

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Amendment/Supplementary Information

**NATIONAL
REGISTER**

Amendment/Supplementary Information
Springfield Baptist Church, 114 Twelfth Street
Augusta, Richmond County, Georgia
May 8, 1990

INTRODUCTION

Springfield Baptist Church was listed on the National Register on June 17, 1982. The nomination included only the 1801 church building used by the Springfield congregation from 1844 to 1897, and not the newer building constructed in 1897. The 1801 church building was the only part of the property believed to be eligible at that time. Now, almost ten years later, after working more closely with historic black resources and the preparation of the Historic Black Resources handbook, the 1897 church building has also come to be recognized as significant and eligible for the National Register. This amendment will add the 1897 building to the nomination so that both historic Springfield Baptist Church buildings will be included. This amendment is sponsored by the church congregation as was the original nomination.

PURPOSE OF AMENDMENT

This amendment to the Springfield Baptist Church National Register nomination does the following:

1. It adds the 1897 church building to the nomination and includes the description, history, statement of significance, and criteria application to substantiate the building's eligibility.
2. It provides supplementary information regarding construction materials, architectural style, period of significance, criteria, and areas of significance, and updates previous information.
3. It corrects errors in the original nomination with new information.

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4. It provides corrected acreage, boundaries, and UTM figures for the property.

DESCRIPTION OF AMENDED PROPERTY

Springfield Baptist Church as amended consists of both the 1801 church building and the 1897 church building on approximately 0.7 acre at the corner of Twelfth and Reynolds Streets in the city of Augusta. The 1801 church building is described in the original nomination. This description will focus on the 1897 building, its relationship to the earlier building, and the remainder of the 0.7-acre property.

The current Springfield Baptist Church building was constructed in 1897. The earlier building was moved to the rear of the lot at that time to allow space for the new building. The 1897 church building is a rectangular, brick structure with two square towers at the corners of the front facade. Each tower has an entranceway and steeply pitched pyramidal roof. The larger tower is a bell tower and is buttressed at its corners. The rectangular sanctuary is covered by a large, gabled roof with brick parapet walls at each end that follow the roof's gabled outline. The stained glass windows and entranceways of the building are topped with pointed arches. A large central window on the front facade consists of double pointed-arch windows with a round rosette window above. The building's pointed-arch windows and entrances, tower buttresses, gabled parapets, and steeply pitched pyramidal tower roofs are characteristic features of the Late Victorian Gothic style.

The two front entrances each open into vestibules within the towers. The vestibule in the larger bell tower has a narrow, wooden stairway that provides access to the upper part of the tower where the bell is located. The interior of the church's sanctuary is a large, open, rectangular space with a central aisle formed by the two sections of original wooden pews. A raised wooden platform forms the altar area opposite the entrances. A baptismal pool has been added at the rear of the raised platform. The sanctuary walls are of plaster with a beaded wood wainscoting. The high, cove ceiling is covered with

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a patterned pressed metal. The original wood floors have been covered with carpet and tile. Old gas fixtures converted to electricity light the sanctuary space.

A secondary entrance foyer is connected to the southwest, side facade of the building. A nonhistoric one-story, brick-veneered wing was recently attached to the foyer and serves as the pastor's study. An enclosed hallway connects the rear foyer to the 1801 building which sits approximately four to five feet behind the 1897 building. This is the only connection between the two church buildings.

The 1897 building sits on the north corner of the 0.7-acre lot at the corner of Twelfth and Reynolds Streets facing northwest toward Twelfth Street. The 1801 building immediately to its rear faces northeast toward Reynolds Street. A nonhistoric, small, brick structure with shed roof used as a restroom is attached to the corner of the smaller, southwest tower. A nonhistoric open, wood-framed gazebo on a brick base also stands next to the southwest facade and was built as a memorial. These structures are screened from the front of the property by a brick wall. The grassed lawn in front of the 1897 building is bordered by a trimmed hedge and traversed by concrete sidewalks. Several former ministers are buried in this front lawn, and their graves are marked by marble slabs. Most of the remainder of the property is used for parking.

The 1801 church building is currently being rehabilitated. The exterior asbestos siding and interior partitions, paneling, and lowered ceiling that had been added have now been removed so that the original materials and configuration of the building are again visible. This restoration work has enhanced the architectural significance of the building. When rehabilitation is complete, the building will continue to be used by the congregation for educational and fellowship purposes.

