United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

received AUG 5 1985
date entered SEP 5 1985

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

Type all entries	s—complete applicable s	ections				
1. Nam	<u> </u>					
historic Tha	nkful Baptist Churc	h				
and or common	same					
2. Loca	ation					
street & number	935 Spiderwebb D	rive			N/A not for publica	tion
city, town Ro	ome	N/A vic	cinity of			
state Georgi	.a code	013	county	Floyd	code 1	15
3. Clas	sification					
Category district _X building(s) structure site object	Ownership public private both Public Acquisition N/A in process being considered	Status X occupi unocci work ir Accessible X yes: re X yes: ui no	upied n progress e estricted	Present Use agriculture commercial educational entertainment government industrial military	museum park private resi X religious scientific transportat other:	
4. Own	er of Proper	ty				
mt 1. c	ul Baptist Church c		d O R Va	tee		
street & number	935 Spiderwebb Dri		1 0.5. 14			
	me	N/A vic		state	Georgia 3 0 10	61
<u> </u>	ation of Lega			on		-
· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	stry of deeds, etc. Superi		-			
	Floyd County Cour					
street & number				state	Georgia	
	resentation	in Exis	sting			
Historic	Structures Field Su	ırvey:				37
title Floyd Co	unty		has this pro	perty been determined el	igible? yes	<u>X</u> n
date 1977				federal X sta	te county _	loca
depository for su	urvey records Georgia I)epartment	of Natur	al Resources		
city, town At	:lanta			state	Georgia	

7. Description

Condition Check one excellent deteriorated unaltered good ruins altered fair unexposed	Check one X original site moved date	
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Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Thankful Baptist Church, constructed in 1881, is a Gothic-style brick church, sited on a small hill landscaped with grass and trees. It is located northeast of Rome's Central Business District at the intersection of Gibbons Street and Spiderwebb Drive.

The south front facade has three bays, separated by stepped wall buttresses, an occular shaped window above the central portal, and a bell tower with spire on the southeast corner. The east and west facades have seven bays, separated by stepped wall buttresses. All of the stained glass windows have lancet arches and hood moldings. Other exterior details include a shingle metal roof with board-and-batten siding, and wood-framed cornices, eaves, and windows.

The plan of the historic church consists of the narthex and the sanctuary. The interior of the sanctuary has original wooden pews and stained glass windows, plaster walls with wood paneled wainscoting, a pressed-metal central ceiling, and posts with exposed framing in the nave arcade. The wall behind the pulpit is original. The 1976 renovation of the church consisted of sanding and refinishing the original pews, adding a new HVAC system, sandblasting of the exterior brick, remodeling of the narthex, pastor's study, and ladies room which included the lowering of ceilings, the addition of wood paneling and carpeting. The pulpit area was also remodeled and wall paintings at the rear of the sanctuary and rear of the narthex were added.

Other structures on the church property (but not on the nominated property) are the brick annex and church office which date from the early 1960s. The church office, which is detached from the historic church building, was used as a parsonage until the early 1980s.

The boundary of the nominated property is comprised of the historic church building and its surrounding landscape. It includes Gibbons Street to the west, Spiderwebb Drive to the south, the west side of the concrete drive and sidewalk on the east, and the brick retaining wall on the rear (north). It does not include the modern, detached church office or annex.

Thankful Baptist Church is one of few historic structures in the area, and it is surrounded by a mixture of commercial, fast-food establishments, and undeveloped properties.

8. Significance

1700–1799 _X_ 1800–1899	Areas of Significance—C archeology-prehistoric agriculture architecture art commerce communications	community planning conservation economics	landscape architecture law literature military music philosophy politics/government	e X religion science sculpture social/ humanitarian theater transportation X other (specify)
Specific dates	1881	Ruilder/Architect	Unknown	

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Thankful Baptist Church is significant in the areas of architecture, religion, and local history.

In terms of <u>architecture</u>, Thankful Baptist Church is important as a late 19th-century brick Gothic-style church with bell tower and spire. Significant details include exterior stepped wall buttresses, stained-glass windows with lancet arches and hood moldings, and a large occular window. The church is a good example of Gothic architecture that was common in many churches constructed in towns and communities in Georgia and throughout America in the late 19th century.

In the area of religion, Thankful Baptist Church is important as the first independent church for black citizens in Rome. The early history of the church is closely associated with the Rome Baptist Church, that was established by whites. Between 1835 and 1865 there were approximately 128 black members of the Rome Baptist Church. In the early 1850s blacks were allowed to hold separate services in the basement of the church with assistance of the white Baptists. In 1867 the blacks formally organized their membership in a separate church, and in 1869 a permanent building was completed. The present church building, constructed in 1881, was erected on the site of the first church. Thankful Baptist Church members created other black churches in the Rome area, including Springfield Baptist Church and the Broad Street Baptist Church. The church has served the spiritual needs of black citizens of Rome and all sections of Floyd County and continues to serve the community today with a membership of about 500 people.

