

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places  
Registration Form**

INTERAGENCY RESOURCES DIVISION  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

**1. Name of Property**

historic name (former) First Baptist Church

other names/site number Lincoln Cultural Center

**2. Location**

street & number 403 East Main Street N/A  not for publication

city or town Lincolnton n/ vicinity

state North Carolina code NC county Lincoln code 109 zip code 28092

**3. State/Federal Agency Certification**

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, 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. I recommend that this property be considered significant  nationally  statewide  locally. ( See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

William S. Price SHPO 10-21-94  
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

State of Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria. ( See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

**4. National Park Service Certification**

I hereby certify that the 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): \_\_\_\_\_

for Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

Mark M. McCoy

12/21/94

(former) First Baptist Church  
Name of Property

Lincoln County, North Carolina  
County and State

### 5. Classification

**Ownership of Property**  
(Check as many boxes as apply)

private  
 public-local  
 public-State  
 public-Federal

**Category of Property**  
(Check only one box)

building(s)  
 district  
 site  
 structure  
 object

**Number of Resources within Property**  
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing
1	buildings
	sites
	structures
	objects
1	Total

**Name of related multiple property listing**

(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

Historically and Architecturally Significant Churches and

Church-Related Cemeteries in Lincolnton, North Carolina

**Number of contributing resources previously listed  
in the National Register**

0

### 6. Function or Use

**Historic Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions)

RELIGION/religious facility

**Current Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions)

RECREATION AND CULTURE/auditorium

### 7. Description

**Architectural Classification**

(Enter categories from instructions)

Classical Revival

**Materials**

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Brick

walls Brick

roof Asphalt

other Wood

**Narrative Description**

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

RECEIVED 413  
OMB Approval No. 1024-0018

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

(former) First Baptist Church  
Lincolnton, Lincoln County, North Carolina

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NOV 8 1991

INTERAGENCY RESOURCES DIVISION  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

### (former) First Baptist Church Architectural Description

The (former) First Baptist Church, renovated in 1990-1991 as the Lincoln Cultural Center, is a handsome Classical Revival-style brick building comprised of two principal blocks erected in 1920-1922 and 1950-1951. The building occupies a long rectangular lot bounded on the southeast by East Main Street, on the southwest by Cedar Street, on the northwest by Sycamore Street, and on the northeast by a shared property line with its commercial neighbor. The front (East Main Street) part of the partially-shaded lot is elevated slightly above the street and treated as a lawn with a low brick retaining wall which carries along the edges of the public sidewalk. The former church, built in a once mostly residential streetscape on East Main, is now situated in a neighborhood of mixed office and commercial buildings of which it is the most distinguished element. The neighborhood to the northwest of the former church, northwest of Sycamore Street, remains largely residential.

The earlier of the two blocks of the building, erected as the First Baptist Church to designs prepared by architect James M. McMichael in 1919, is a handsome, richly-detailed cruciform-plan building dominated by the spherical dome which crowns the sanctuary and a two-story tetrastyle portico which faces southeast to East Main Street. The church, having the appearance of a two-story building, is raised on a high basement foundation. Its elevations are laid up in a soft dull-yellow brick and its architectural features are marked, outlined, or accentuated by cast-stone or limestone ornaments and molded woodwork.

The general plan of the building is that of a Greek cross whose arms are of nearly equal length. At the points where the arms of the cross join, the octagonal form of the dome is reflected in angular walls on the second-story level which carry on a diagonal between the two arms. The faces of these angled elevations are fitted with bold arch-headed windows which illuminate the sanctuary. Below these windows, there are one-story parapet-roof blocks, inset between the arms of the cross, which contain anterooms to the sanctuary. Windows are positioned in the center of the two outside elevations of these one-story elements.

