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Nat. Register of Historic Places
National Park Service

905

NPS Form 10-900
United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

OMB No. 1024-0018

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form.* If any 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.

1. Name of Property

Historic name: First Baptist Church
Other names/site number: VDHR File No. 102-0015
Name of related multiple property listing:
N/A
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing

2. Location

Street & number: One Virginia Street
City or town: Bristol State: VA County: Independent City
Not For Publication: N/A Vicinity: N/A

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,

I hereby certify that this _x_ 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 _x_ meets ___ does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:

___national ___statewide _x_ local

Applicable National Register Criteria:

___A ___B _x_ C ___D

10/20/15

Signature of certifying official/Title: **Date**

Virginia Department of Historic Resources

State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

In my opinion, the property ___ meets ___ does not meet the National Register criteria.

Signature of commenting official: **Date**

Title : **State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government**

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

✓ entered in the National Register

___ determined eligible for the National Register

___ determined not eligible for the National Register

___ removed from the National Register

___ other (explain:) _____

for Edson W. Beall 12·15·15

Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply.)

Private:	X
Public – Local	
Public – State	
Public – Federal	

Category of Property

(Check only **one** box.)

Building(s)	X
District	
Site	
Structure	
Object	

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

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1	0	buildings
0	0	sites
0	0	structures
0	0	objects
1	0	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

6. Function or Use
Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions.)
RELIGION: Religious Facility: Church

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions.)
RELIGION: Religious Facility: Church

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions.)

LATE 19TH AND 20TH CENTURY REVIVALS: Classical Revival

Materials: (enter categories from instructions.)
Principal exterior materials of the property: BRICK; CONCRETE; ASPHALT; METAL; GLASS

Narrative Description
(Describe the historic and current physical appearance and condition of the property. Describe contributing and noncontributing resources if applicable. Begin with **a summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, type, style, method of construction, setting, size, and significant features. Indicate whether the property has historic integrity.)

Summary Paragraph

First Baptist Church is located in downtown Bristol, Virginia. The church building includes the Classical Revival Ionic-order temple-form main block incorporating the imposing 132-by-53-foot sanctuary, completed in 1912, as well as a 1940 chapel addition and an education wing completed in 1964, both on the north side of the sanctuary. All sections are constructed of brick masonry with limited concrete components, with the sanctuary comprised of Flemish-bond brickwork with a checkerboard pattern of darkened header bricks. The monumental portico is made up of six rendered Ionic columns, and entablature and pediment with dentil cornices. The façade has three entrances embellished with eight-foot-tall oak folding doors, buff-colored cast-concrete architraves, flanked by decorative tablets near the front corners of the building. The side elevations are divided into ten bays by robust brick pilasters with buff concrete bases and Doric capitols. Within each bay is a large, square clerestory window with Roman lattice tracery, matching the clerestory windows above the three front entrances. First Baptist is the only surviving church on State Street in downtown Bristol, where many churches built in the 19th and early 20th centuries once stood.

Narrative Description

Site Location and Setting

First Baptist Church is prominently sited on Virginia Street in downtown Bristol. Along its southern flank is State Street, which is the city's main downtown artery and comprises the Virginia/Tennessee state line. The buildings directly across State Street are in Tennessee. Behind the church, to the east, is Goodson Street, and bordering the church property to the north is Buford Street. The church is outside (1070 feet to the east) of the Bristol Commercial (Downtown) Historic District [NRHP 2003; DHR 102-5017], cut off from the district by railroad tracks and a few vacant parcels; and is 525 feet east of the restored historic Railroad Station [NRHP 1980; 102-0011]; less than 400 feet east of the landmark illuminated Bristol Virginia-Tennessee Slogan Sign [NRHP 1988; 102-0002]; and 1000 feet west of East Hill Cemetery [NRHP 2011; 102-5028].

Detailed Building Description

The 1912 church sanctuary is an imposing Classical Revival temple-form, front-gabled, masonry building that approximates the overall design of the Virginia State Capitol. Across the front are six monumental Ionic columns supporting a robust entablature and pediment with denticulated cornice. The pediment tympanum consists of plain Flemish-bond brickwork with a checkerboard pattern of darkened header bricks, matching the exterior masonry of the entire building. The roof is wood purlin with steel trusses and metal covering, and the denticulated cornice continues from the pediment to encircle the building. The gabled front and rear end walls are each 53 feet across and the side elevations are 132 feet long.

On the south façade, concrete steps lead up to a tile porch with wrought-iron railing. The massive porch has six three-foot-by-eighteen-foot concrete columns along the front. Across the church's façade, there are three eight-foot-tall entries with original, oak, double-leaf doors with Roman lattice transoms and buff cast-concrete trim; along the upper level above the doors are three square windows with Roman lattice tracery. Lintels and ornaments at the rear of the building are the same as the front. There is a 9-foot basement elevation and 62-foot total elevation.

