

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms* (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

historic name (former) First Baptist Church
other names/site number Main Street Baptist Church

2. Location

street & number 126 North Main Street not for publication N/A
city, town Kernersville vicinity N/A
state North Carolina code N.C. county Forsyth code 067 zip code 27584

3. Classification

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	Number of Resources within Property	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	Contributing	Noncontributing
<input type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input type="checkbox"/> district	1	0 buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site		sites
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure		structures
	<input type="checkbox"/> object		objects
		1	0 Total

Name of related multiple property listing:
Historic and Architectural Resources in
Kernersville, N. C.

Number of contributing resources previously
listed in the National Register 0

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering 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 property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet.

William S. Pringle
Signature of certifying official
State Historic Preservation Officer

Date 12-18-87

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet.

Signature of commenting or other official _____ Date _____

State or Federal agency and bureau _____

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register.
 See continuation sheet.
- determined eligible for the National Register. See continuation sheet.
- determined not eligible for the National Register.
- removed from the National Register.
- other, (explain:)

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)
Religion: Religious structure

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)
Religion: religious structure

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(enter categories from instructions)

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

Tudor Revival
Late Gothic Revival

foundation brick
walls brick
roof metal
other stone

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

The (former) First Baptist Church was completed in 1916 to house a congregation organized in 1884. The two-story cross-gabled brick building, executed in a blend of the Gothic and Tudor Revival styles, sits on a slight rise close to the corner of North Main and Church streets. A compatible brick 1950 educational wing is located behind the church, connected by an arched breezeway. A large education building, built in the 1970s, stands to the north and is not included in this nomination.

The building is sheltered by a cross-gable roof, with round ventilators in each gable end. A short three-stage tower with arched entries to the south and west is located at the southwest corner of the principal facade. These entries are surmounted by single arched windows at the second floor balcony level, and paired arched ventilators in the third stage. This third stage is crenelated, with a short pyramidal steeple clad in tin shingles. A crenelated two-story tower is set in the northwest corner, and also contains one arched entry surmounted by a single window. All windows contain beveled leaded glass.

Between the two towers and projecting slightly, is the main block with central four-part round-arched windows in a Tudor-arched opening at the center, seperated from the single arched windows on either side at both levels by pilasters. This pattern of fenestration on the west front elevation is repeated on the north and south side elevations. A stone watertable divides the foundation from the main block and all windows have granite sills and keystones.

The interior is partitioned to create foyer and classroom space on either side of the sanctuary. The partition walls have massive two-story louvered openings which can be opened when necessary. The altar is located on the western wall, with a Tudor-arched niche to contain it. Tudor-arched doors are located at either side of the altar providing access to the class and study spaces behind. The pews, which are original, but which have been painted, are ranged on either side of a central aisle. The roof of the nave is vaulted and two stories in height with an ornamental plaster ceiling. A choir loft is located at the rear (west) of the sanctuary.

To the rear are an apse and a one-story minister's study. These are original to the construction of the church, and also have Gothic-arched bays to the sides and a Tudor-arched bay at the rear of the apse.

8. Statement of Significance

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

nationally statewide locally

Applicable National Register Criteria A B C D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) A B C D E F G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

Architecture

Period of Significance

1915/16

Significant Dates

1915/16

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Significant Person

N/A

Architect/Builder

Unknown

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

The (former) First Baptist Church, 126 North Main Street., built in 1915/16, is the only example of the Gothic/Tudor Revival styles in religious architecture in Kernersville where all other examples of religious architecture of the period were executed in the Colonial Revival style. The brick church is intact and retains original furnishings. It is one of a group of churches built in the early twentieth century to accomodate Kernersville citizens (Context III: Maturation Period, 1900-1930; Property Type B: Commercial and Religious architecture).

See continuation sheet

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National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 1

The (former) First Baptist Church was organized in 1884 by ten citizens of Kernersville. By 1890 the membership had grown to a self-sustaining congregation and had built a small brick sanctuary located on the corner of Mountain and Cherry streets which was destroyed in 1893 by a tornado. (1) It was replaced within four months by a frame church which was used in rotation by Baptist, Methodist, Methodist Protestant and Moravian congregations, with a united meeting of all four congregations on fifth Sundays. (2) By 1914 the church had grown to 128 members and plans were underway to build a new sanctuary to be located on Main Street. The first services were held in the new church on April 27, 1916. (3).