The symmetrical East Main Street elevation of the former church is dominated by the tetrastyle portico which rises at the back of a flight of painted cement steps. The portico features two-story columns with angular Ionic terra cotta capitals which support a full entablature. The dentil cornice, which encircles the church, serves as the base of the pedimented gable end: the pediment's stuccoed face contains a circular window with decorative tracery. The floor level of the portico is continuous with a painted water table which encircles the former church and marks the top of the basement level of the building. The basement windows are mostly six-over-six sash and fitted with figural or clear

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glass. The window openings on the two main levels of the church are fitted with stained glass. The first story openings have flat heads with painted sills and lintels while those on the second story have arched heads with soldier course surrounds and cement ornaments. The fenestration pattern is generally consistent and symmetrical on all three levels of the original church.

On the northeast and southwest side arms of the church, the tetrastyle form of the portico is repeated through the use of quartets of brick pilasters with painted terra cotta angular Ionic capitals which rise to impost blocks. The wider center bays of these elevations are fitted with three-part windows on each level: the tall arch-headed windows on the second story are virtually the same size as those on the angled elevations between the arms of the cross and, likewise, illuminate the sanctuary. The pedimented gable ends of these elevations are stuccoed and fitted with circular louvered ventilators. The rear, northwest elevation of the original church was obscured when the adjoining educational building was erected in 1950-1951.

Atop the building, where the arms of the cross intersect, there is a handsome octagonal crown supporting a spherical dome. The dome, fitted with a projecting stained glass oculus, rises in the center of the church and above the two-story space of the sanctuary. The eight faces of the crown are unequal in their length. The four long sides are fitted with rectangular inset painted stucco or limestone panels. The four short faces, above the four arms of the cross, are fitted with circular panels with cement ornaments. The heavy cornice, which carries around the top of the crown, rises in segmental-arch fashion to reflect the curve of the round panels. The church is covered with an asphalt shingle roof.

In the renovation of the former church the integrity of the original 1920-1922 block of the building was respected and left intact. Generally speaking the form, massing, and fenestration patterns of the conventional three-story educational building were also respected and survive intact. However, at the point where the educational building abuts the original church block, there is infill and new construction which complicates an understanding of the 1951 appearance of this juncture. The principal new element introduced by the renovation architects occurs on the Cedar Street elevation of the former church plant where a projecting two-story mostly-glazed solarium is tacked onto the southwest face of the building. The solarium addition provides additional lobby space and contains the elevator which services both the auditorium (in the former sanctuary) and the offices and other spaces in the three-story educational building.

Aside from the solarium, the exterior appearance of the rectangular educational building is virtually unchanged from its construction and completion in 1950-1951. Its visible elevations on Cedar and Sycamore Streets feature a

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mostly symmetrical pattern of fenestration comprised of six-over-six double-hung sash windows. At the near rear edge of the building on Cedar Street there is a shallow enclosed one-story parapet roof porch which originally housed the entrance into a chapel. The molded door surround is cast stone (or limestone) and surmounted by a cross which functions as a keystone above the segmental arch transom.

The offsets in plan and elevation which break up the mass of the building on Cedar Street are missing from the long Sycamore Street elevation. The generally symmetrical fenestration pattern varies somewhat here due to some overscaled, original window openings on the ground level at the east end of the elevation and some infilled openings on the second and third stories. The long northeast elevation of the former educational building is likewise one unbroken surface and has a nine-bay pattern of fenestration which holds generally consistent on all three stories. A metal fire escape was affixed to the north end of this elevation. There are some larger openings on the first story which were infilled in the renovation while other openings on this level contain six-over-nine sash. The northwest elevation of the north arm of the cross is now blind--its window opening infilled--and a two-story brick fire escape stairwell has been inset here. Mechanical equipment is also concealed from public view in an open service area at the base of the stairwell.

In the 1990-1991 renovation of the 1920-1922 church as the cultural arts center, the architects preserved the significant features of the original program of interior decoration and refreshed or renewed elements of the architectural finish of the vestibule and sanctuary spaces. Thereby, they preserved for public use the handsome Classical Revival-style sanctuary which now serves as a performing arts auditorium.