Across each side elevation, the window bays are divided by brick pilasters with cast-concrete bases and capitals, and a cast concrete water table encircles the building beneath the pilaster bases. On the east and west side walls, the symmetrical fenestration consists of three parts: a basement window, tall main-level window, and square upper-level window. The tall main-level windows have wood-encased stained glass sash, while the upper-level windows have square fixed sash with clear glass and Roman lattice tracery. The basement level is pierced by paired windows with clear 1/1 sash, but for a recessed entry located in the east wall's third bay from the north.

Many of the church sanctuary windows, which dated from the construction of the building, were heavily damaged by the explosion of a gasoline station located diagonally across State Street in February 1947. New windows were installed in 1948, enclosed in one-piece steel frames and covered by clear fiberglass. All other windows are original to the 1912 main building and the 1964 education wing.

Covering the church's northernmost three bays on the west wall is a large, two-story 1964 educational wing with rooms for Sunday School and a nursery. A local daycare, Creative Learning Center, rents the educational space during the day for preschool. The two-story wing has red-brick veneered walls, symmetrically spaced 1/1 windows, and a low-pitched hip roof covered with replacement metal roofing. A shorter, two-story extension, constructed of similar materials, spans the education wing's north (rear) wall and attaches to the north corner of the church's west wall. Spanning the two-story wing's south and west walls is a one-story extension fronted with a classically-derived portico with Doric columns and plain molding. This one-story section's flat roof was replaced with a TPO membrane material in April 2012 due to hail damage.

On the interior, the church's basement has concrete flooring, a boiler pit, and wiring for central heat and air with breaker and fuse boxes. There are two classrooms that are no longer in use. The basement also includes water heaters for the church building and a water heater with circulating pumps for the sanctuary baptistry.

On the main level, the sanctuary has three sets of six-foot glass doors at the entry to the carpeted foyer. The foyer contains a sound room and stairs on each side that lead to the balcony which has seating for 175 people and a sound board with tile flooring. The oak pews in the balcony overlook the sanctuary. The sanctuary interior is a large open space with original pews, large columns, stained glass windows, a chandelier, and a pipe organ.

The interior of the sanctuary continues the Classical Revival theme, with four full-height pilasters with Corinthian capitals and fluted bases behind the choir area. In the two corners at the front of the sanctuary are cantons (one in each corner) also in fluted bases with Corinthian capitals. Immediately behind the choir loft are four 12-inch diameter half-columns which are 60 inches tall. Between these are eight decorative inlaid panels which fit below the pipes for the organ. Down each side of the sanctuary walls are six pilasters in the same style as the fluted, Corinthian half-columns at the front of the sanctuary. The ceiling has 35 decorative tray-type panels and recessed lights.

The main floor of the sanctuary has a carpeted floor, oak pew seating for 450, a Steinway B grand piano, and a carpeted pulpit. With a large crystal chandelier in the center of the ceiling, the sanctuary has plaster walls and recessed lighting in the ceiling. Behind the pulpit is the baptistry, a choir loft with oak pews that seat 30, and a pipe organ. The choir rehearsal room is also at the rear of the sanctuary. It contains oak pew seating for 40, plaster walls, and fluorescent lighting. The choir room is lit by six wood-encased windows.

The fellowship hall is on the ground level underneath the sanctuary. It has seating for 200 people, a carpeted stage, tile flooring, and fluorescent lighting. It has a full kitchen with appliances and food storage areas. There are six wood-encased windows lighting the space along the east wall. The walls and ceiling are plaster. There are two separate classrooms on each side of the fellowship hall, and there is an elevator to the sanctuary. The church library is behind the fellowship hall. With two offices and two multifunction rooms, it has tile flooring, fluorescent lighting, plaster walls, and wood shelving.

The education wing is dedicated to Sunday School and a nursery, and the interior is largely comprised of classrooms, the nursery space, and miscellaneous storage and administrative space. Interior finishes are simple, in keeping with the wing's 1964 construction period.

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.
- [x] 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.)

- [x] 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 old or achieving significance within the past 50 years

Areas of Significance
(Enter categories from instructions.)
ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance
1912–1964

Significant Dates
1912
1948
1964

Significant Person
(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)
N/A

Cultural Affiliation
N/A

Architect/Builder
Kearfott, Clarence Baker, architect
McCary Brothers Construction Co.
ES Glover Construction Co.

Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance, applicable criteria, justification for the period of significance, and any applicable criteria considerations.)

First Baptist Church, originally known as Goodson Baptist Church, was organized in Bristol in 1859. While there were two previous church buildings on the site, it is the extant building, constructed in 1912, that is historically significant at the local level under Criterion C, in the area of Architecture. Designed by prolific local architect Clarence Baker Kearfott (1884-1975) in 1911, the church is among the most sophisticated examples of the Classical Revival style in predominantly rural southwestern Virginia. Through its use of symmetry, classical decorative motifs and durable masonry materials, the design pays homage to the building traditions of ancient Greece and Rome as well as later interpretations by proponents such as Thomas Jefferson. First Baptist Church was constructed by McCary Brothers Construction Company of Bristol. One of several large churches built along State Street in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, First Baptist is now the only remaining church building on either side of the street. Urban renewal in the 1960s and early 1970s culminated in the destruction of most of the others, nearly all of which were Gothic Revival designs, totally unlike First Baptist's Classical Revival style. The period of significance spans the 52-year period from construction in 1912 to the addition of the educational wing in 1964. First Baptist Church meets Criteria Consideration A for religious properties because its significance is derived from its architecture.

Narrative Statement of Significance (Provide at least **one** paragraph for each area of significance.)

Criterion C – Architecture

First Baptist Church is historically significant as one of the finest examples of the Classical Revival style in the region, as well as for its association with Clarence B. Kearfott, a member of the A.I.A. who was one of the most accomplished Virginia architects of his age. He made the hand-drawn plans for the church in 1911. He designed both the 1912 sanctuary and the 1964 education wing. His work is well known in Bristol and the surrounding area.[1] Some of the extant examples of his work are the Bristol Virginia High School (which is now Bristol Virginia Middle School), the Weaver Funeral Home, the old Reynolds Arcade Building, and the Clarence P. Daniel Residence.[2] Photos of the Bristol Virginia Middle School and the Reynolds Arcade Building can be found in *A Pictorial History* published by the Bristol Historical Association.[3]

Kearfott's daughter, Ruth Harris, said that her father did not want the church to be too ornate.[4] Comparing the completed building to other high-style examples of Classical Revival architecture in Bristol shows that the architect achieved this result. Dr. Rosser, who was pastor at First Baptist Church at the time, described the new building as being "a plant that is the admiration of all observers, dignified without being severe, and beautiful without useless and meaningless ornamentation."[5]

Many of the sanctuary windows were destroyed by the explosion of a gasoline station across State Street in February 1947. New windows were installed in 1948, enclosed in a one-piece

steel frame and covered by clear fiberglass. All other windows are original to the 1912 main building and the 1964 education wing. The large two-story education wing was also constructed in accordance with architectural drawings by C. B. Kearfott, by E.S. Glover Construction Company of Bristol.

Aside from First Baptist itself and the aforementioned Reynolds Arcade (DHR 102-0016) within the Bristol Commercial Historic District (NRHP 2003), eight other examples of Classical Revival architecture in Bristol have been recorded at the Department of Historic Resources. Six of these are dwellings, one is the Kings Mountain Memorial Hospital (DHR 102-0017) and the eighth is the Euclid Avenue Baptist Church (DHR 102-5022-0079) within the Euclid Avenue Historic District (NRHP 2006). Constructed ca. 1928, the Euclid Avenue Baptist Church was extensively remodeled during the 1950s and its original portico has been enclosed with brick; due to its loss of integrity, the church is a non-contributing building within the historic district. Built in 1925, the Kings Mountain Memorial Hospital was a three-story, brick building with a two-story portico featuring Doric columns, a plain frieze, and poured concrete steps and floor, a plain cornice, and a cast concrete water table. At the time it was last surveyed in 2001, the building had been vacant for 20 years, most of the window sash had been removed, and the interior had suffered extensive deterioration after being open to the elements. The building was demolished in 2008.

The aforementioned Euclid Avenue Historic District (NRHP 2006) has the ca. 1938 Clarence P. Daniel Residence (DHR 102-5022-0051), also designed by architect Clarence B. Kearfott. The main façade has a two-story portico with Ionic columns, a plain entablature, and a stuccoed gable field in the pediment. The second-story central bay has a balcony with a wood railing with square balusters. The main entrance features an original six-panel wood door with an elliptical transom and ten-light sidelights. The Solar Hill Historic District (NRHP 2001) has four dwellings featuring Classical Revival architecture. They are the 1871 G. M. Whitten House (DHR 102-5015-0025), ca. 1910 Judge Walter H. Robertson House (DHR 102-5015-0022), a ca. 1905 men's club turned dwelling at 208 Solar Street (DHR 102-5015-0039), and the ca. 1910 John N. Huntsman House (DHR 102-5015-0041). The dwellings share common characteristics of Classical Revival design, such as full-width, full-height porches with columns and molded pediments, embellished entries, tall windows, and molded cornices. Finally, the Virginia Hill Historic District (NRHP 2002) has a ca. 1900, Classical Revival house at 401 Spencer Street (DHR 102-5016-0100) with a full-height portico featuring Tuscan columns and denticulated molding.