ARCHITECTURAL CLASSIFICATION (amended property)

LATE VICTORIAN; Gothic

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MATERIALS (amended property)

foundation: brick
walls: brick
roof: asphalt
other: metal
wood

ARCHITECT/BUILDER (amended property)

Todd, Albert Whitner

NATIONAL REGISTER CRITERIA (amended property)

A , C

Springfield Baptist Church as amended is eligible under Criterion A for the events of its history as a black religious institution within the historic Springfield community. It is eligible under Criterion C for the architecture of both the 1801 wood-framed church building and the 1897 brick church building.

CRITERIA CONSIDERATIONS (amended property)

A , D

Springfield Baptist Church as amended consists of two historic religious buildings significant for architecture and black history, and also includes a burial site associated with the church's history.

PERIOD OF SIGNIFICANCE (amended property)

The period of significance for Springfield Baptist Church as amended is 1801 to 1940. This period begins with the 1801 construction date of the earlier building and includes the

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building's history of use up through 1897. It also encompasses the period of significance for the later building from its construction date of 1897 to the 50-year cut-off date of 1940.

The previous nomination incorrectly cites the construction date of the 1897 church building as 1910. 1910 is the date of the building's official dedication by the congregation.

NARRATIVE STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE/DEVELOPMENTAL HISTORY
(amended property)

The Springfield Baptist Church as amended is significant for the 1801 wood-framed church building and the 1897 brick church building and for the importance of this black religious institution within the surrounding Springfield community. The entire property is significant in the areas of architecture and black history. These areas of significance include and supercede the areas of significance of the original nomination.

In the area of architecture, Springfield Baptist Church as amended is significant for both the 1801 wood-framed church building used by the congregation from 1844 to 1897 and the 1897 brick church building constructed by the congregation to better serve the church's needs. The architectural significance of the 1801 building is explained in the original nomination. The 1897 building is architecturally significant as a good example of a late-19th-century Late Victorian Gothic, brick church structure. The rectangular brick structure with two front towers, gabled main roof with parapet walls, tower buttresses and steeply pitched pyramidal roofs, and pointed-arch windows and entrances are characteristic Late Victorian Gothic features. The building also retains its historic stained glass windows. The interior remains relatively intact with plaster walls, beaded wood wainscoting, and cove ceiling covered with decorative pressed metal. The larger bell tower retains the narrow, wooden stairway that leads up to the platform where the bell is located. The building's design features were typical of many urban black churches built during the late 19th century in Georgia. While most rural and many urban black churches were much simpler and

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smaller structures, quite a number of urban black churches were elaborately styled and architect-designed, such as Springfield.

The 1897 building is also significant as the work of Albert Whitner Todd (1856-1924), an architect living and working in Augusta at the time. Todd was from Anderson, South Carolina, and began his architectural career there around 1877. He moved to Augusta about 1889 to continue his architectural practice and worked there until moving to Charleston, South Carolina, around 1899, where he maintained an office until his death in 1924. He also served in the South Carolina state legislature from 1910 to 1924. There in 1917 he introduced a bill to define and regulate the practice of architecture. He was a charter member of the South Carolina chapter of the American Institute of Architects and served as its president from 1915 to 1916.

In the area of black history, the Springfield Baptist Church as amended is significant as an important black religious institution in the Springfield community. This area of significance includes and supplements the areas of religious and social/humanitarian significance for the 1801 building as explained in the original nomination. The 1897 church building is significant as the second building on this site used by the Springfield congregation, one of the oldest independent black congregations in the country. As stated in the original nomination, the congregation became independent under the Springfield Baptist Church name in 1787. Throughout the 19th century, the church played an important role in Augusta's religious history, spanning the change in mid-century for blacks from slavery to free citizenship. This important role continued into the late 19th and early 20th centuries with the construction of a new brick church building beginning in 1897. With this larger and more imposing brick structure, the congregation continued to play a very significant religious, social, and cultural role within the black community of Springfield. The burial sites of several former ministers in the church's front lawn attest to the importance of the church's religious leadership within the community. The church building continued to be a major community landmark, and the congregation an important community institution. The Springfield Baptist Church

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buildings are two of the last surviving buildings of the historic Springfield community.

CONTRIBUTING/NONCONTRIBUTING RESOURCES (amended property)

	<u>buildings</u>	<u>sites</u>	<u>structures</u>	<u>objects</u>
Contributing:				
currently listed:	1	0	0	0
as amended:	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
new totals:	2	1	0	0

Total Contributing Resources: 3

	<u>buildings</u>	<u>sites</u>	<u>structures</u>	<u>objects</u>
Noncontributing:				
currently listed:	0	0	0	0
amended:	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>0</u>
new totals:	0	0	2	0

Total Noncontributing Resources: 2

ACREAGE (amended property)

Currently listed:	0.2
Amended (added) area:	<u>0.5</u>
Total property acreage:	0.7

BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION/JUSTIFICATION (amended property)

The boundary for the Springfield Baptist Church as amended encompasses the entire 0.7-acre lot that constitutes the current church property. This property is identified as lot #80 on the attached tax map. The former National Register boundary circumscribed only the 1801 church building and its frontage on Reynolds Street. This amendment will add the remaining 0.5 acre of the church property on which the 1897 church building stands. The new boundary will therefore include both the 1801 building

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and the 1897 building and the 0.7-acre lot currently owned by the church. This boundary is drawn to scale on the attached tax map. The original nomination cites the property address as 112 Twelfth Street. The current address is listed as 114 Twelfth Street.