Immediately behind the portico on East Main Street, there is a shallow vestibule which opens principally to the northwest into the sanctuary. There are secondary doorways into anterooms contained in the one-story parapet roof blocks which also communicate with the former sanctuary. Beside these doorways, on the left and right sides of the vestibule, there are wood stairways which descend to the basement or, in turn, rise to the balcony level of the former sanctuary/auditorium. On the basement level there are restrooms below the anterooms, a large assembly hall in the former social hall, and a kitchen in the area originally designed for a kitchen in 1919. These spaces, plainly finished originally, are fitted up anew with tile floors, plaster or plasterboard walls, and dropped ceilings. The basement level also contains storage rooms and a large mechanical equipment room.

In the original interior, the principal program of decoration was reserved for the auditorium-plan sanctuary, and the essential features of this space have been preserved. The area originally occupied by the chancel, choir, and

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baptistry--demarcated in plan by a swelling projecting toward the congregation--is preserved in plan. However, the architectural fittings of the chancel, choir, and baptistry have been removed and the space now functions as a stage for performances. The broad arch which enframed the chancel and choir was replaced by a slightly broader arch at the near front of the stage. The stage has a wood floor while the auditorium floor is covered with carpet. The three tiers of pews, originally arranged on a double aisle plan, have been replaced with two ranks of fixed auditorium seating and a center aisle plan. The walls of the former sanctuary and their classical embellishments remain as they are and are again painted. The great circular sweep of the balcony remains a dominant feature of the interior, and the arch-headed windows on the second level retain their stained glass which casts a gentle light into the chamber. The concave surface of the saucer-like dome is painted with cloud formations focused on the stained glass oculus light at its center. In short, the simple liturgical character of the Baptist auditorium-plan sanctuary interior proved easily adaptable for a public auditorium.

Because of a shift in grade and the elevation of the main level of the original church on a high basement, the first story of the 1950-1951 educational building is essentially on near-level with the basement of the earlier block. Here, although some of the original wood floors are visible and some portions of the partition walls might have been retained in the renovation, the general plan and appearance of the newly-shaped spaces in the former educational building date to the 1990-1991 renovation. The first story contains a large exhibition space housing the display collections of the Lincoln County Historical Association, two smaller exhibition galleries which can communicate with the historical association gallery, a public corridor and restrooms. A section of the public space is set aside as an information center and gift shop. There is an enclosed stair which connects all three levels.

The floor plan of the renovated and reconfigured second story is entirely different from the first story. It contains a large rehearsal hall, a classroom, a board room, a community meeting room, a small kitchen, a corridor to the fire escape and restrooms in a location above the same facilities on the first story. The plan of the third story again varies in its arrangement. Here there are offices and storage rooms arranged in private or communicating fashion. The surface finishes of these spaces generally consist of wood, carpet, or tile floors; painted plaster or plasterboard walls; and drop ceilings. There are restrooms arranged in the vertical tier and adjoining them are dressing rooms and other facilities associated with the performances facilities of the auditorium.

## 8. Statement of Significance

### Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A** Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B** Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C** Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D** Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

### Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B** removed from its original location.
- C** a birthplace or grave.
- D** a cemetery.
- E** a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F** a commemorative property.
- G** less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

### Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

### Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

### 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 # \_\_\_\_\_

### Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions)

#### Architecture

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#### Period of Significance

1920-1922

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#### Significant Dates

1920

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#### Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

#### Cultural Affiliation

N/A

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#### Architect/Builder

McMichael, James M., architect

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#### Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository:

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(former) First Baptist Church  
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(former) First Baptist Church  
Narrative Statement of Significance