Although the City of Bristol's architectural heritage includes a small assortment of Classical Revival designs, the majority appear to be dwellings. First Baptist Church is the only documented example of a monumental Classical Revival institutional building that retains integrity, making it an architecturally significant local landmark.

Acknowledgements

The nomination was sponsored by the First Baptist Church congregation, represented by the Administrative Assistant Terri Thomas, church members Marilyn Butler and Beverly Bowers, and assisted by Michael Pulice, architectural historian of the Virginia Department of Historic Resources.

Historical Context

Three years after the establishment of the town of Bristol and three years after the first passenger train arrived in Bristol, the first Baptist church in Bristol was organized and has now existed for 156 years. Since its beginning in 1859 it has had three names: Goodson Baptist Church, Bristol Baptist Church, and First Baptist Church. The church has also had three different buildings, all on the site of the present building.[6] The Industrial Supplement of the Bristol Courier, October 2, 1904, reports that Goodson Baptist Church was founded April 22, 1859, and until 1862 meetings were held in the Temperance Hall. Elder William Cate of Jonesborough organized the church.[7]

In 1862 the first of three structures was built on the present site. In 1887 a new church building was built on the site with the new building facing Virginia Street as it does today. At this time, the church was named Bristol Baptist Church. In 1895 the name was changed to First Baptist Church,[8] and the membership in 1904 was 475. Looking forward to a larger facility, an adjacent lot was purchased in 1906.[9]

At the turn of the century, most transportation was by foot, by horseback, or by vehicles pulled by horses. By 1910 there were very few automobiles in town, so most people arrived at church on foot or in buggies.[10] Streets were either dusty or muddy. Electricity was not dependable, and oil lamps were used by many people. There were no supermarkets, no hospitals, no radios or TVs, no public library, no garbage service, and backyard privies were common.[11] The church was a gathering place, and membership was increasing. Members of the church recognized the need for more space, and they engaged Clarence B. Kearfott to draw plans for the new building. The new sanctuary was designed in 1911 and built in 1912-1914.[12] (A 1912 hand-drawn map of Bristol, now housed in the Library of Congress, shows the First Baptist Church, even though it wasn't completed at the time.)[13] I. J. Isaacs reported that the church houses in Bristol were "erected at great cost, ranging in value from $4,000 to $75,000. The more costly edifice being The First Baptist Church, cost, including furnishings, close to $75,000."[14]

The place of worship for First Baptist Church in 1914 was the Bristol, Virginia, City Hall, while the present structure was being erected. July 26, 1914, was the date of the first service in the present sanctuary, but the building was not dedicated until September 15, 1926, when it was debt-free.[15] In 1940 First Baptist built the "Sunday School addition"—where the chapel, some Sunday School classes, and the offices are located.[16]

A devastating fire at a filling station on the corner of Pennsylvania and State Street, across from the church building, on Thursday morning, February 27, 1947, shattered the church's stained glass windows. In business meeting on April 16, 1947, the church voted to raise $9,000 to replace the windows. The new windows were enclosed in one-piece steel frames. [17] Then in 1964

the church built the educational wing that goes along Goodson Street. That property was purchased from Gordon Garment.[18] In February 1976 Otis Elevator Company completed installation of an elevator in the First Baptist Church at a cost less than $20,000. [19]

Three different organs have led the church music in its 156 years. The first was a "pump" organ, common in use during the 19th century. Then in 1914, Dr. Rosser wrote to the Carnegie Corporation of New York and made a plea for help. They replied that the building was not sufficiently completed. Again in 1917 Dr. Rosser applied for help. On June 6, 1917, Carnegie replied that they "will be glad to provide the last half of the cost of an organ, not to exceed five thousand dollars, when the first half has been collected by the congregation. . ." It has been reported that this was the last organ the Carnegie people helped to pay for in churches.[20] The present organ, which was dedicated Sunday night, April 13, 1986, was built by M. P. Moeller Pipe Organ Company, and it incorporated parts of the former pipe organ.[21]

The Church in the Community

First Baptist Church was the mother church from which five other current Baptist churches were founded in Bristol. They are Lee Street Baptist Church and Norfolk Avenue Baptist Church in Bristol, Virginia, and three in Bristol, Tennessee: Calvary Baptist, Woodlawn Baptist, and Valley Hills Baptist.[22] The first of those, Lee Street, involves ex-slaves who were members of FBC. In 1865 forty-two Goodson Baptist Church members of African descent were granted letters to organize a church then named the Anglo-African Baptist church and currently named Lee Street Baptist Church. According to the records of the Lee Street Baptist Church, they felt "that they could render more efficient service to God . . . in a church separate from that of their White Brethren. . . and "without provocation . . . organized themselves into a little band known as The Anglo African Baptist Church of Bristol, VA."[23] A cooperative relationship has existed between the two churches through the years.

