

AL-IV-A-113

First Baptist Church

Architectural Survey File

This is the architectural survey file for this MIHP record. The survey file is organized reverse-chronological (that is, with the latest material on top). It contains all MIHP inventory forms, National Register nomination forms, determinations of eligibility (DOE) forms, and accompanying documentation such as photographs and maps.

Users should be aware that additional undigitized material about this property may be found in on-site architectural reports, copies of HABS/HAER or other documentation, drawings, and the “vertical files” at the MHT Library in Crownsville. The vertical files may include newspaper clippings, field notes, draft versions of forms and architectural reports, photographs, maps, and drawings. Researchers who need a thorough understanding of this property should plan to visit the MHT Library as part of their research project; look at the MHT web site (mht.maryland.gov) for details about how to make an appointment.

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Last Updated: 12-11-2003

See ALR Series

AL-IV-A-113

First Baptist Church
212 Bedford Street, Cumberland
1849

Despite a long history of bad luck and undergoing changes in appearance, the First Baptist Church in Cumberland, Maryland continues church services today. This church has the distinction as serving as a hospital for Union soldiers during the Civil War.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR _____ ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED _____

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**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 212 Bedford Street

CITY, TOWN Cumberland

VICINITY OF _____

NOT FOR PUBLICATION
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT
Sixth

STATE Maryland

CODE
24

COUNTY Allegany

CODE
001**3 CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
☐ DISTRICT	☐ PUBLIC	☒ OCCUPIED	☐ AGRICULTURE ☐ MUSEUM
☒ BUILDING(S)	☒ PRIVATE	☐ UNOCCUPIED	☐ COMMERCIAL ☐ PARK
☐ STRUCTURE	☐ BOTH	☐ WORK IN PROGRESS	☐ EDUCATIONAL ☐ PRIVATE RESIDENCE
☐ SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	☐ ENTERTAINMENT ☒ RELIGIOUS
☐ OBJECT	☐ IN PROCESS	☒ YES: RESTRICTED	☐ GOVERNMENT ☐ SCIENTIFIC
	☐ BEING CONSIDERED	☐ YES: UNRESTRICTED	☐ INDUSTRIAL ☐ TRANSPORTATION
		☐ NO	☐ MILITARY ☐ OTHER

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME First Baptist Church c/o Russell L. Livengood, Chairman of Deacons

STREET & NUMBER
212 Bedford StreetCITY, TOWN
Cumberland

VICINITY OF _____

STATE
Maryland 21502**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Allegany County CourthouseSTREET & NUMBER
30 Washington StreetCITY, TOWN
CumberlandSTATE
Maryland 21502**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE _____

DATE _____

☐ FEDERAL ☐ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☐ LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS _____

CITY, TOWN _____

STATE _____

DESCRIPTION

AL-IV-A-113

CONDITION

—EXCELLENT
—GOOD
☒FAIR

—DETERIORATED
—RUINS
—UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

—UNALTERED
☒ALTERED

CHECK ONE

☒ORIGINAL SITE
—MOVED DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The First Baptist Church is located at 212 Bedford Street in Cumberland, Maryland. It is a T-shaped brick structure of 1½ stories. The 1917 east (front) facade is of white glazed, all stretcher brickwork; this also extends back one bay on the north and south facades. The rest of the building, constructed in 1849, is of red brick laid in common bond with random variations; this has been repointed. The original part has two high brick belt courses on each facade and a single low one on the side facades (although the north side is covered by additions). On the east facade only the low belt course exists, where it is executed in stone.

The church sits on a low foundation of rock-faced, coursed ashlar on the north and south and uncoursed rubble on the west (rear). It has a plain water table. The gable end of the church faces front. The gable roof is covered with sheets of asphalt. A replacement box cornice surrounds the 1849 structure. Two interior brick chimneys are located in the west end. One is original with corbeled cap; the other is a replacement.