**Summary**

The (former) First Baptist Church, a handsome Classical Revival-style building erected in two stages in 1920-1922 and 1950-1951, is the second church erected by the Lincolnton Baptist congregation which traces its organization to 1859. The congregation was the last of four religious bodies in Lincolnton, representing major Protestant denominations, which were organized out of the union church (also known as the Old White Church) built by the town's Reformed and Lutheran congregations in the 1780s. The church is important as an intact example of the Classical Revival style in religious architecture in Lincoln County and as one of a number of churches of related design produced by the prominent Charlotte architect James M. McMichael (1870-1944). The church housed the worship services of the Baptist congregation for a period of fifty-seven years, until 1979, when it relocated to a new suburban religious facility. Acquired by the county of Lincoln, the church was renovated as the Lincoln Cultural Center and opened for public use in September 1991. The (former) First Baptist Church is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places in the area of architecture, as designed by the Multiple Property Documentation Form "Historically and Architecturally Significant Churches and Church-Related Cemeteries in Lincolnton, North Carolina." The church is discussed in the Multiple Property Documentation Form as Property Type II.

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Historical Background

The congregation of the Lincolnton Baptist Church, which traces its organization to 1859, was the last of the six major Protestant denominations to establish a church in nineteenth-century Lincolnton. Like the predecessor Presbyterian, Methodist, and Episcopalian congregations which were organized between the 1810s and 1841, the Baptist congregation held its first known services in the Old White Church. On 28 May 1859, the Reverend L. M. Berry and the Reverend Wade Hill presided over a meeting in the Old White Church at which nineteen charter members formed themselves into a congregation known as the Lincolnton Baptist Church. It is said that nine of the nineteen charter members were Black. Whether they were free men or slaves is not presently known. In 1860 John Killian, one of the charter members, and John A. Parker were elected and ordained deacons of the Lincolnton Baptist Church. Relatively little is known of the history of the church from 1860 until 1867: during this period Berry, a resident of Lincolnton, presided over services of the church held in the Old White Church and generally guided its growth. However, with his departure from Lincolnton in 1867, the church nearly ceased to exist.<sup>1</sup>

In the early 1870s, the fortunes of the church were revived under the leadership of Elder N. B. Cobb, a native of Jones County, North Carolina, who came to Lincolnton in late 1871 or early 1872. On 12 February 1872, he officiated at a meeting at the home of Mrs. Amanda Finch at which the Lincolnton Baptist Church was reorganized. Cobb also became the paid minister of the Lincolnton church that year. On 1 January 1873, John Killian, H. Pinkney Crawford, and Robert W. Cauble, trustees for the church, purchased lot #14 in the South East Ward of Lincolnton for \$250 from Beverly C. Cobb. (A possible relationship between N. B. Cobb, the minister, and Beverly C. Cobb remains to be confirmed.) Cobb is said to have ministered to the Lincolnton Baptist Church until 1875; however, it appears that no concerted effort to erect a church was mounted during his pastorate.

After Cobb's departure from the Lincolnton Baptist pulpit, the fortunes of the congregation appeared to have suffered a decline until June 1879 when a highly successful Baptist revival was held in the Old White Church by the Reverend F. M. Jordan, the father of Mrs. John D. Brevard, a Lincolnton resident. According to church tradition, plans for a church building were formulated and a building committee was appointed in July 1879. For reasons that are now unclear, the congregation did not complete the construction of the brick church on its Water Street lot until 1884. That building, a small gable-front church, had arch-headed door and window openings on its three-bay Water Street facade and a circular window in its pedimented gable end. That church continued to serve the congregation until 1921.

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It appears that as early as 1906, the congregation of the Lincolnton Baptist Church considered building a new church on East Main Street. On 19 February 1907, N. W. Ross, F. A. Tobey, and J. O. Allen, trustees of the church, acquired lot #11 in Ward 1 of the North East Square of Lincolnton. This property, on the northwest side of the 300 block of East Main Street, was acquired for \$1,500 from B. F. Grigg. The congregation did not build on that lot, and four-and-a-half years later, on 4 December 1911, the church trustees sold the lot for \$1,600 to the trustees of the Heidelberg (Emanuel) Reformed Church. Emanuel Reformed Church was erected on this lot in 1913. The profits from the sale are said to have been used in a renovation of the congregation's Water Street church.