UTM REFERENCES (amended property)

Zone	Easting	Northing
17	409690	3704580

This UTM reference is for the total 0.7-acre property as amended.

BIBLIOGRAPHY (amended property)

Anderson, Betty. Springfield Baptist Church History. Augusta, 1987.

Merritt, Carole. Historic Black Resources. Atlanta: Historic Preservation Section, Georgia Department of Natural Resources, 1984.

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AMENDMENT FORM PREPARED BY

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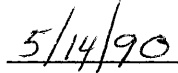
May 8, 1990

STATE AGENCY CERTIFICATION

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination amendment meets the documentation standards for registering historic 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 nominated property as amended meets the National Register criteria.



Elizabeth A. Lyon
Chief, Historic Preservation Section
Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer



Date

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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Springfield Baptist Church (Boundary Increase) Richmond County, GEORGIA

BOUNDARY INCREASE APPROVAL

Keeper Amy Federman 7/5/90

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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Photographs

Name of Property: Springfield Baptist Church Amendment
City or Vicinity: Augusta
County: Richmond
State: Georgia
Photographer: James R. Lockhart
Negative Filed: Georgia Department of Natural Resources
Date Photographed: June 1989

Description of Photograph(s):

1 of 8: Front and southwest side facade of 1897 church building with 1801 church building to the rear.

2 of 8: Front and northeast side facade of 1897 building showing secondary side entrance, nonhistoric pastor's study addition, and nonhistoric restroom and gazebo.

3 of 8: Rear of property looking toward 1801 building.

4 of 8: Front lawn of 1897 building with graves of former ministers.

5 of 8: Foundation stone on front facade showing 1897 construction date.

6 of 8: Interior of 1897 sanctuary looking toward altar area.

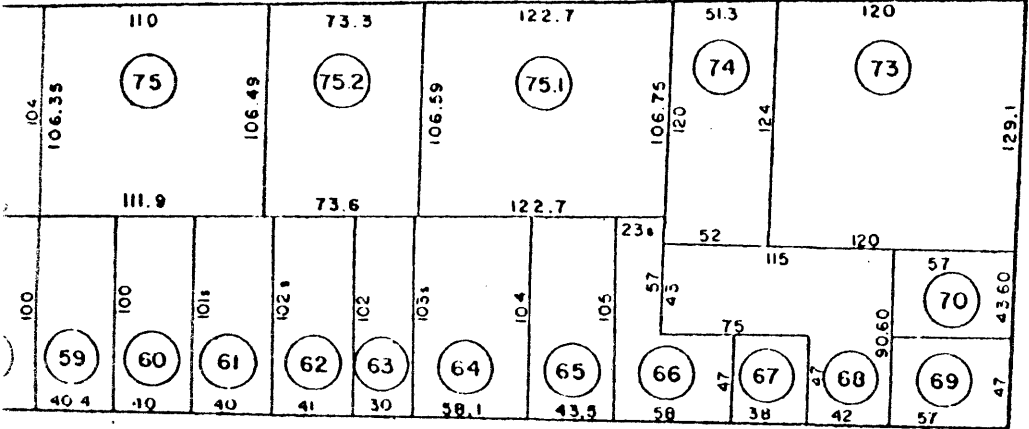
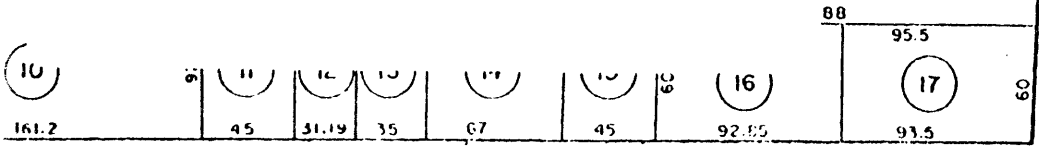
7 of 8: Altar area of sanctuary.

8 of 8: Interior of large stained glass window on front facade.