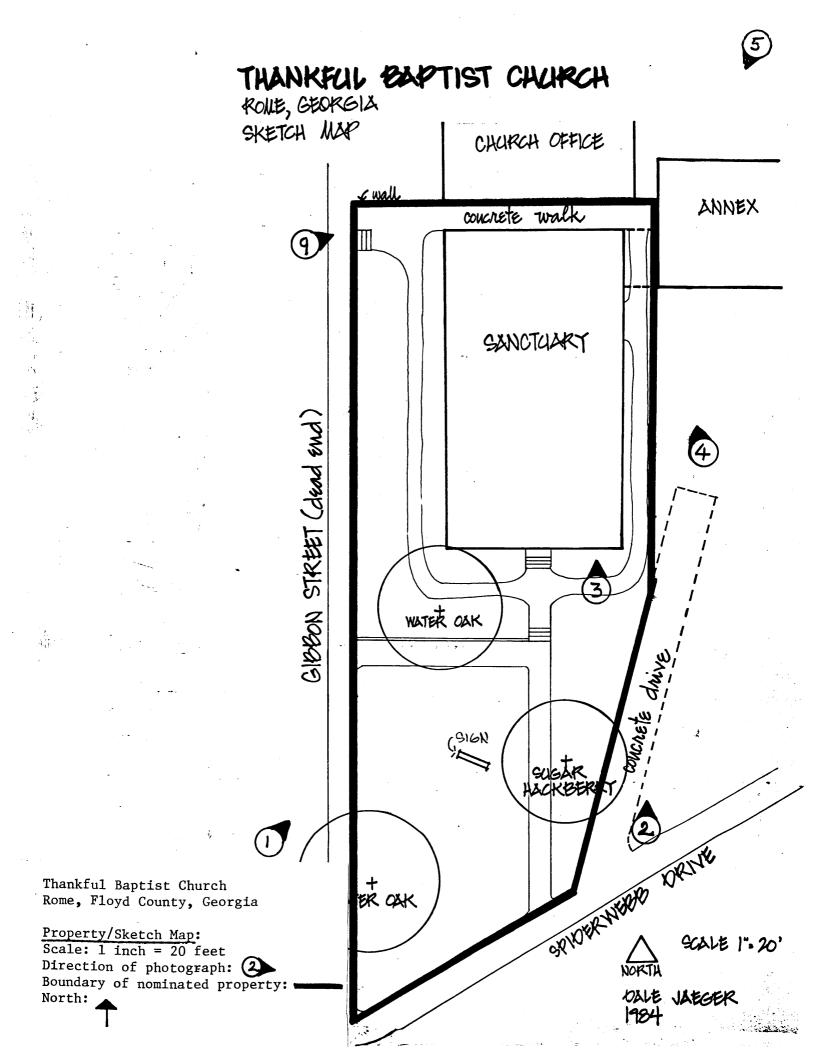
Thankful Baptist Church is significant in the area of <u>local history</u> for its association with prominent black citizens in the Rome area, which included Reverend Jefferson Milner (1820-1895), the founder of the church and the Rome High and Industrial School and the Reverend John J. Poindexter, who served as pastor of Thankful Baptist at the turn of the century and as pastor of the Broad Street Baptist in 1904. Members of the church included doctors, lawyers, teachers, and other professionals who represented a variety of socio-economic levels.

9. Major Bibliographical References

GPO 911-399

Jaeger, Dale. "Thankful Baptist Church - Historic Property Information Form". August, 1984. (On file at the Historic Preservation Section, Georgia Department of Natural Resources).

10. Geographical Data						
Acreage of nominated property $1ess$ than 1 acre Quadrangle name $Rome North$, GA	Quadrangle scale1:24000					
A 1 16 6 6 9 4 14 10 3 17 9 12 2 12 10 Northing	1 6 6 9 5 2 0 3 7 9 2 0 0 0 0 Zone Easting Northing					
C 116 6619 31010 317 912 010 0 F						
Verbal boundary description and justification The boundary of the nominated property is indicated by a heavy black line on the enclosed "property/sketch map" and is justified in Section 7.						
List all states and counties for properties overlapping sta	ite or county boundaries					
state N/A code county	code					
state code county	code					
11. Form Prepared By						
name/titie Andrea Niles, Survey and Research Spec	ialist					
organization Georgia Department of Natural Resource	s date 7-3-85					
street & number 270 Washington Street SW	telephone 404/656-2840					
city or town Atlanta	state Georgia					
12. State Historic Preservat						
The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:	ı					
national state X local						
As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the Natio 665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National State Historic Preservation Officer signature	Register and certify that it has been evaluated					
Elizabeth A. Ly	on date 7 / // 85					
Tor NPS use only	7////03					
I hereby certify that this property is included in the National						
Mation	I in the date 9/5/85					
7 "Keeper of the National Register"						
Attest: Chief of Registration	date					



THANKFUL BAPTIST CHURCH ROME, GEORGIA

FLOORPLAN

Thankful Baptist Church

Scale: 1 inch = 20 feet

Interior Plan:

North:

