacking. The first story walls are scored plaster, topped by a band course. The second and third story wall

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planes have a smooth plaster finish and are divided into bays separated by Gothic pilasters. The pilasters rise to support a large decorative cornice. The fourth story walls are divided into a narrower bay pattern by pilasters which reflects the grid pattern of the coffered ceiling above. The side bays have triplicate clerestory windows which light the auditorium. Three bays above the proscenium arch have openings which lead to the organ chamber.

The original auditorium floor and stage are wood and are in good condition. Individual seating occupies the auditorium floor, the balcony over the rear of the room, and the choir loft at the rear of the stage. Seating on the main floor is divided into three areas with two central aisles and side aisles. The choir loft is enclosed with a low wood wall. Choir entry is through two corner doorways at the rear of the stage. Enclosures at the side walls of the stage were meant to accommodate curtains, but none were ever installed.

The balcony at the rear of the auditorium is supported by two columns. A decorative wood and plaster balustrade encloses the balcony. The rose window rises over the center rear of the balcony.

The remaining portions of the building external to the auditorium consist of hallways, offices and meeting rooms. Tower space is also occupied with usable rooms.

On the first floor, hallways have original stucco walls and ceilings and original wooden doors with Gothic framing. Lights and wood paneling are also original. Floors are of concrete. Original wood fire cabinets and hoses are intact. Interior wood frame windows between the offices and hallway are in original condition.

Between floors, original cast iron stair balustrades are intact. Second floor offices and meeting rooms retain original wood flooring and triplet windows have beveled sills. The enclosed baptistery is a major feature of the second floor. Concrete flooring provides support for the sunken metal baptismal. Stairs on either side lead from the second floor level down into the baptistery, which can be viewed from the auditorium. Robe and shower rooms behind the baptistery have original wood clothing racks. A large meeting room extends along the east side of the building.

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Third floor rooms include a kitchen, meeting and office rooms, with original wood doors and floors and skip-troweled plastered brick walls. A plastered-over fireplace or altar characterizes one of the larger rooms. Tower classrooms retain original wood shelving.

The most interesting fourth floor room is a large rustic meeting room with fireplace and adjacent kitchen and roof garden, possibly the original boys' room. This room is characterized by open steel beams, wood joists and batten doors. Other rooms on this floor include an apartment, storage areas, utility rooms and closets. Over the stage, two large, now empty rooms once contained the organ pipes. Wood framing for these pipes is still attached to the flooring. Grill work opening to the stage below appears to have been replaced.

The west addition originally included on the first floor a chapel, still intact, and a large dining hall with kitchen. The second story was used for Sunday School rooms.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AR	EAS OF SIGNIFICANCE CH	IECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW	
PREHISTORIC	ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	COMMUNITY PLANNING	LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	X_RELIGION
1400-1499	ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	CONSERVATION	·LAW ·	SCIENCE
1500-1599	AGRICULTURE	ECONOMICS	LITERATURE	SCULPTURE
1600-1699	X_ARCHITECTURE	EDUCATION	MILITARY	SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
1700-1799	-ART	ENGINEERING	MUSIC	THEATER
1800-1899	COMMERCE	EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	PHILOSOPHY	TRANSPORTATION
_ ¥1900-	COMMUNICATIONS	INDUSTRY	POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	OTHER (SPECIFY)
		INVENTION		
	tie and the			
SPECIFIC DAT	.EC	BUILDER/ARCH	George Merril	1, New York
SFECIFIC DAT	es 1929-30/addition	1949-50 BUILDER/ARC	Fitzhugh and	Byron, local

E.L. Varney, addition, local

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The First Baptist Church is significant for its architectural qualities which are not only expressed through Italian Gothic influences but are an example of evangelism through staged presentation.

The existing church is located on the site of the previous 1903 facility. Through merger with the Calvary Baptist Church in 1924, the membership grew to 1000 by 1928, outgrowing the 1903 quarters. Faced with many pressing needs, the church appointed a Building Committee of twelve, and an Advisory Committee of fifty under the leadership of Rev. Richard E. Day. D.D.

Careful studies, based on present needs and future growth, were made and submitted to the Department of Architecture of the American Baptist Home Mission Society in New York. Supervised by George Merrill (an architect registered in New York on February 28, 1923), this department formulated the general structural outline, floor plans and external stylistic design. Their selection of the Italian Gothic style, with Moderne overtones, as appropriate for Phoenix, placed this new revival style within a compatible Mission and Spanish Colonial Revival context. The First Baptist Church is the only example of its style and type in Phoenix. The design was adopted by the Building Committee with very little change.

