(N/A) NOT FOR PUBLICATION

SOUTH CAROLINA INVENTORY FORM FOR HISTORIC DISTRICTS AND INDIVIDUAL PROPERTIES IN A MULTIPLE PROPERTY SUBMISSION

NATIONAL REGISTER

NAME OF MULTIPLE PROPERTY SUBMISSION: City of Darlington Multiple Resource Area

PREFERRED NAME OF PROPERTY: First Baptist Church

HISTORIC NAME OF PROPERTY: Same

COMMON NAME OF PROPERTY: Same

LOCATION: 246 South Main Street

CLASSIFICATION: Building

NUMBER OF RESOURCES WITHIN PROPERTY: 2 Contributing Buildings

OWNER: First Baptist Church
246 South Main Street
Darlington, South Carolina 29532

DESCRIPTION

A cornerstone on the First Baptist Church indicates that this Georgian Revival building was erected in 1912. The large, rectangular brick edifice is distinguished by a Roman Doric pedimented portico, which displays an entablature with medallions between triglyphs. Within the front portico are three recessed doorways with semicircular fanlights, above which, at balcony level, are similar fanlights. A steeple is located on the ridge of the roof and rests in part on the portico roof. The steeple is characterized by several stages: a square base with sandstone quoins and circular windows; an octagonal masonry lantern featuring round-arched louvered vents and Roman Doric corner pilasters and entablatures, capped and encircled by a balustrade with decorative urns; an octagonal wood section above containing circular windows in each bay and terminating in a copper spire surmounted by a cross. The six-bay side walls of the sanctuary are dominated by large, round-arched windows set in shallow recesses. All window openings are accented with sandstone lintels, corner blocks, and keystones. A simple boxed cornice projects above a wood and brick entablature.

Connected to the church by an arched loggia, the two-story educational building to the north of the sanctuary was renovated in 1924 and contributes to the character of the property. It has a hipped roof,

1/5/88

a projecting entrance bay with pediment and fanlight, heavy boxed cornice, paired casement windows with ten lights in each sash, and cast stone quoins. West of the church is a cemetery that contains cast iron fences and headstones dating to the 1820's.

SIGNIFICANCE

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE: Architecture

LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE: L (for office use only)

SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANCE

The First Baptist Church is architecturally significant as an example of the Georgian Revival style. The massive red brick rectangular form with its gable roof, Roman Doric portico, and tall steeple, as well as its fenestration detail and intact interior make the First Baptist Church an important example of early twentieth century religious architecture in Darlington.

The building was dedicated on December 8, 1912.[1] The adjacent church building, which was completed as a wooden structure in 1859 was then used for Sunday School and other youth activities.[2] This building was remodeled extensively in 1924 to its present brick appearance and connected to the sanctuary by a loggia.[3]

The cemetery at the back of the property dates from the 1820's and contains many of Darlington's most noted citizens.

ACREAGE: approximately 3 acres

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION: The boundary of the First Baptist Church nomination is shown as the red line on the accompanying map entitled "First Baptist Church." The map was copied from a map of the town of Darlington, S.C., which is dated June, 1980, and is drawn at a scale of one inch to 500 feet. The nominated property includes the historic church building, the 1924 educational building, cemetery, and the lot on which they are situated.

QUAD NAME: Darlington East, S.C.

QUAD SCALE: 1:24,000

UTM REFERENCE POINT: 17/604000/3795780

1/5/88

FOOTNOTES

[1]Thomas E. Crosby et. al., The Sesquicentennial History of the First Baptist Church, Darlington, S.C. (n.p., n.d.), p. 13.

[2]Ibid., pp. 5 and 13.

[3]Ibid., pp. 14-15.

NAME OF MULTIPLE PROPERTY SUBMISSION: City of Darlington Multiple Resourse Area (Darlington County, S.C.)

