

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE:
North Carolina

COUNTY:
Craven

FOR NPS USE ONLY

ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

1. NAME

COMMON:
First Church of Christ, Scientist

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
406 and 408 Middle Street

CITY OR TOWN:
New Bern (First Congressional District, The Hon. Walter B. Jones)

STATE North Carolina	CODE 37	COUNTY: Craven	CODE 049
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3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No

PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural	<input type="checkbox"/> Government	<input type="checkbox"/> Park	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	<input type="checkbox"/> Comments
<input type="checkbox"/> Commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> Industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Educational	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Religious	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	_____	_____

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
First Church of Christ, Scientist

STREET AND NUMBER:
402 Middle Street

CITY OR TOWN:
New Bern

STATE: North Carolina	CODE 37
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5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:
Craven County Courthouse

STREET AND NUMBER:
300 Broad Street

CITY OR TOWN:
New Bern

STATE North Carolina	CODE 37
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6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:

DATE OF SURVEY: Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:

STATE:	CODE:

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7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unaltered		<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site	

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (If known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The First Church of Christ, Scientist, set immediately adjacent to the sidewalk, is a one-story temple-form structure, three bays wide and five deep. It is constructed of brick covered with stucco and trimmed with wood. The building is bounded at the base by a stuccoed water table marking the foundation. The cornerstone laid in the foundation at the southwest corner is inscribed "December 13, 1903." A stuccoed chimney projects from the center of the low gable roof, which is covered by standing-seam tin.

An Ionic tetrastyle pedimented portico projects from the main (west) facade. The portico columns with an exaggerated entasis and angled volutes are set on stuccoed bases which build out of the steps leading to the low porch. The structure is capped by a wide entablature which extends around the main block and the portico. The heavy block modillion cornice carries around the stuccoed tympanum. In the center of the facade wall at the rear of the portico is a large Palladian casement window with twelve panes in each leaf of the central section. The six-pane sidelights are flanked by Tuscan pilasters, and a molded architrave with a paneled keystone surrounds the fanlight which surmounts the casement. The wooden sill is supported on chamfered corbels, one occurring beneath each pilaster, with a plain raised panel between the corbels. On either side of this window is a double door with a single raised panel in each leaf, set beneath a rusticated stone flat arch with a keystone. The rear (east) end contains a central Palladian window identical to that of the main facade set in a recess between the projecting end bays, each of which contains a door.

The four outer bays of the five-bay side elevations of the First Church of Christ, Scientist, are marked by large round-arched casement windows with stuccoed sills. Each leaf of these casements contains twelve panes. In the center bay of each side elevation is a wider elliptical arch in which is set a Palladian window similar to the facade window but with a simpler surround. Frosted glazing occurs in some windows and clear glazing in others. A pressed-tin parapet, the intervening posts ornamented by faceted raised panels and each parapet section by a single flat panel, extends the length of each side.

The plan and finish of the interior are essentially as constructed. An entrance vestibule, one bay deep, is set off from the sanctuary by a partition wall interrupted by a central projecting chimney breast. The vestibule is finished with a wide molded baseboard, plaster walls, and an unmolded plaster cove cornice. Molded architraves surround the windows and doors. The Classical Revival mantel in this room consists of fluted Ionic colonnettes which flank the tile fire opening surround and support a plain frieze surmounted by a molded shelf adorned with dentils. The original light fixtures remain and have been electrified. Brass wall lights flank the mantel and a fixture with a cut-glass globe is suspended from the center of the ceiling. Swinging double doors, each leaf having a single raised panel, open on each side of the chimney breast into the sanctuary.

The finish of the sanctuary walls is identical to that of the vestibule. The tall Classical Revival mantel on the west wall contains fluted Ionic colonnettes which flank a tile fire opening surround and support a frieze

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with flat-paneled end blocks and a flat-paneled central tablet, supported from beneath by four modillion consoles. A molded shelf with a dentil band surmounts the frieze, breaking over the end blocks. At the east end of the room partition walls enclose a small room in each corner. The center bay between these two rooms is open, with the floor raised to form a reader's platform. The arched ceiling over the reader's platform echoes the line of the Palladian window in the east wall which illuminates this platform. The furnishings of the platform--a bench with high paneled sides set beneath the Palladian window and two raised-paneled lecterns ornamented with dentil courses are later additions. A raised-paneled door from the sanctuary leads into each room, finished with a simple baseboard and cornice. The southeast room is used for storage. The northeast room serves as the reader's room and is linked to the reader's platform by an opening in the south side wall. The high-backed wooden chairs which served as the original seating have been replaced by wooden pews with raised-paneled sides and backs, the former ornamented by dentil bands like the furniture of the reader's platform. A center aisle divides the pews. The bases of the ceiling light fixtures in the sanctuary are original, but the globes are replacements. Above each of the four corner doors within the sanctuary is a plaque bearing a Biblical quotation.

8. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- Pre-Columbian | 16th Century | 18th Century | 20th Century
 15th Century | 17th Century | 19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|---|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input type="checkbox"/> Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Political | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | <input type="checkbox"/> Science | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | _____ |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Military | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | | | _____ |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Christian Science in New Bern had its beginning in August of 1894 when Mary Hatch Harrison returned from Boston where, she reported, she had been healed of paralysis through Christian Science and had become a member of the Mother Church. On her return to New Bern she began holding meetings in her home at 17 New Street, forming a group which met there until a meeting room was secured at 87 Craven Street. On August 18, 1902, a church was organized with eighteen members.

