

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

For NPS use only

National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form

received

date entered

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*  
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic First Baptist Church

and or common

2. Location

street & number 201 N. High Street

N/A not for publication

city, town Salem

N/A vicinity of

state Indiana

code

018

county

Washington

code

175

3. Classification

Category

- district
- building(s)
- structure
- site
- object

Ownership

- public
- private
- both

Public Acquisition

- in process
- being considered

N/A

Status

- occupied
- unoccupied
- work in progress

Accessible

- yes: restricted
- yes: unrestricted
- no

Present Use

- agriculture
- commercial
- educational
- entertainment
- government
- industrial
- military

- museum
- park
- private residence
- religious
- scientific
- transportation
- other:

4. Owner of Property

name Congregation, First Baptist Church  
c/o Dennis Colglazier, Trustee

street & number R. 1, East Jackson Street

city, town Salem

vicinity of

state

Indiana

47167

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Washington County Courthouse, Recorder's Office

street & number Salem Square

city, town Salem

Salem

state

Indiana

47167

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title N/A

has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

date

federal

state

county

local

depository for survey records

N/A

city, town

state

## 7. Description

<b>Condition</b>		<b>Check one</b>	<b>Check one</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved      date _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

### Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Situated at the corner of High and Walnut Streets, the First Baptist Church is a brick and stone structure of irregular massing with dominant gables, towers, and a variety of roof designs. The building is styled in the Richardsonian Romanesque, and consists of the original 1900 structure and a 1949 rear addition. It has a rock-faced stone foundation capped by a dressed stone water table, and a basement.

Facing south, the front facade (Photo #1) consists of a central gabled nave, flanked by a three-story corner tower with a pyramidal roof on the west side, and a one-story, three-bay-wide area on the east side. The main entry is located in the first level of the corner tower and is accessed by stone steps flanked by rock-faced stone stair buttresses. The double paneled door is recessed in a round arch opening, with a stone radiating voussoir topped by a drip mold with decorative stops. The steel doors have traffic visual panels and are recent replacements of the original wood paneled doors.

Rock-faced stone extends up the tower to the impost level and is capped by a stone belt course. The rest of the tower is brick. Paired, round-arched windows with stained glass panes are located above the entry on the second level; each has a rock-faced brick radiating voussoir capped by a brick drip mold, and a stone sill. Three rows of brick corbeling are above the windows and extend around the tower. A projecting stone belt course extends around the tower and separates the second and third levels. On the third level, a tourelle with a stone finial is positioned on each corner of the tower and rests on the stone coursing; the southwest tourelle extends above and below the others. Arcaded windows with louvered openings and stone sill fill the third level of the tower. Three stone belt courses of varying widths extend around the top of the tower. A pyramidal roof, which extends above the rest of the structure, terminates the tower and is topped by a finial.

The central gabled nave is dominated by a large, round-arched stained glass window divided into four, round-arched lights below; and one large and two small circle windows above. The window has a dripstone with decorative stops and a stone sill. Two small, round-arched, traceried, stained glass windows flank the large window. Each window head and sill is identical to the second level tower windows. The gable is accentuated by a raking cornice with a decorative panel at the gable peak.

The one-story, east end of the main facade is three bays wide. The two easternmost bays are identical to the small central gable windows, but with different stained glass. The third bay is an entry which has a metal, double-paneled door with small glass traffic panels; it recently replaced the original wood paneled door. Surmounting the door is a round-arched transom with a brick radiating voussoir and drip mold. The projecting cornice has a brick parapet with a stone cap.

Facing High Street, the west side facade (Photo #2) exhibits the original church facade and the 1949 addition, which are connected by a one-story bay with an open arch. The west exterior of the original building is identical to the corner tower and gabled nave of the main facade, except for a round-arched, stained glass window in place of the entry door in the tower. The window has the same head trim as the main entry.