The principal (east) facade is a three-part composition divided vertically into nave (on the south) and stair tower (on the north); the latter is divided horizontally to separate a basement from the tower above. This distinction is deliberately obscured on the nave by containing the windows of those two floors within one large opening in the wall. The stair tower wall is brought forward on this facade (in plan the tower comes forward on the east and north elevations), resulting in three exposed corners on this elevation. Each corner is similarly buttressed on its two sides with a three-part buttress, narrowing and set back from bottom to top. The set backs are at the first floor and choir levels and are marked by stone shoulders or weatherings. The top and bottom segments have inset round-arched panels. The choir level segments are terminated by molded concrete copings. The two buttresses which flank the stair tower have an additional section with an applied pediment and another concrete coping (these are not set back). The southernmost buttress is shorter than those on the facade. Its terminal coping turns to rake against the south wall of the nave. The top copings of the facade buttresses are continuous with the copings of their respective roofs.

The nave portion of the facade, wider than the stair tower, contains between the buttresses a large gothic tracery window set in a brick arch topped by a stone arch above the springing. The floor of the auditorium (first floor) is marked by a band of three large quatrefoil panels between the upper and lower windows. The wall above the arch is set with nine round-arched panels in a blind arcade which rises directly out of the window arch and follows the raking of the gable. Above this is the coping of the gable which breaks vertically near the point and then squares off to form a blunt peak.

The wall of the stair tower is similarly composed above the basement, without the quatrefoil or arched panels. The roof coping forms a simple low gable.

The basement contains the main entrance, set in an arch like the window arches, with a blind arcade of five arched panels above. The entrance has a double door of two six-paneled leaves in a wooden frame. The two parts of the stair tower are separated by a heavy window ledge, continuous with and set back from the weatherings of the buttresses.

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET #1.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
HERITAGE CONSERVATION AND RECREATION SERVICE

AL-IV-A-113

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DATE ENTERED

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

The First Baptist Church
Allegany County

CONTINUATION SHEET Maryland

ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 1

(DESCRIPTION CONTINUED)

At basement level the south facade has a recessed frame coal chute at the rear; this is now sealed. There are three basement windows with 4/4 light sash containing translucent glass, wooden trim, and stone sills. A low brick belt course serves as lintel for these windows. The rear entrance on this facade is recessed and has a flat brick arch, wooden trim, and a two-panel door with one light of translucent glass. The entrance near the front has a four-panel door.

On the first floor of this facade are three round-arched stained glass windows with two tall panels and a fixed half-round one above. These have stone sills, plain wooden trim, and brick arches. The six illustrations in these windows are different from those on the north facade. There is also one small rectangular stained glass window with wooden trim and brick sill.

The west end has two basement windows of thick translucent glass, one with 56 lights and one with 69 and two larger movable panes; both have flat brick arches and brick sills. The door in the north bay is a replacement and the transom is boarded over. The first story has three window openings; the north one has been bricked in but was identical to the south one, which is like the windows on the south. The central stained glass window is shorter and wider and has a gently pointed brick arch and a brick sill. It is an alteration as the brickwork around it is disturbed.

The north facade has one closed up basement window with brick arch. At first story level are three stained glass windows of similar form to those on the south but different parts fixed and movable; they have brick arches, stone sills, and wooden trim. This facade also has a small rectangular window like that on the south; both swing in.

Two small additions are built against the north side of the church; they do not disturb the appearance of the church.

On the interior of the church the stairs are located in the northeast corner. At the basement level the main entrance opens into a hall facing the stair that leads to the main worship area on the next floor. The basement is divided into a number of rooms with walls and folding partitions.

The main floor is divided into a nave in the center, a Sunday School area divided off with a folding wood partition in the east end, and organ, choir loft, and two small rooms at the west end. The chancel area has an elliptical platform raised two steps above the nave and divided from it by three pointed-arched openings with wooden pillars. Behind these arched openings are the choir and organ lofts. The choir loft is slightly raised above the chancel floor. A trap door in the chancel floor covers a baptismal pool. The two rooms next to the chancel are preparation rooms. A closed stair leads from them to the basement.

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET #2.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
HERITAGE CONSERVATION AND RECREATION SERVICE

AL-IV-A-113

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**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

The First Baptist Church
Allegany County

CONTINUATION SHEET Maryland

ITEM NUMBER

7 PAGE 2

(DESCRIPTION CONTINUED)

The nave ceiling is a flat plaster one with curved corners. The chancel ceiling is a four-arched cross vault. Four wrought iron lamps with stained glass panels hang from chains in the nave.

The open well stair that leads from the basement to the balcony at the east end of the church has seven landings and six and a half flights. Made of walnut, it is not decorated except for rectangular pendants. There is wainscoting on the walls of the stair.