Most of the surviving late-nineteenth and very early twentieth-century churches built in or near Kernersville are frame, and originally were constructed in a modest Gothic Revival style. At least three of these late nineteenth century churches have been brick veneered in the mid-twentieth century to imitate the Colonial Revival. Of the remaining frame churches most have been sided with aluminum or vinyl, and have received replacement porticos. No examples of these styles lie within the two Kernersville historic districts.

Since the early twentieth century the Colonial Revival has been the preferred style for religious and domestic architecture in Kernersville. Of the four brick churches or church-related buildings (Moravian Church, Moravian Church Education Wing, Main Street United Methodist Church and the (former) First Baptist Church) built or remodeled in the 1910s and 1920s and which remain relatively intact in Kernersville, three are Colonial Revival in style. Comparable in scale and degree of integrity and detail to the former three churches, the (former) First Baptist Church is the only example of the Tudor Revival style in Kernersville, and as such is a significant departure from that trend.

In 1927, when the population of Kernersville stood at 1600, the membership of the First Baptist Church had grown to 216. (4) The congregation continued to grow, constructing an educational building to the rear of the church in 1950.

In 1959 the congregation of the First Baptist Church moved to a new sanctuary and sold the old church to the congregation of Oakhurst Baptist Church, which changed its name to Main Street Baptist Church, and in turn sold its old sanctuary to a Presbyterian congregation. (5)

The (former) First Baptist Church, now Main Street Baptist Church, has served the spiritual needs of Kernersville citizens for over 100 years, and continues to do so. The congregation, seeing the needs of working parents, organized a day care, and later the first Christian elementary school in Kernersville in 1966. (6) A large three-story brick educational wing was built to the east in 1950, and a separate educational building was built to the north of the church in the 1970s.

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FOOTNOTES:

1 Mills, John R., compiler. "Church Directory and a Brief History of the First Baptist Church, Kernersville, North Carolina." Albemarle, N. C.: Carolina Printing Company, 1927, p. 2.

2 Bicentennial Committee. Kernersville, North Carolina, Bicentennial. Winston-Salem: Hunter Publishing Company, 1971, revised 1976, pp. 27-28; hereinafter cited as Bicentennial.

3 Bicentennial, p. 28.

4 "Kernersville First Baptist Church, 1884-1984." Typescript in possession of Mrs. J. T. Justice, Kernersville, N. C., p. 1; hereinafter cited as "First Baptist Church."

5 "First Baptist Church," p. 1. The frame church, now the home of the First Presbyterian Church, is still standing on Oakhurst Street, but has been sided with asbestos siding, which obscures any surviving original detailing of the small gable front structure, with the exception of a small bell tower.

6 Bicentennial, p. 33.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Mills, John R., compiler. "Church Directory and a Brief History of First Baptist Church," Albemarle: Carolina Printing Company, 1927.

Kernersville Bicentennial Committee. Kernersville, N. C., Bicentennial. Winston-Salem: Hunter Publishing Company, 1971, revised 1976.

See continuation sheet

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

Primary location of additional data:

- State historic preservation office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Specify repository: _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of property Less than one acre

UTM References

A

1	7	5	8	3	4	7	0	3	9	9	7	4	7	5
Zone		Easting				Northing								

B

Zone		Easting				Northing								

C

Zone		Easting				Northing								

D

Zone		Easting				Northing								

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

The property being nominated consists of the lotson which the church is situated, shown on the enclosed tax map, 4A and 5A, Block 2100, Kernersville.

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

The two lots containing the 1916 church and its 1950 rear wing, Lots 4A and 5A, are included in this nomination. Lots 1A, 2A and 3A, where the 1970s Education Building is located, are not included in this nomination.

See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Virginia Oswald
organization Consultant, Survey and Planning Branch date October 1987
street & number Rt. 4, Box 20M telephone (919) 362-1725
city or town Apex state N. C. zip code 27502



*former
First Baptist Church*