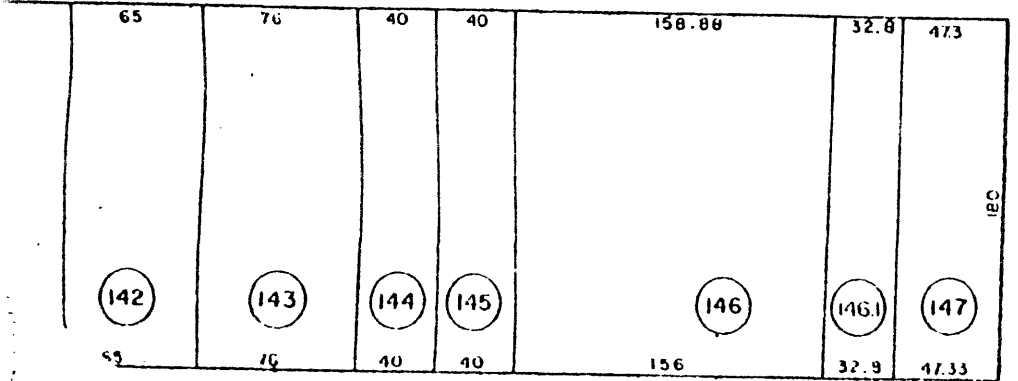
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PROPERTY/SKETCH MAP

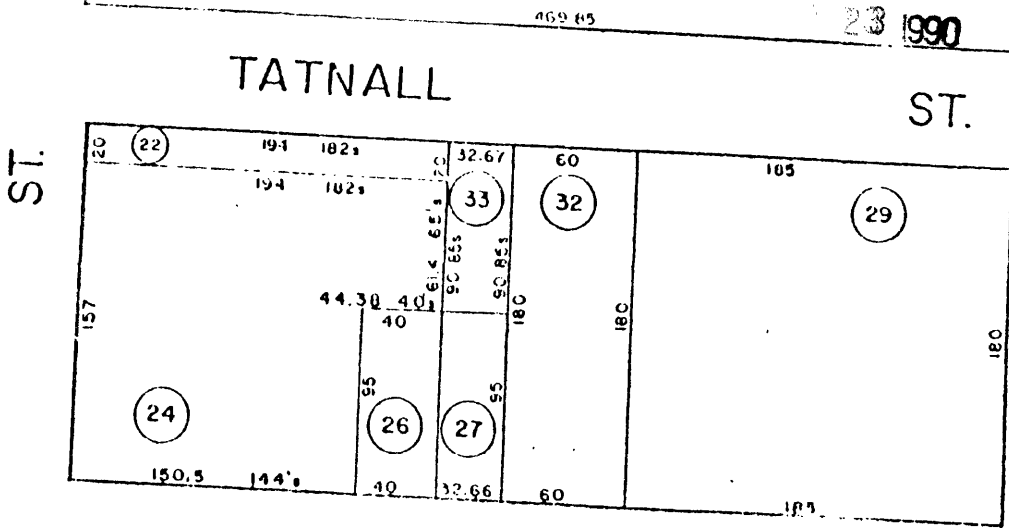
North: ↑
 Scale: 1" = 100'
 Boundary of nominated property: ——— (as amended)



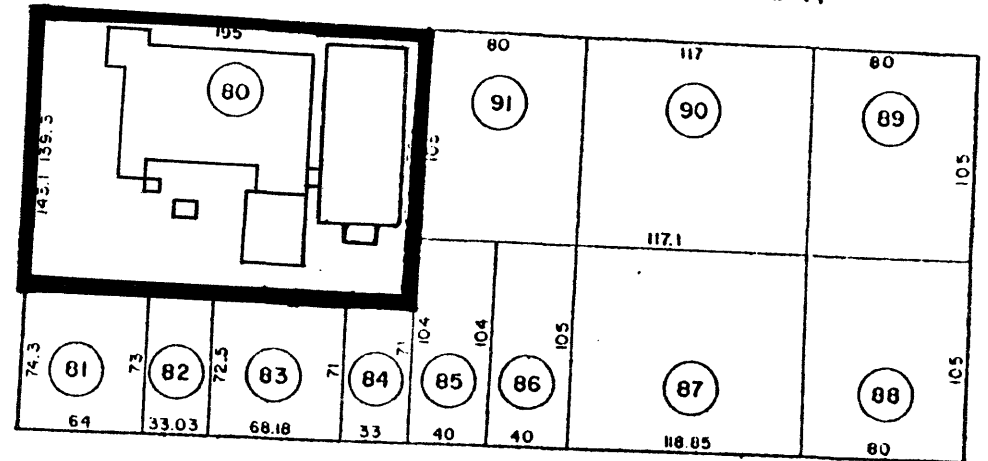
JONES



(MARBURY)



REYNOLDS



ST.