Woodwork around the doors and windows is plain. The folding partition in the nave has eight seven-panel doors. The double doors leading into the nave are identical to these. The choir rail molding extends around the nave. A walnut paneled railing surrounds the organ and choir lofts. The face of the balcony is paneled. Architrave trim extends around the top of the walls near the ceiling.

The pipe organ was bought and installed in 1921 and was recently renovated.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
HERITAGE CONSERVATION AND RECREATION SERVICE

AL-TY-A-113

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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

First Baptist Church
Allegany County

CONTINUATION SHEET Maryland

ITEM NUMBER

8

PAGE

(SIGNIFICANCE, continued)

REVISIONS

9/29/80 Ronald Andrews

The significance of the First Baptist Church on Bedford Street in Cumberland, Allegany County, Maryland is derived from the facade that was added in 1917 to the existing church structure erected in 1849. Executed in a modest interpretation of the Late Gothic Revival style, the facade embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type of architecture that, while popular in the United States in the first half of the present century, was not commonly used in Cumberland. The dominant features which characterize the First Baptist Church facade are a smooth, quiet perpendicular design executed in masonry. The position of this structure in the architectural fabric of Cumberland is heightened by its location on a hill from which it is visible from various locations in the center of the city.

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
☐ PREHISTORIC	☐ ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	☐ COMMUNITY PLANNING	☐ LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	☒ RELIGION
☐ 1400-1499	☐ ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	☐ CONSERVATION	☐ LAW	☐ SCIENCE
☐ 1500-1599	☐ AGRICULTURE	☐ ECONOMICS	☐ LITERATURE	☐ SCULPTURE
☐ 1600-1699	☒ ARCHITECTURE	☐ EDUCATION	☐ MILITARY	☐ SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
☐ 1700-1799	☐ ART	☐ ENGINEERING	☐ MUSIC	☐ THEATER
☒ 1800-1899	☐ COMMERCE	☐ EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	☐ PHILOSOPHY	☐ TRANSPORTATION
☐ 1900-	☐ COMMUNICATIONS	☐ INDUSTRY	☐ POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	☐ OTHER (SPECIFY)
		☐ INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1849, 1917

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

SIGNIFICANCE

SEE REVISION

With its very stylishly contrived facade, the First Baptist Church is a distinctive structure in the architecture of Cumberland. The original 1849 building has a nave of the church on the second floor, a characteristic common to Baptist and Methodist churches of the second half of the 19th century. The interior detail is also common to that period. The congregation has had ups and downs throughout its history, with the congregation fluctuating from almost nonexistent to very large. The combination of large typical 19th century structure with up-to-date facade of modern materials is illustrative of the cycles in the congregation's history.

HISTORY AND SUPPORT

The history of the First Baptist Church in Cumberland has been one of fluctuating fortune. During the last century, this church had its setbacks, but always managed to overcome misfortune to prosper. The first record of Baptist meetings in this area was in the 1840s, when a handful of persons met in a hall above a fire station. The first missionary to come to these Baptists was Rev. Benjamin Giffith, D.D., who later became the first pastor of the church.

By 1849 Rev. Griffith had gathered enough Baptists into his congregation to build a church, which was dedicated in November 1849.² This original brick building was larger than it need be, according to Lowdermilk, who states that the "seating capacity" was much larger than the number of the congregation.³

During the Civil War Cumberland was used to house Union wounded. "Halls, churches, and warehouses" were temporary hospitals where local physicians cared for the wounded soldiers.⁴ The soldiers hospitalized here numbered 500 in December of 1861 and 1,200 in the spring of 1862. Even after the large Clarysville hospital was opened, fifteen different locations in Cumberland housed wounded.⁵ Thomas and Williams state that the First Baptist Church was one of these.⁶

Shortly after the war, for some unknown reason, the council of the church met and decided to disband the organization. It was reorganized in 1871. According to local tradition, the congregation was forced to pay for their land a second time due to an error in the first title. In 1878 Lowdermilk reports of a congregation of seventy persons.⁷