The group faced several court tests beginning in 1900 and not culminating until 1919. In general these cases involved the question of the practice of medicine without a license. The first case was heard in 1900 before a grand jury which refused to approve an indictment, but there was local newspaper agitation and a bill was introduced in the 1903 North Carolina General Assembly which the New Bern group felt would gravely hamper the practice of Christian Science. The bill was subsequently defeated, and practitioners were given the right to acquire a license. From her home in Concord, New Hampshire, Mary Baker Eddy, the founder of Christian Science, wrote the local congregation on March 19, 1903:

My beloved Brethren - Your recent victory in the Legislative Halls of North Carolina fills my heart with a flood of joy. Your fortitude, faith and love have met their reward. Methinks the angels join our paeon of praise and our Father Mother God saith in the words of the Scriptures: Well done good and faithful enter thou into the joy of the Lord.

May this dear church be the branch of his planting and birds of promise sing in the branches, and bud and blossoms crown its ripening glory. . . .

On October 2, 1903, licenses to practice Christian Science were issued to Mary Hatch Harrison and William Lane Ferebee. Shortly thereafter, on December 31, the cornerstone of a church was laid on land belonging to Mrs. Harrison.

Mrs. Eddy, who in 1844 had lived in Wilmington, North Carolina, seems to have been particularly interested in the establishment of her church in the state and participated actively in the building of the New Bern church. At her behest, John Swinson, owner of a quarry in Concord, New Hampshire, cut and donated the granite block for the cornerstone, and

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Mrs. Eddy sent copies of all her writings to be placed in the stone, along with a gift of \$3,000 for the building fund.

For some time thereafter there was no activity, but on September 22, 1904, Mrs. Harrison deeded the church property where the cornerstone had been laid to the congregation. Finally, in January, 1907, an architect was secured, and plans for the church were drawn. On May 7

the contractors began to clear the ground and fix the lines, etc. Then we learned that six feet of the ground upon which the church was to be built had been put in the fire district. Our plans had now to be changed and brick had to be used instead of wood. But God was with us and on May 20th, 1907 the ground was first broken and on the 27th the first bricks were laid by the seven youngest children in the Sunday school. . . .

The building of the first Christian Science Church in the state progressed rapidly, so that on Sunday morning July 28, 1907, at seven o'clock in the morning our church though the finishing were not quite completed, was dedicated. . . .

Mrs. Eddy once again came to the support of the local church and, as noted on a plaque in the entrance hall,

The four inscriptions on the walls of this church were furnished in 1907 by Mary Baker Eddy, the Discoverer and Founder of Christian Science.

Neither plans nor accounts for the construction of the building exist in the manuscript records of the church, but Mrs. Harrison notes in her early twentieth century manuscript history of the church that "an architect was secured and the plans for a simple church drawn." Recently a plan of the church has been found among the architectural drawings of Herbert Woodley Simpson, the local architect and funeral director who drew the plans also for the Centenary Methodist Church, the W. B. Blades House, and the remodelling of the James Coor House (all previously nominated to the National Register of Historic Places), and a number of other buildings in the area. The structure is a characteristic example of Simpson's Classical Revival work.

The progress of Christian Science was placid for some years until January, 1919, when, during the national outbreak of influenza, the Craven County Board of Health ordered all churches, schools, theaters, etc., closed. The Christian Scientists chose to disregard the order and were arrested and subsequently tried, convicted, and fined. The convictions were appealed and on January 6, 1920, the Superior Court ruled that the ordinance under which the arrests were made was invalid, and the cases were dismissed. There seem to have been no other challenges to Christian Science since that date, and the congregation is an active one in 1972.

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The First Church of Christ, Scientist, is a charming example of the Classical Revival mode which monopolized institutional design in the early twentieth century and became especially popular in New Bern through the influence of Herbert W. Simpson, the local architect who designed this church. Its small scale results in an intimacy which integrates the structure into the surrounding residential fabric.

In addition, the structure has considerable historical importance because of the active involvement of Mary Baker Eddy in the affairs of the congregation and the construction of the church which was the first Christian Science church in North Carolina.

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Craven County Records, Craven County Courthouse, New Bern, North Carolina, Office of the Register of Deeds (Subgroups: Deeds).
 Craven County Records, State Department of Archives and History, Raleigh, North Carolina (Subgroups: Deeds).
 Carraway, Gertrude. Crown of Life. New Bern: Owen G. Dunn, 1940.
The Christian Science Journal, Volume 32, Number 1 (April, 1914).
 First Church of Christ Scientist, New Bern, manuscript records.
 Harrison, Mary Hatch. "Historical Sketches," unpublished manuscript, early twentieth century.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
NW	° ' "	° ' "		35°	06'	32"
NE	° ' "	° ' "		77°	02'	30"
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 1/4 acre

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
Survey and Planning Unit Staff

ORGANIZATION: State Department of Archives and History DATE: 16 June 1972

STREET AND NUMBER:
109 East Jones Street

CITY OR TOWN: Raleigh STATE: North Carolina CODE: 37

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National State Local

Name H. G. Jones
 Title Director, State Department of Archives and History

Date 16 June 1972

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date _____

ATTEST:

Keeper of The National Register

Date _____

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Simpson, Herbert Woodley. Collection of drawings, currently in survey files, State Department of Archives and History; to be placed in Archives, private collections, State Department of Archives and History, Raleigh, North Carolina.