The congregation's increasing membership in the 1910s pressed the church leaders to move toward the construction of a new church. Apparently, plans were considered for the construction of a new building on the Water Street property; however, they did not materialize.

The Reverend James Abner Snow (b. 1880) came as pastor of the Lincolnton Baptist Church in 1917 and it was during his ministry, which continued to 1924, that the site for a new church was acquired, plans secured, and this building was erected. On 8 May 1919, C. L. Goodson conveyed lot #26 in the North East Square of Lincolnton to the trustees of the First Baptist Church of Lincolnton: the property was described in the deed as the "Dews Place." The lot, located in the north corner of East Main and Cedar Streets, extended the full depth of the block along Cedar Street to Sycamore Street. It is the location of this building and it is the property included in this nomination.

In 1919, the church hired James M. McMichael (1870-1944) to design their new sanctuary. McMichael, a prominent Charlotte architect, was a specialist in church design and prepared the plans for numerous churches in North Carolina. It was probably by virtue of his reputation that he was selected to design the First Baptist Church. It is also possible that members of the building committee or the congregation were familiar with churches he had designed. His design for the First Baptist Church in Forest City (1915) bears obvious stylistic similarities to the design for the Lincolnton First Baptist Church. The plans for the church, comprising sixteen sheets and dated to 1919, survive in the J. M. McMichael Archives in Charlotte. The plans for the First Baptist Church in Lincolnton were approved at a congregational meeting on 9 November 1919.

It appears that construction on the new church probably commenced early in 1920, and the congregation must have expected to be in the newly completed building in 1922. Whatever the circumstances, the church had sold the Water Street church building and in 1921 found itself with an incomplete building in which it could not congregate. In an ironic turn of fate, the Baptist congregation returned to the (1895) Emmanuel Lutheran Church at the corner of South Aspen and Church

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Streets which had been erected by Emmanuel Lutheran Church on the site of the Old White Church. This building was occupied for worship in 1922.

The newly completed First Baptist Church joined the First Methodist Church on East Main Street and became the second major Classical Revival-style building on the avenue. Shortly thereafter, the Lincoln County Court House would be completed on the square at the head of East Main Street, and Lincolnton could boast three handsome Classical Revival style buildings.

The handsome church appears to have well served its congregation into the 1940s when a larger membership and increased Sunday school activities called for an expansion of the church plant. In 1950 the congregation decided upon the erection of a major three-story educational building to the rear of the 1922 building. Construction was begun in the summer of 1950 and the completed building was dedicated on 6 May 1951.

The congregation of the First Baptist Church occupied these premises until 1979 when it relocated to a newly-completed suburban church at 201 Robin Road. Thereafter, the abandoned church was acquired by the county of Lincoln which, in turn, leased the facility to Gaston College as an in-town campus. In 1987 when it became known that the college would be vacating the former church discussions arose concerning the possibility of converting it to a cultural arts center for Lincoln County. The recently completed conversion of the former Claremont High School in Hickory to the Arts Center of the Catawba Valley clearly influenced the conversion. In 1988 a fund-raising campaign was undertaken which netted in excess of \$1.5 million. The \$1 million dollar donation by the Timken Foundation made the project possible. The Hickory architectural firm of CBSA Architects, which had designed the former Hickory high school conversion into an arts center, was hired for this project. The renovation was completed by Moss-Marlow, general contractors, of Hickory, in the summer of 1991. The building was opened to the public with ceremonies during the weekend of 13-15 September 1991.