In 1913 the Reverend H.F. Loomis arrived to fill a one year vacancy at the pulpit to find that much of the congregation had drifted away. Through his strenuous efforts he rebuilt the congregation to 300 by 1923. At a cost of \$15,000.00 a new front facade to the church was erected and dedicated in January of 1917.⁸ Included in this facade are architectural components that join to create a balanced visual impact. The tracery windows are the largest in the Cumberland area. The soaring height of these windows

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET #3.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
HERITAGE CONSERVATION AND RECREATION SERVICE

AL-IV-A-113

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

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The First Baptist Church
Allegany County

CONTINUATION SHEET Maryland

ITEM NUMBER

8

PAGE 3

(SIGNIFICANCE CONTINUED)

is countered by the molded concrete trim highlighting the buttresses and entrance. The arcaded effect of rows of pointed brick arches above the entrance and the larger window, combined with the recessed position of the window and entrance, present a contrast giving greater depth to the east facade. These Gothic Revival features and the asymmetrical design of the facade are reminiscent of the cultural awareness of the past members of the church.

Additional misfortunes include the murder of a missionary to China during disturbances there, and the loss of the church's history, including the names of many of the pastors, when the records were moved to Baltimore "for historical purposes."⁹

Today the church membership is still active and services continue despite the lack of a minister. It is the determination of a congregation with a history of struggle against misfortune that keeps this church a monument to the courage of the Baptist people of Cumberland. The Gothic facade of this building symbolizes the strength of these people "buttressed" by their faith in God.

- ¹ Will H. Lowdermilk, History of Cumberland (Baltimore: Regional Publishing Co., 1971), p. 464. Reprint of the 1878 edition.
- ² Lowdermilk, p. 465.
- ³ Lowdermilk, p. 464.
- ⁴ Harry Stegmaier, Jr., Allegany County-A History (Parsons, W.Va.: McClain Printing Co., 1976), p. 187.
- ⁵ Ibid.
- ⁶ James W. Thomas and T.J.C. Williams, History of Allegany County, Maryland. (Philadelphia: L.R. Titsworth and Co., 1923), p. 476.
- ⁷ Lowdermilk, p. 465.
- ⁸ Thomas and Williams, p. 477.
- ⁹ Lowdermilk, pp.465-6.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Allegany County Land Records, Courthouse, Cumberland, Maryland.

AL-IV-A-113

Lowdermilk, Will H. History of Cumberland. Baltimore: Regional Publishing Co., 1971.
(Reprint of 1878 edition).

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET #4.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATAACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 54' x 155'

UTM REFERENCES

A 17 692050 5491740
ZONE EASTING NORTHINGB
ZONE EASTING NORTHINGC D

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Reference Allegany County Deeds 4/259 and 4/398.

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

STATE CODE COUNTY CODE

STATE CODE COUNTY CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY Faye Purdham and Mel Collins, Allegany County Committee

NAME / TITLE

William Pratt and Dave Dorsey, Surveyors

ORGANIZATION

Allegany County Historic Sites Survey

DATE

10/4/77

STREET & NUMBER

County Office Building, Pershing Street

TELEPHONE

(301)777-5967

CITY OR TOWN

Cumberland

STATE

Maryland 21502

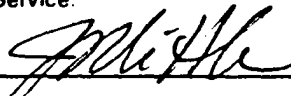
12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL STATE LOCAL X

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



6-16-80

TITLE

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER

DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST:

DATE

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
HERITAGE CONSERVATION AND RECREATION SERVICE

AL-IV-A-113

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

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DATE ENTERED

The First Baptist Church
Allegany County
Maryland

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER

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PAGE 4.

(MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES CONTINUED)

Thomas, James W., & Williams, T.J.C. History of Allegany County, Maryland. Philadelphia:
L.R. Titsworth and Co., 1923.

Stegmaier, Harry, Jr. Allegany County-A History. Parsons, W.Va.: McClain Printing Co.,
1976.

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC First Baptist Church

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

212 Bedford Street

CITY, TOWN

Cumberland

VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Sixth

STATE

Maryland

COUNTY

Allegany

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

☐ DISTRICT☒ BUILDING(S)☐ STRUCTURE☐ SITE☐ OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

☐ PUBLIC☒ PRIVATE☐ BOTH

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

☐ IN PROCESS☐ BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

☒ OCCUPIED☐ UNOCCUPIED☐ WORK IN PROGRESS

ACCESSIBLE

☒ YES RESTRICTED☐ YES UNRESTRICTED☐ NO

PRESENT USE

☐ AGRICULTURE☐ MUSEUM☐ COMMERCIAL☐ PARK☐ EDUCATIONAL☐ PRIVATE RESIDENCE☐ ENTERTAINMENT☒ RELIGIOUS☐ GOVERNMENT☐ SCIENTIFIC☐ INDUSTRIAL☐ TRANSPORTATION☐ MILITARY☐ OTHER**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

First Baptist Church

Telephone #: 777-0668

STREET & NUMBER

212 Bedford Street

CITY, TOWN

Cumberland

VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

Maryland, 21502

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTIONCOURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Allegany County Courthouse

Liber #: 4 4

Folio #: 259 390

STREET & NUMBER

30 Washington Street

CITY, TOWN

Cumberland

STATE

Maryland

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

☐ FEDERAL ☐ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☐ LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

CHECK ONE

~~X~~ORIGINAL SITE

__MOVED DATE__

__UNEXPOSED

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The First Baptist Church is located on Bedford Street in Cumberland, Maryland.

The building basically consists of a one and one-half story, two bay wide, "T" shaped structure. Wall construction is brick featuring white glazed brick work over the entire eastern facade and extending back one bay each on the northern and southern facade. All the brick work, except the new eastern facade, is laid in american common bond using random variations. The eastern facade is completely stretcher bond. There has been repointing done on the brick work over the entire original building. There are two high, brick, continuous belt courses running on the south, north and western facade. A low, brick belt course is found on the southern facade only. This changes to an original smooth faced stone belt course as it runs into new eastern facade. Probably, this feature was originally on northern facade as well, which now has additions which cover this feature. The building is supported by a low, stone foundation of rock-faced coursed ashlar bond construction on the southern and northern facade and uncoursed rubble on the western facade. Water table is plain. The roof of the building is gable front. The roof is replaced, covered with asphalt sheets. A replaced boxed cornice with soffit and frieze surrounds the top of the building on the northern, western and southern facades. There are two brick chimneys, both inside end. One is original with corbeled cap, the other is replaced. The eastern facade is the front of the church. It has a 10 foot concrete base under its new facade which was constructed in 1917. Its walls feature moulded concrete trim throughout on buttresses, around windows, even the capping on top of the false parapet and gable located there. There are seven buttresses on the eastern facade including the extensions on the northern and southern facades. Three buttresses on the east and two each on the north and south extensions. Within this facade are found 34 recessed panels of concrete with pointed brick arches over their heads. Three of these are located on the northern extension of this facade on the buttresses with 5 of them in a row between the buttresses. On the southern extension, two panels are on the buttresses with a row of four panels between the buttresses. Located here within these buttresses were formed archways in the concrete foundation with some tooled work. On the main eastern facade, each of the three buttresses have two of these panels. The buttress on the southeast corner has a wooden door, one paneled, vertical boards, plain wooden trim, one set in concrete archway at the base. Five of the panels are located above the main entrance to the church. Nine of the panels are located above the larger main window. Below the main window is located one iron grated, fixed, basement 20 light window of thick translucent glass of double layered squares. Also one iron doored coal chute. The first floor main window is a large stained glass tracery window with triple row pointed brick arch overhead. Tracery window includes decorated wooden spandrels and heavy wooden trim within. A smaller stained glass tracery window is located above the main entrance with triple row pointed brick arch overhead.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD		AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
☐ PREHISTORIC	☐ ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	☐ COMMUNITY PLANNING	☐ LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	☒ RELIGION	
☐ 1400-1499	☐ ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	☐ CONSERVATION	☐ LAW	☐ SCIENCE	
☐ 1500-1599	☐ AGRICULTURE	☐ ECONOMICS	☐ LITERATURE	☐ SCULPTURE	
☐ 1600-1699	☒ ARCHITECTURE	☐ EDUCATION	☐ MILITARY	☐ SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN	
☐ 1700-1799	☐ ART	☐ ENGINEERING	☐ MUSIC	☐ THEATER	
☒ 1800-1899	☐ COMMERCE	☐ EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	☐ PHILOSOPHY	☐ TRANSPORTATION	
☐ 1900-	☐ COMMUNICATIONS	☐ INDUSTRY	☐ POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	☒ OTHER (SPECIFY) History	
		☐ INVENTION			

SPECIFIC DATES 1849 BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The history of the First Baptist Church in Cumberland has been a fluctuating one. During the last century this church had its setbacks but always managed to overcome misfortune to prosper. The first record of Baptist meetings in this area was in the 1840's when a handful of persons met in a hall above a fire station. At this time the first missionary to come to these Baptists was Rev. Benjamin Griffith, D.D. who later became the first pastor of the church. ¹

By 1849 Rev. Griffith had gathered enough Baptists into his congregation to build a church that was dedicated in Nov. 1849. ² This original brick building was reportedly larger than it need be, according to Lowdermilk who stated that the "seating capacity" was much larger than the number of the congregation. ³

During the civil War Cumberland was used to house Union wounded. "Halls, churches, and warehouses" were temporary hospitals where local physicians cared for the wounded soldiers. ⁴ The soldiers hospitalized here numbered 500 in Dec. of 1861 and 1,200 in the spring of 1862. Even after the large Clarysville hospital was opened fifteen different locations in Cumberland housed wounded. ⁵ Thomas and Williams state that the First Baptist Church was used to house wounded soldiers. ⁶

Shortly after the war, for some unknown reason, the council of the church met and decided to disband the organization but it was re-organized in 1871. According to local tradition, another stroke of misfortune was that the congregation was forced to pay for their land a second time due to an error in the first title. In 1878 Lowdermilk reports of a congregation of seventy persons. ⁷

In 1913 the Reverend H.F. Loomis arrived to fill a one year vacancy at the pulpit to find that much of the congregation had drifted away. Through his strenuous efforts he had rebuilt the congregation to 300 by 1923. At a cost of \$15,000.00 a new front facade to the church had been erected, and dedicated in January of 1917. ⁸ Included in this facade are architectural components that join to create a balanced visual impact. The large tracery windows are the largest in the Cumberland area. The soaring height of these windows are countered by the moulded concrete trim highlighting the buttresses and entrance. The arcaded effect

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Allegany County Land Records, Cumberland, Maryland 21502
Lowdermilk, Will H. History of Cumberland. Baltimore: Regional Publishing Co., 1971. Reprint of the 1878 edition.
Thomas, James W., & Williams, T.J.C. History of Allegany County, Md. Philadelphia: L.R. Fittsworth and Co., 1923.
Stegmaier, Jr., Harry. Allegany County-A History. Parsons, W. Va.: McClain Printing Co., 1976

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 54 x 155

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

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

STATE	COUNTY
STATE	COUNTY

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE	
William Pratt and Dave Dorsey	
ORGANIZATION	DATE
Allegany County Historic Sites Survey	10/4/77
STREET & NUMBER	TELEPHONE
County Office Building, Pershing Street	777-5967
CITY OR TOWN	STATE
Cumberland,	Maryland

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 267-1438

Heavy wooden trim within this window also. The main entrance is located on the northern corner of the eastern facade. It has a pointed brick arch covered with a thin layer of concrete located over the doors. A recessed decorative wooden panel is located there too. The recessed wooden doors, original are six paneled with horizontal boards encased in plain heavy wooden frame.

Located in the rear bottom corner of the southern facade is a wood framed, recessed, coal chute entrance that is sealed shut. The three basement windows located on southern facade have four over four lights, translucent glass, double hung windows with mullion. They have plain wooden trim and stone lugsills. A low brick belt course serves as a flat brick arch overhead. Rear entrance here is recessed. Door is two paneled, horizontal boards, one light of translucent glass, plain wooden trim all around and flat brick arch overhead. Another entrance located near the front is four paneled, vertical boards with plain wooden trim all around. First floor has three stained glass windows, each with eight lights, fixed, with mullion. Above each is a half round stained glass window; fixed. These windows have stone lugsills, plain wooden trim and semicircular brick arches overhead. They feature six different illustrations; different from those on northern facade. One, small, recessed, rectangular, stained glass window has wooden trim around it and brick slipsills. This window swings in.

Western facade has two basement windows of thick, double layered, translucent glass. One is fifty-six lights, fixed with flat brick arch overhead and brick slipsill at the base. The other is sixty-nine lights, fixed with two larger rectangular lights in middle that swing out. It has flat brick arch overhead and brick slipsill at base. The entrance located here is replaced. It is three paneled, both horizontal and vertical boards with one light of translucent glass. Plain wooden trim all around. At one time contained transom which now is boarded shut. First floor had three windows originally, one is now bricked shut with semicircular brick arch remaining. The northernmost window is stained glass with five lights, four of which are rectangular with mullion. Above is a half round stained glass window, fixed. Above window is semicircular brick arch and stone lugsill below. The remaining stained glass window has six lights. Three small rectangular lights beneath three larger lights. All are fixed except one on middle bottom that swings in. This window has double row brick pointed arch overhead and brick lugsill at base. Plain wooden trim all around. Originally, window was like the other two on the western facade.

Original basement window on northern facade is sealed shut with double row brick arch overhead still intact. First floor features three stained glass windows each with eight lights, fixed, with mullion. One half round stained glass window above each of these swings down and in. All the windows have semicircular brick arches overhead and stone lugsills at bases with plain wooden trim all around. There are six different illustrations depicted in these windows. Also located on northern facade is one, smaller, rectangular, recessed stained glass window that swings in. This window has brick slipsill and wooden trim all around. The church has two additions, both found on the northern facade. One abuts basement and made of brick. The other is tin siding over wood and located on the Northwest corner. Both have ribbed tar paper shed roofs. Basement addition has six, forty-seven light windows of translucent glass, fixed, of thick double layered squares. One long rectangular light in middle of each of these swings out. Windows are connected by five brick mullions. Windows have wooden lintels and cement sills. Tin addition has cement foundation. It has three one-over-one light, translucent glass, double hung windows with plain wooden trim and wooden lugsills.

of rows of pointed brick arches above the entrance and the larger window combined with the recessed position of the window and entrance present a contrast giving greater depth to the eastern facade. These Gothic Revival features and the asymmetrical design of the facade are reminiscent of the cultural awareness of the past members of the church.

Additional misfortunes to the church include the murder of a missionary to China during disturbances there and the loss of the church's history including the names of many of the pastors when the records were moved to Baltimore "for historical purposes." ⁹

Despite this long history of bad luck the church membership is still active and services continue despite the lack of a minister. It is the determination of a congregation with a history of struggle against misfortune that keeps this church a monument to the courage of the Baptist people of Cumberland. The Gothic facade of this building symbolizes the strength of these people "buttressed" by their faith in God.

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1. Will H. Lowdermilk, History of Cumberland (Baltimore: Regional Publishing Co., 1971.) p. 464. Reprint of the 1878 edition.
 2. Lowdermilk, History of Cumberland. p. 465.
 3. Lowdermilk, History of Cumberland, p. 464.
 4. Harry Stegmaier, Jr. Allegany County-A History (Parsons, W.Va. : McClain Printing Co., 1976) p. 187.
 5. Ibid.
 6. James W. Thomas and T.J.C. Williams, History of Allegany County, Md. (Philadelphia: L.R. Titsworth and Co., 1923) p. 476.
 7. Lowdermilk, History of Cumberland. p. 465
 8. Thomas and Williams, History of Allegany County, Maryland. p. 477
 9. Lowdermilk, History of Cumberland. pp. 465-6

ADDITIONS

Northern Facade - One abuts basement, made of brick, the other is tin addition on N.W. corner. Both have ribbed tar paper shed roofs. Basement addition has six, forty-seven light windows, translucent glass, fixed, thick double layered squares. One long rectangular light in middle of these swings out. Windows are connected by five brick mullions. Have wooden lintels and cement sills. Tin addition has cement foundation with tin siding over wood. It has three, one-over-one lights, double hung windows, plain wooden trim, wooden lugsills, translucent glass.

DOORS

Eastern Facade - One paneled, vertical boards, plain wooden trim.

Southern Facade Front - Four paneled, vertical boards, plain wooden trim.

Southern Facade Rear - Two paneled, horizontal boards. one light - translucent glass, recessed, plain wooden trim. Flat brick arch.

Western Facade - Three paneled, both horizontal and vertical boards, replaced, one light - translucent glass, plain wooden trim. Had transom now boarded shut.