The design of the church was dictated by a progressive concept of the religious auditorium. Dropping the term sanctuary, the hall was designed for the presentation of religious events. Instead of an altar, a stage with proscenium arch and curtain tracks was the focus of attention. Instead of vaults or timber trusses, the ceiling is flat and coffered, directing attention to the stage. Individual seats instead of pews arranged with no center aisle were promoted for view and comfort. A fireproof projection booth, a picture screen (which rose out of the stage behind the pulpit), and radio broadcasting space were all included in the original design. The theatric location of the baptistery and installation of a modern lighting switchboard added to the dramatic effects possible for pageantry and church plays.

Fitzhugh and Byron, of Phoenix, were selected as local architects and worked out the exact structural plans and decorative details, and then supervised the construction. Lee M. Fitzhugh was one of Phoenix' foremost architects for 30 years, working with both his brother and Lester Byron. Lee Fitzhugh died in 1937. Byron, for many years chairman of the advisory board for Phoenix Building Code, died in 1963.

In 1929 the construction contract was awarded to a prominent local contractor, William Peper, for \$170,000. On February 11, 1929, the work of razing the old building began and on May 26, the corner stone was laid. On November 24, the first service was held

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

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Arizona Republican Feb. to Dec. 1929; Jan, April 1930; Jan. 1937;

Arizona Republic April 1950; October 1963; October 1965

Arizona Republic April 1950; October	1963; Uctober 1965 (See Continuation Sheet)
10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY <u>less than one</u> QUADRANGLE NAME Phoenix	QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:62500
UTM REFERENCES A 1 2 3 9 9 8 5 0 3 7 0 1 5 5 0 ZONE EASTING NORTHING C 1 1 1 1 1 1	BLLA
	FLII
GLL_L_L_L_L_L_L_L_L_L_L_L_L_L_L_L_L	
VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION Lots 2,4,6 Block 95, Official PlatCity of	
LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES (JVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES
STATE CODE C	COUNTY CODE · · ·
STATE CODE C	COUNTY CODE
NAME/TITLE James W. Garrison, Historical Arc Historian - Bill Garrett, Environmen ORGANIZATION Janus Associates STREET & NUMBER	chitect - James Woodward, Architectural <u>Ital Planner - Cindy L. Myers, Historical</u> DATE Archeologist TELEPHONE
2121 S. Priest, Suite 127	(602) 967-7117
CITY OR TOWN Tempe	STATE
	Arizona 85282
12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION O THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS	
NATIONAL STATE	
As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the Nation hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Regist criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.	
STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE	1. Mittall
	icer DATE 18 December 1981
FOR NPS USE ONLY //	
I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN TH	DATE 2/0/01
ATTEST:	DATE
CHIEF OF REGISTRATION	

Form No. 10-300a (Rev. 10-74)

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in the new auditorium. The importance of this new structure to the population of central Phoenix was recognized by religious and civic leaders, as well as the local congregation.

The official dedication of the church occurred April 1930 with four days of celebration which included a speech by Arizona Governor John C. Phillips.

Because of the size of the original project the west wing was not included in the construction contract, and because of the Depression, the church took longer to complete than was expected. The west wing was added in 1949, but the plans were redesigned by Edward L. Varney, Jr. The two-story addition utilized a more modern structural system and metal windows, but the facade detailing and massing were derived from the original design and are quite compatible.

In 1968, the First Baptist Congregation moved to its current location several miles to the north. Portions of the building were then leased to the City of Phoenix for its Concentrated Employment Program (CEP). Most of the building is currently vacant awaiting rehabilitation.

The church was constructed (1929) at a time when Phoenix was still a central city. Located between the Presbyterian Church a block to the west and the Methodist Church a block to the east, the new church was the last major denominational effort in the central city. By the time Phoenix had recovered from the Depression and World War II, neighborhood churches in expanding subdivisions were replacing large downtown congregations.

Today, the building is a reminder of past accomplishments, but also has the potential to contribute to the revitalization of the downtown area in the 1980s. Its stylistic qualities definitely add to the regional architectural character of Phoenix.

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First Baptist Church, "Program of Dedication". Phoenix, Arizona. April 2-6, 1930

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