The one-story bay connecting the original structure and the addition has a sloped roof. The arched opening in the bay has the same head trim as the main entry. The interior of the church is accessible through a door located inside the arched opening. A square, two-story tower, smaller and plainer than the corner tower, is located north of the arched opening. A round-arched, stained glass window with a stone radiating voussoir

## 8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates 1900, 1949

Builder Architect R. C. Stephans, Louisville

### Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The First Baptist Church is significant as the only existing example of Richardsonian Romanesque architecture in Salem. It is also important as one of the oldest remaining churches in Salem.

A fine example of Richardsonian Romanesque architecture, the church exhibits many characteristics of the style. Distinctive of the style, round arches shape most windows and doors, which are positioned in a visually pleasing manner. The building is highlighted by stone window surrounds, belt courses, finials, and decorative panels. The tower with a pyramid-shaped roof, a main focal point of the structure, and the transept, are also often found in Richardsonian Romanesque architecture.

At a church meeting on August 2, 1899, R. C. Stephans, of Louisville, Kentucky, was chosen as the architect for the building. It was further decided, on October 2, 1899, that the entire cost of the building was not to exceed \$7,000.

Robert Owens, of Salem, bid to do the rubble masonry at \$4.00 a perch. Kern Shrum of Salem furnished and laid the brick. J. S. Depew furnished and did the carpentry work, and Hagen and Frick did the tin work and slate roof work. Bourlier Cornice Company, of Louisville, Kentucky, was granted its bid for the galvanized iron work. Ed Denny, of Salem, did the painting, and G. M. Rust, of Brownstown, Indiana, did the plastering. John Black of Indianapolis Art Glass Works did the stained glass work for \$320. N. F. DePauw donated \$100 toward the stained glass work to have one small section read, "In Memoriam, Elizabeth DePauw". Sarah A. Redfield donated \$100 toward the "tower" stained glass window. Steel walls and ceiling were installed by the Canton Steel and Roofing Company.

The church has been in constant use by the same denomination since its construction, which signifies the devotion of the community. Twenty-five ministers have served since 1900.

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

Journal and Courier, Lafayette-West Lafayette, Indiana. June 23, 1984.  
 Manstriridge, John. Graphic History of Architecture.  
 Richards, J. M. Who's Who in Architecture from 1400 to the present.  
 Files of minutes of First Baptist Church, Salem, Indiana.

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property Less than one acre

Quadrangle name Salem, Indiana

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References

A 

1	6
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5	7	8	4	2	0
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4	2	7	3	3	3	0
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 Zone Easting Northing

B 

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 Zone Easting Northing

C 

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D 

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H 

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Verbal boundary description and justification

Starting at the intersection of North High Street and East Walnut Street; thence 150 feet north to an alley, 144 feet east, 150 feet south to Walnut Street, 144 feet west to High Street.

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	N/A	code	county	code
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state	code	county	code
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## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Marjorie Starr, Historian FBC

organization First Baptist Church date September 7, 1984

street & number 709 N. Hayes Avenue telephone 812/883-2071

city or town Salem state Indiana 47167

## 12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national  state  local

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

State Historic Preservation Officer signature *John C. Smith*

title Indiana State Historic Preservation Officer date 2-6-85

For NPS use only

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

date

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

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Continuation sheet First Baptist Church

Item number 7

Page 1

and stone sill is located on the first level of the tower. Paired windows with similar surrounds are located on the second level. An arcaded frieze board extends around the top of the tower below the hipped roof, which is topped by a finial.

A two-story, flat-roofed area extends to the rear (north) of the tower. Both levels of this area have rectangular, double-hung windows grouped in three's. The windows are headed by a soldier course of brick and have stone sills.

The southeast corner of the annex has an entry accessed by stone steps with rock faced stone piers. The entry has an arched opening and conforms to the architecture of the original building.

The church building has a variety of roof designs. The nave has a large, gabled roof; the corner tower has a pyramidal-shaped roof; the one-story original area has a low mansard roof; the smaller tower has a hipped roof, and the two-story annex has a flat roof.