In the renovation, the architectural fabric of the former sanctuary was preserved and the space converted for performing arts and auditorium use. There was virtually no change to the exterior of the sanctuary and little change to the interior except to accommodate new mechanical, light, and sound systems. The pews were replaced by fixed auditorium seating. Except for the addition of a somewhat awkward solarium on the Cedar Street elevation of the educational building, there was little change to the exterior of that later block of the former church. The interior of the educational building was virtually redesigned and rebuilt to provide museum and gallery exhibition spaces on the first story; and offices, meeting, rooms, rehearsal, and related theater spaces on the second and third stories. The building continues to house Lincoln County's principal arts and cultural organizations and to provide performing and meeting space for a broad range of activities and events.

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(former) First Baptist Church  
Lincolnton, Lincoln County, North Carolina

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**Footnote**

1. The principal published source for the history of the (former) First Baptist Church of Lincolnton is the centennial publication History of Lincolnton First Baptist Church (1959). For an understanding of the architectural fabric of the original church, the survival of the original plans for the building, comprising a set of sixteen sheets, was invaluable. A photocopy was made available to the author.

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(former) First Baptist Church  
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9. Principal Biographical References

History of Lincolnton First Baptist Church. N. p., 1959.

Lincoln County Deeds, Office of the Register of Deeds, Lincoln County Court House, Lincolnton, North Carolina.

Plans for the First Baptist Church, Lincolnton, North Carolina. James M. McMichael, architect. 1919. Original in the J. M. McMichael Collection Architectural Archives, Charlotte, North Carolina.

Sherrill, William L. Annals of Lincoln County. Charlotte: Observor Printing House, 1937.



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10. Geographical Data

Verbal Boundary Description

The property included in this nomination is Parcel #4798 on Lincoln County Tax Map 3623-16-94.

Boundary Justification

The boundaries enclosing this property comprise the acreage acquired in 1919 as the site of the church and which continues to serve as the site and setting of the present building.

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**SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING RECORD**

**NRIS Reference Number:** 94001456

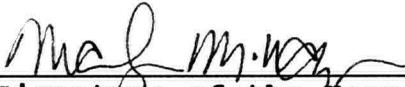
**Date Listed:** 12/21/94

**First Baptist Church**  
**Property Name**

**Lincoln** **NORTH CAROLINA**  
**County** **STATE**

Churches and Church-Related Cemeteries in Lincolnton  
Multiple Name

-----  
This property is listed in the National Register of Historic Places in accordance with the attached nomination documentation subject to the following exceptions, exclusions, or amendments, notwithstanding the National Park Service certification included in the nomination documentation.

  
**Signature of the Keeper**

12/21/94  
**Date of Action**

=====

**Amended Items in Nomination:**

**Section No. 8**

This nomination is amended to show that the property meets the special conditions established for religious properties (Criteria Consideration A).

This change was confirmed with the North Carolina SHPO (12/21/94)

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**DISTRIBUTION:**

**National Register property file  
Nominating Authority (without nomination attachment)**

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

**REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION**

PROPERTY First Baptist Church  
NAME:

**MULTIPLE NAME:** Churches and Church-Related Cemeteries in Lincolnton MPS

STATE & COUNTY: NORTH CAROLINA, Lincoln

DATE RECEIVED: 11/08/94 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 11/22/94  
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 12/08/94 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 12/23/94  
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 94001456

**NOMINATOR: STATE**

**REASONS FOR REVIEW:**

APPEAL: N DATA PROBLEM: N LANDSCAPE: N LESS THAN 50 YEARS: N  
OTHER: N PDIL: N PERIOD: N PROGRAM UNAPPROVED: N  
REQUEST: N SAMPLE: N SLR DRAFT: N NATIONAL: N

**COMMENT WAIVER: N**

ACCEPT                    RETURN                    REJECT                    DATE

**ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:**

This former church is an important local example of the Classical Revival style in religious architecture and one of a number of churches of related design produced by the prominent Charlotte architect James M. McMichael. Although the building is no longer used as a church, the modifications that have been made to adapt it to use as a cultural center have not destroyed its integrity. The property meets the registration requirements established in the Historically and Architecturally Significant Churches and Church-Related Cemeteries in Lincolnton, North Carolina MPS.