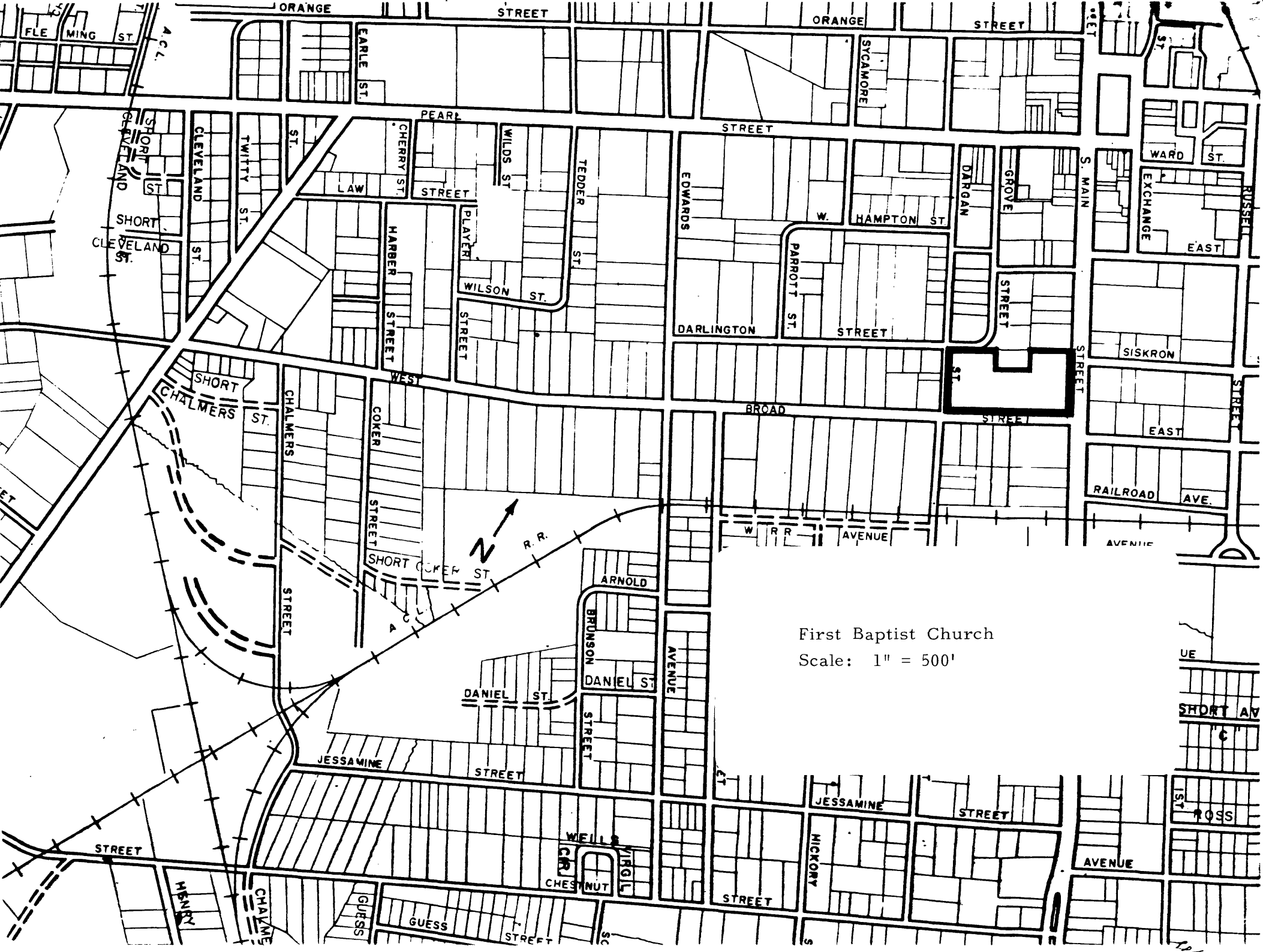
NAME OF PROPERTY: First Baptist Church (Addendum)

The number of resources within the property should read as follows:

2 Contributing Buildings
1 Contributing Site

Since the church cemetery (site) contains graves dating as early as the 1820s, the nominated property's period of significance should be c. 1825 - 1924.

The church is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places and should be listed under Criterion Consideration A, while the cemetery is eligible and should be listed under Criterion Consideration D, as an intact cemetery historically associated with First Baptist Church and the city of Darlington, S. C.


First Baptist Church
Scale: 1" = 500'
ORANGE STREET
FLEMING ST.
EARLE ST.
PEARL STREET
SYCAMORE
SHORT CLEVELAND ST.
CLEVELAND ST.
TWITTY ST.
CHERRY ST.
LAW STREET
WILDS ST.
TEDDER ST.
EDWARDS
W. HAMPTON ST.
DARGAN
GROVE STREET
S. MAIN
WARD ST.
EXCHANGE
EAST
RUSSELL
HARBER STREET
PLAYER
WILSON ST.
PARROTT ST.
DARLINGTON STREET
SISKRON
SHORT CHALMERS ST.
CHALMERS STREET
COKER STREET
WEST BROAD STREET
RAILROAD AVE.
W. R. R. AVENUE
SHORT COKER ST.
R.R.
ARNOLD
BRUNSON
DANIEL ST.
AVENUE
JESSAMINE STREET
WELLS
VIRGIL
CHESTNUT
HICKORY
GUESS STREET
HENRY
CHALMERS
SHORT AV
"C"
1ST CROSS