Over the years, First Baptist Church has supported higher education in Bristol. Early in the church's history, the church was very involved in the support of Bristol Female College with Pastor Kincannon being a part owner. So far as the church records show, the connection of the college with the church ceased in 1882. First Baptist Church was also a strong supporter of Virginia Intermont College (now closed). Soon after the college moved from Glade Spring, Virginia, to Bristol, in 1891, Pastor Williams and some church members provided financial help to keep the college open. Many First Baptist Church members have served as trustees of the college.[24]

Ever a strongly mission-minded church, an early record states that a Sunday School class in 1885 formed a missionary society to help raise money for a Bristol city missionary. Before that, in 1882 a few women of Goodson Baptist Church met with the pastor to organize a Woman's Missionary Society, then called Ladies' Aid Society.[25] Support of national and international missions has continued through the years as the ladies organized "circles" to further the work of missions and mission education. In addition, the annual budget includes contributions to local, national, and foreign missions.

At the end of 1959, the membership was 1607. The town of Bristol was thriving; national manufacturers employed many people. When these companies began to close, not only was the town affected, the membership of the church declined as well. The church has weathered the economic downturn, and the current membership is over six hundred members, including residents of both Tennessee and Virginia. Both men and women hold leadership positions.

Downtown Church

In the 1950s when First Presbyterian, State Street Methodist, and First Methodist all moved to the suburbs, First Baptist Church voted to remain downtown. As a result, First Baptist Church, Bristol, is the only large church remaining in downtown. During the week, the church is used by Creative Learning Center from 9 a.m. until 3 p.m. The Center serves 115 children ages 2 ½ to 5 and has a waiting list for daycare.

In 1998 the church purchased the Carolyn Manufacturing building across the street.[26] This facility is now the "ministry mall," which provides space for the Emergency Food Pantry and the Clothes Closet. In addition, the ministry of the church to downtown includes its participation and cooperation with numerous groups to meet needs of the residents. These groups include, but are not limited to, Bristol Faith in Action; Family Promise; the Soup Kitchen in Bristol, Virginia; Meals on Wheels; Hospice House; Haven of Rest; Salvation Army; Abuse Alternatives; and Abortion Alternatives.

Not only is First Baptist Church an important part of the tapestry of ministries to downtown Bristol, the church's architecture is a prominent feature of the skyline. Daily television newscasts include photographs of the Bristol Tennessee/Virginia sign with First Baptist Church in the background, and thousands of tourists photograph the magnificent sanctuary when they take pictures of the famous sign. However, the church is more than just the background to the sign. It plays a crucial role in the life of Bristol, Virginia/Tennessee.

ENDNOTES

[1] American Institute of Architects, "Biographical Listing of Clarence Baker Kearfott," <http://public.aia.org/sites/hdoaa/wiki/Wiki%20Pages/ahd1023231.aspx>, accessed on March 27, 2015.

[2] Phillips, V. N. "Bud," "Architect's Buildings Still Stand in Bristol," *Bristol Herald Courier*, July 27, 2008.

[3] The Bristol Historical Association, *A Pictorial History*, Bristol, VA: Quality Printers, 1985, pp. 55, 85.

[4] Harris, Ruth, "Our Sanctuary," *First Baptist Bristol The First 150 Years*, unpublished, 2009, p. 11.

[5] Noffsinger, p. 8.

[6]Knisley, Dot. "First Baptist Church History Notes," *First Baptist Bristol The First 150 Years*, unpublished, 2009. p. 2.

[7] Noffsinger, H.G., *History of First Baptist Church, Bristol, Virginia 1859-1949*. Bristol, VA: King Publishing Company, 1949, p. 4.

[8] Knisley, Dot, p. 4

[9] Crockett, Dave, "Growing Pains," *First Baptist Bristol The First 150 Years*, unpublished, 2009, p. 23.

[10] Phillips, V.N., *A Good Place to Live*, Johnson City, TN: Overmountain Press, 2006, p. 94.

[11] Ibid., pp. 10-11.

[12] Crockett, p. 23.

[13] Fowler, T.M. *Aero View of Bristol, VA/TN 1912*. Library of Congress Geography and Map Division, Washington, DC < http://memory.loc.gov/cgi-bin/query/h?ammem/gmd:@field%28NUMBER+@band%28g3884b+pm009520%29%29>

[14] Isaacs, I.J., *The City of Bristol,* 1915 Reprint. London: Forgotten Books, 2013, p. 20

[15] Noffsinger, p. 9.