RECOM. / CRITERIA Accept/C  
REVIEWER Harper  
DISCIPLINE Historian  
DATE 12/21/89

DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y/N see attached SLR  Y/N

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**CLASSIFICATION**

---

count       resource type

**STATE/FEDERAL AGENCY CERTIFICATION**

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**FUNCTION**

---

historic       current

**DESCRIPTION**

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architectural classification  
 materials  
 descriptive text

**SIGNIFICANCE**

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Period      Areas of Significance--Check and justify below

Specific dates      Builder/Architect  
Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

summary paragraph  
 completeness  
 clarity  
 applicable criteria  
 justification of areas checked  
 relating significance to the resource  
 context  
 relationship of integrity to significance  
 justification of exception  
 other

**BIBLIOGRAPHY**

---

**GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

---

acreage       verbal boundary description  
 UTM's       boundary justification

**ACCOMPANYING DOCUMENTATION/PRESENTATION**

---

sketch maps       USGS maps       photographs       presentation

**OTHER COMMENTS**

---

Questions concerning this nomination may be directed to

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Signed \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_



(former) First Baptist Church  
Lincoln County, NC  
David Foard Hood

Feb. 1994

NC Division of Archives & History, Raleigh, NC

Front elev, looky NW

#7



N.94.6.1551

(former) First Baptist Church  
Lincoln Co, NC

David Foard Hood

Feb. 1994

NC Division of Archives & History, Raleigh, NC  
Overall view, looking N

#2



N. 94, 6, 1577  
(former) First Baptist Church

Lincoln Co, NC

David Foard Hood

Feb. 1994

NC Division of Archives & Hist, Raleigh, NC  
Cedar St. elev., looking NE

#3



N.94.6.1514

(former) First Baptist Church

Lincoln County, NC

David Farned Hood

February 1994

NC Division of Archives & History, Raleigh, NC

Rear elevation of educational bldg, looking SE

#4



N.94.6.1490

(former) First Baptist Church

Lincoln Co, NC.

David Foard Hood

Feb. 1994

NC Division of Archives & History, Raleigh, NC

Sanctuary/Theatre, looking NW

#5



N.94.6.1548

(former) First Baptist Church  
Lincoln County, NC.

David Foard Hood

Feb. 1994

NC Division of Archives & History, Raleigh, NC  
Sanctuary/Theatre, 100 E. NE

#6



N.94.6, 1535

(former) First Baptist Church

Lincoln Co, NC

David Ford Hood

Feb. 1994

NC Div of Archives & History, Raleigh, NC

Sanctuary/Hoatice, book SW

# 7



N.94.6.1499

(former) First Baptist Church  
Lincoln County, NC

David Foad Hood

Feb. 1994

NC Div. of Archives & History, Raleigh, NC  
Cultural Center lobby, looking NW

#8

Please refer to the map in the  
Multiple Property Cover Sheet  
for this property

Multiple Property Cover Sheet Reference Number: 64500353



## North Carolina Department of Cultural Resources

James B. Hunt Jr., Governor  
Betty Ray McCain, Secretary

**RECEIVED 413**

NOV 8 1994

Division of Archives and History  
William S. Price, Jr., Director

November 1, 1994

Jerry Rogers, Keeper  
National Register of Historic Places  
National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior  
Post Office Box 37127  
Washington, D.C. 20013-7127

INTERAGENCY RESOURCES DIVISION  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

Re: Historically and Architecturally Significant Churches and Church-Related Cemeteries in Lincolnton, North Carolina, Lincoln County (MPDF)  
Emanuel United Church of Christ, Lincoln County  
Emmanuel Lutheran Church, Lincoln County  
✓(former) First Baptist Church, Lincoln County  
First Presbyterian Church, Lincoln County  
First United Methodist Church, Lincoln County  
Methodist Church Cemetery, Lincoln County  
Old White Church Cemetery, Lincoln County

Dear Mr. Rogers:

Enclosed are the nominations for the above-referenced properties to be listed in the National Register of Historic Places.

We trust you will find the nominations to be in order. If you have any questions, please call Linda Harris Edmisten at 919/733-6545.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "William S. Price, Jr." The signature is fluid and cursive, with "William" and "Price" being more distinct and "S." and "Jr." being smaller.

William S. Price, Jr.  
State Historic Preservation Officer

WSP, Jr/ant

Enclosures

Data Collector Recommendation: SLR Clarification/Return

Further Action:  SLR Final  Return  
 None

DOCUMENTATION ISSUES--DISCUSSION SHEET

State Name NC County Name Lincoln Resource Name First Baptist Ch.  
Reference No. 94001456 Multiple Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Listed Date \_\_\_\_\_

Section of Nomination:

Classification  
 State/Agency Certification  
 Function

Description  
 Significance  
 Bibliographical References

Geographical Data  
 Accompanying Documentation  
 Other

See Page \_\_\_\_\_ Paragraph \_\_\_\_\_

Solution:

Cont. Consider. A added

NR Staff:

Harper

Date: 12/12/94

Data Collector's Explanation of Problem:

Cotiesia Consideration A required.

Coded "A"

Data Collector:

E Beall

Date:

12-14-94

Resolution in Data Base:

D.B. Corrected:

Date:

DATE WED, NOV 16, 1994, 3:21 PM  
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES PROPERTY REPORT  
REFERENCE No.: 94001456

Page: 34

Control No.: 941116/mmk

PROPERTY NAME: First Baptist Church

OTHER NAME/ SITE No. : Lincoln Cultural Center

MULTIPLE NAME: Churches and Church-Related Cemeteries in Lincolnton MPS

ADDRESS/ BOUNDARY : 403 E. Main St.

CITY: Lincolnton

COUNTY: Lincoln STATE: NORTH CAROLINA

Restricted Location Information: Owner: LOCAL Resource Type: BUILDING

Contributing Noncontributing

Buildings 1 0  
Sites 0 0  
Structures 0 0  
Objects 0 0

Nomination/Determination Type: MULTIPLE RESOURCE

Nominator: STATE GOVERNMENT

Nominator Name:  
NOT APPLICABLE

Federal Agency: NOT APPLICABLE

NPS Park Name: NOT APPLICABLE

Certification: DATE RECEIVED/PENDING NOMINATION Date: 11/08/94

Other Certification: NOT APPLICABLE

Historic Functions: RELIGION

Historic Subfunctions: RELIGIOUS STRUCTURE

Current Functions: RELIGION

Current Subfunctions: RELIGIOUS STRUCTURE

Level of Significance: LOCAL Applicable Criteria: ARCHITECTURE/ENGINEERING

Significant Person's Name: NOT APPLICABLE

Criteria Considerations: NOT APPLICABLE

Area of Significance: ARCHITECTURE

Periods of Significance: 1900-1924

Circa: Specific Sig. Years:

1920

Architect/Builder/Engineer/  
Designer:

Cultural Affiliation:  
NOT APPLICABLE

McMichael, James M.

Other Documentation:

NOT APPLICABLE

HABS No. N/A HAER No. N/A

Architectural Styles: CLASSICAL REVIVAL

Describe Other Style: NOT APPLICABLE

Foundation Materials: BRICK

Wall Materials: BRICK

Roof Materials: ASPHALT

Other Materials: WOOD

Acreage: 0.9

UTM Zone Easting Northing Zone Easting Northing

Coordinates: 17/ 4 77 100/ 39 25 360 / / / /