[16] Crockett, p. 24.

[17] Knisley, p. 5.

[18] Crockett, p. 24.

[19] Harris, Sarah, "The Sanctuary Elevator," *First Baptist Bristol The First 150 Years*, unpublished, 2009. p. 22.

[20] Noffsinger, p. 20.

[21] Bundy, Martha Jean, "The Sanctuary Choir," *First Baptist Bristol The First 150 Years*, unpublished, 2009. p. 35.

[22] Knisley, p. 9.

[23] Noffsinger, pp. 24-25.

[24] Noffsinger, pp. 17-18.

[25] Knisley, p. 3

[26] Crockett, p. 24

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography (Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form.)

American Institute of Architects, "Biographical Listing of Clarence Baker Kearfott," < http://public.aia.org/sites/hdoaa/wiki/Wiki%20Pages/ahd1023231.aspx>, accessed on March 27, 2015.

Bristol Historical Association, *A Pictorial History*, Bristol, VA: Quality Printers, 1985.

Bristol Historical Association, *Honoring Our Heritage—Faces and Places from the Past*. Bristol, TN: Premier Printing, 2006.

Bundy, Martha Jean, "The Sanctuary Choir," *First Baptist Bristol The First 150 Years*, unpublished, on file at First Baptist Church, Bristol, 2009.

Campbell, Paige. "Lee Street Baptist Church Celebrating 145 Years of Service," *Bristol Herald Courier*, October 30, 2010.

Crockett, Dave, "Growing Pains," *First Baptist Bristol The First 150 Years*, unpublished, 2009. On file at First Baptist Church, Bristol.

Fowler, T.M. *Aero View of Bristol, VA/TN 1912*. Library of Congress Geography and Map Division, Washington, DC < http://memory.loc.gov/cgi-bin/query/h?ammem/gmd:@field%28NUMBER+@band%28g3884b+pm009520%29%29> Hand-drawn map of Bristol including FBC in 1912. Accessed March 25, 2015.

Isaacs, I.J., *The City of Bristol,* 1915 Reprint. London: Forgotten Books, 2013.

Harris, Ruth, "Our Sanctuary," *First Baptist Bristol The First 150 Years*, unpublished, 2009. On file at First Baptist Church, Bristol

Harris, Sarah, "The Sanctuary Elevator," *First Baptist Bristol The First 150 Years*, unpublished, 2009. On file at First Baptist Church, Bristol

Noffsinger, H. G. *History of First Baptist Church, Bristol, Virginia, 1859-1949*, Bristol, VA: King Publishing Company, 1949.

Knisley, Dot. "First Baptist Church History Notes," *First Baptist Bristol The First 150 Years*, unpublished, 2009. On file at First Baptist Church, Bristol

Pennsylvania Historical & Museum Commission, "Classical Revival Style 1895-1950,"

<http://www.portal.state.pa.us/portal/server.pt/community/late_19th early_20th_century_revival_period/2390/classical_revival_style/294771>, accessed on March 27, 2015.

Phillips, V.N. "Bud." "Architect's Buildings Still Stand In Bristol," *Bristol Herald Courier,* July 27, 2008.

Phillips, V.N. "Bud." *Bristol Tennessee/Virginia--A History 1852-1900*, Johnson City, TN: Overmountain Press, 1992

Phillips,V.N. "Bud." "The Rev. William Cate Founded Bristol's First Baptist Church in 1859," *Bristol Herald Courier*, May 26, 2013.

Phillips, V. N., *A Good Place to Live*, Overmountain Press, 2006.

Stone, George, *Bristol--Postcard History Series*, Charleston: Arcadia Publishing, 2008.

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

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

Primary location of additional data:

_X_ State Historic Preservation Office
____ Other State agency
____ Federal agency
____ Local government
____ University
____ Other
Name of repository: Virginia Department of Historic Resources, Richmond, Virginia

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): VDHR ID# 102-0015

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10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 5 acres

Use either the UTM system or latitude/longitude coordinates

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates
Datum if other than WGS84:_____
(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

1. Latitude: 36.595060 Longitude: -82.177940

2. Latitude: Longitude:

3. Latitude: Longitude:

4. Latitude: Longitude:

Verbal Boundary Description
The true and correct historic boundary is shown on the accompanying Sketch Map/Photo Key, and corresponds precisely to the perimeter lot lines of the parcels recorded by the City of Bristol, Virginia, as tax parcels no. 38-1-45-2, 38-1-45-3, 38-1-45-4, 38-1-45-5, 38-1-45-6, 38-1-45-7, and 38-1-45-8. .

Boundary Justification
The nominated parcel boundary encompasses the church building, the only potentially contributing resource on the church property, and the land associated with the church since its construction.

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11. Form Prepared By
name/title: Mr. Tom Parker, Church Administrator
organization: First Baptist Church
street & number: One Virginia Street
city or town: Bristol state: Virginia zip code: 24201
e-mail: parkert@bvu.net
telephone: 276-591-1008
date: April 24, 2015

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Maps:** A **USGS map** or equivalent (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

- **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.

- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO, TPO, or FPO for any additional items.)

Photo Log

Name of Property: First Baptist Church

City or Vicinity: City of Bristol, Virginia

Photographer: Mr. Eldon Wilson, member of First Baptist Church

Date Photographed: November 12, 2012

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera:

1 of 8. Church main block, looking east-northeast.

2 of 8. Church main block, looking north-northeast.

3 of 8. Church main block, looking east.

4 of 8. Church, looking east-southeast.

5 of 8. Church, looking southeast.

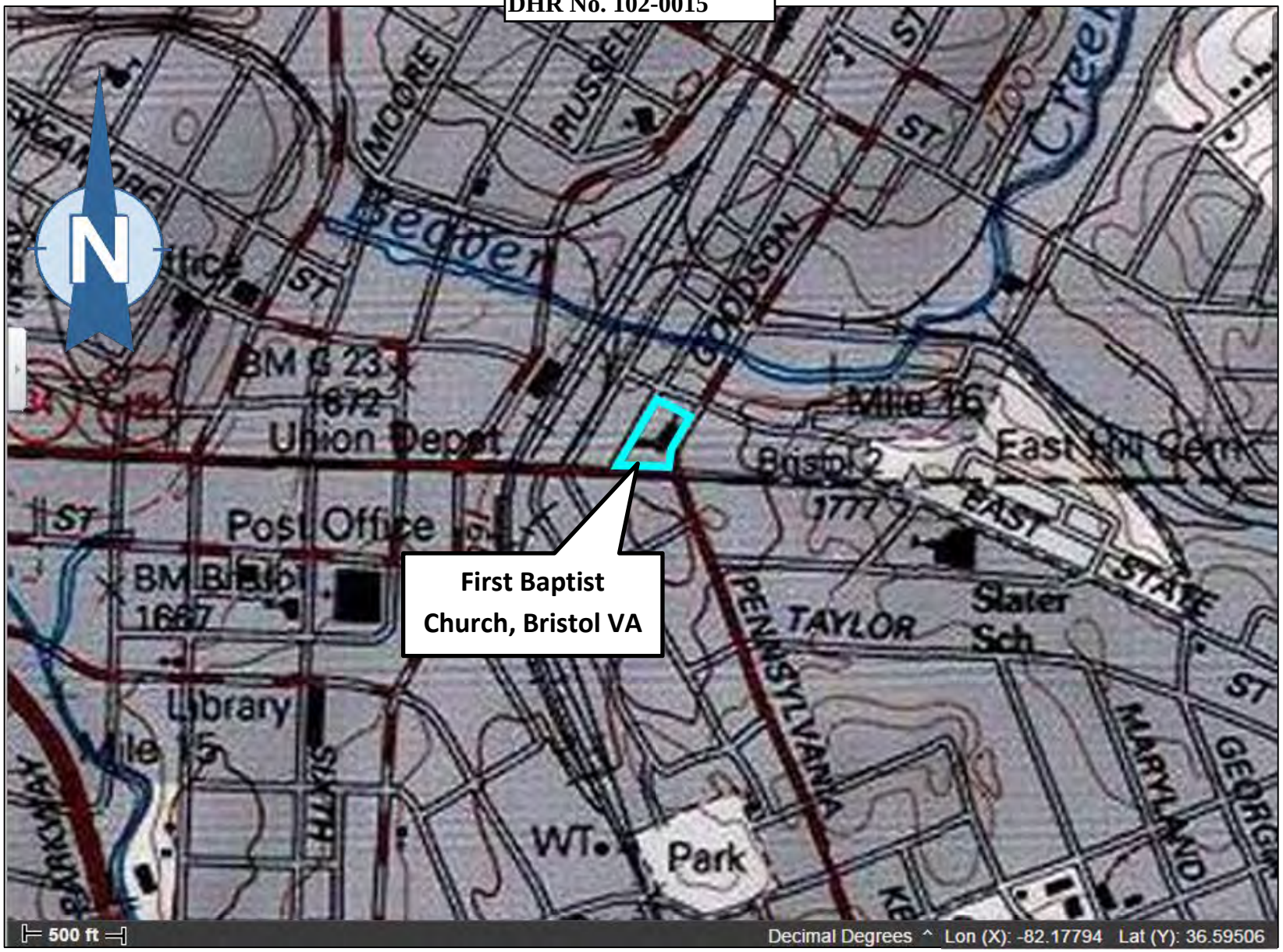
6 of 8. Church, looking north-northwest.

7 of 8. Church sanctuary interior, looking toward rear of building.

8 of 8. Church sanctuary interior, looking toward front of building.

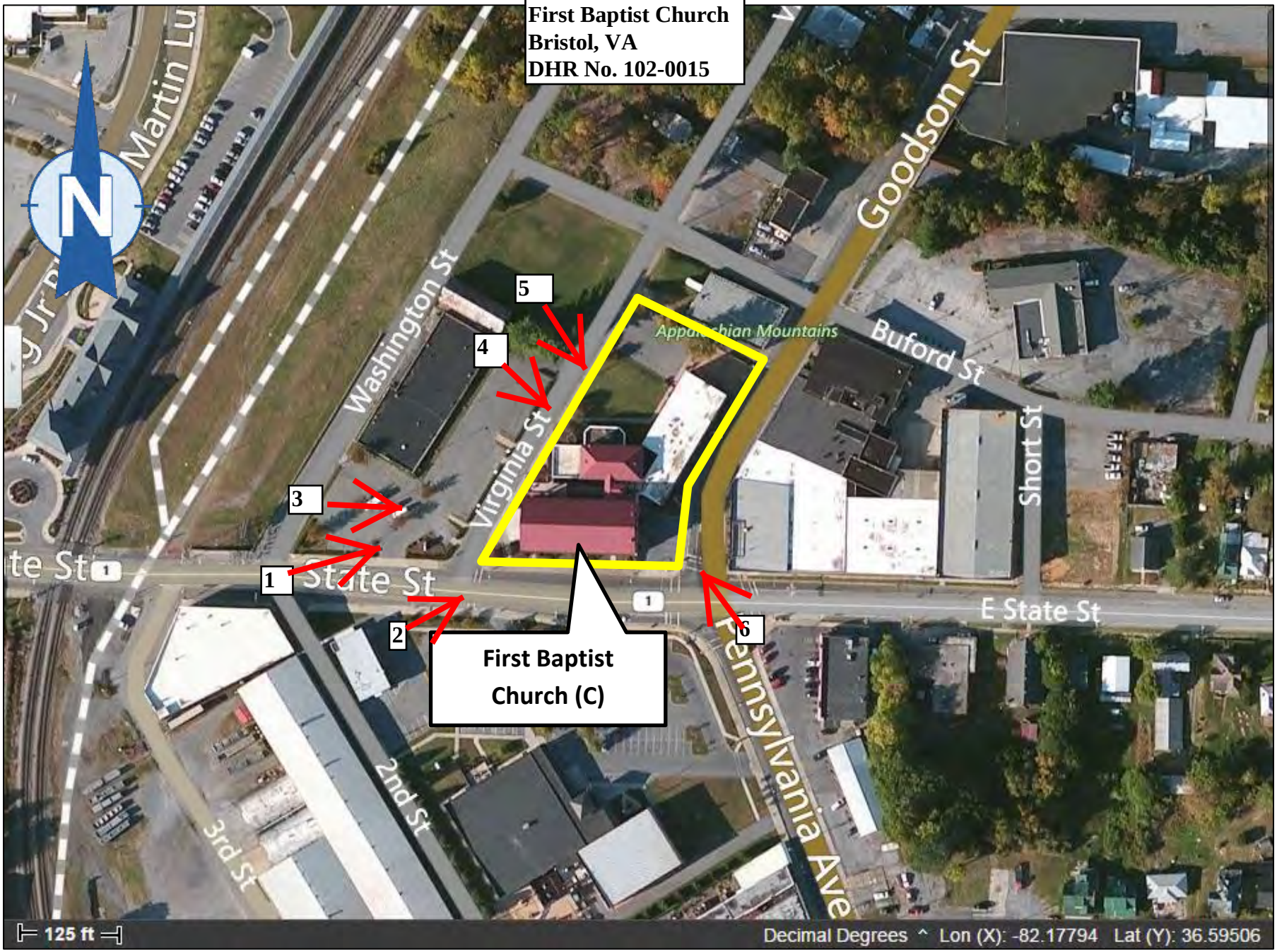
Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C.460 et seq.).
Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 100 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Office of Planning and Performance Management. U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.

LOCATION MAP
First Baptist Church
Bristol, VA
DHR No. 102-0015



Latitude/Longitude Coordinates
1. Latitude: 36.59506 Longitude: -82.17794

SKETCH MAP/
PHOTO KEY
First Baptist Church
Bristol, VA
DHR No. 102-0015



Vincent St
E State St

First
Baptist Church
SUNDAY SCHOOL 9:45
WORSHIP 11 AM
WEDNESDAY 6 PM
Cooperative Baptist Fellowship