WINDOWS

Northern Facade -

- First Floor - Three stained glass windows each with eight lights, fixed, with mullion, one half round, stained glass window above each of these swings down and in. Windows have stone lugsills, semicircular brick arches and plain wooden trim. Six different illustrations in these windows. One, small, stained glass window, rectangular, recessed, wooden trim, brick slip-sill. Window swings in. One window sealed
- Basement - shut with double row brick arch still intact.

Eastern Facade -

- Basement - One iron grated, fixed, thick translucent glass of double layered squares, twenty lights. One iron doored coal chute.
- First Floor - One large stained glass tracery window with pointed brick arch, decorated wooden spandrels, heavy wooden trim. One smaller stained glass tracery window, above entrance, pointed brick arch, heavy wooden trim.

Eastern Facade Facing South - Three stained glass windows vertically arranged atop one another with two brick spandrels between to look like one large window. Top stained glass window is double hung, two, one-over-one lights with decorated mullion. Pointed brick arch

overhead and concrete lugsill, wooden trim all around. Middle windows are two, one-over-one lights, double hung, stained glass windows with mullion and wooden trim. No arch. Has a concrete slipsill. Bottom windows are the same as the middle ones, except with the concrete foundation serving as the slipsill.

Eastern Facade Facing North -

First and One half Floor - One stained glass window with a double row pointed brick arch and concrete lugsill. Window is double hung, one-over-one lights, wooden trim.

First Floor - One, one-over-one lights, double hung, stained glass window, no arch, plain wooden trim, concrete lugsill.

Western Facade -

Basement - Two windows of thick double layered, translucent glass. One fifty-six lights, fixed, flat brick arch and brick slipsill. Other is sixty-nine lights, fixed, with two larger rectangular lights in middle that swing out, flat brick arch and brick slipsill.

First Floor - Three windows originally, one bricked shut with semicircular brick arch remaining. The northernmost window is stained glass with five lights, four of which are rectangular with mullion. Above is a half round stained glass window, fixed. Above window is semicircular brick arch and stone lugsill below. The remaining window has six stained glass lights. Three small rectangular lights beneath three larger lights. All are fixed except one on middle bottom that swings in. Double row brick pointed arch and brick lugsill. Originally window was like other two. Plain wooden trim.

Southern Facade -

Basement - One wood, recessed coal chute entrance. Sealed shut located in rear. Three, four-over-four lights, translucent glass, double hung windows with mullion. Plain wooden trim. Stone lugsills, lower brick belt course serves as a flat arch overhead. Entrance here is two paneled, horizontal boards with one light window. Flat brick arch and plain wooden trim.

First Floor - Three stained glass windows each with eight lights, fixed, with mullion. One half round stained glass window above each of these is fixed. Windows have stone lugsills, semicircular brick arches, plain wooden trim. Windows have six different illustrations, different from ones on Northern facade. One small rectangular

stained glass window identical to one on northern facade.

INTERIOR DESCRIPTION

Main entrance leads into basement entrance hall facing a stairway leading to the main worship area on first floor. The narthex is a hall leading from the stairs to the nave. The nave is divided at the rear with a folding wooden partition creating a temporary Sunday school area with pews. The chancel area is an elliptical platform raised two steps above the nave and divided from the nave by three pointed arched openings with wooden pillars. Behind these arched openings are the choir and organ lofts. The choir loft is slightly raised above the chancel floor. A trap door in the chancel floor covers a baptismal pool. Next to the chancel are two separate preparation rooms connected to the basement with a single flight encased stairway. The stairway leads to the first and one half floor balcony which includes a separate storage room and the seating area which has been divided by two permanent wooden partitions creating three Sunday school areas. The ceiling of the nave section is flat plaster, corners which are curved. The ceiling of the chancel section is a four arched, cross vault. Four lamps hanging on chains above the nave are wrought iron with stained glass lights. The walls are all of plaster construction.

The open well stairway leading from the basement to the balcony has seven landings and six and one-half flights are made of walnut. The stairway is plain except for rectangular pendants. Wainscoting is on the walls of the stairway.

Woodwork around the doors and windows is plain. The eight folding partition doors have seven panels and horizontal boards. The double doors leading into the nave are identical to these. An architrave choir rail extends around the nave. Walnut paneled railing surrounds the organ and choir lofts. The face of the balcony is covered with architrave panels. Architrave trim extends around the top of the walls near the ceiling.

The pipe organ was bought and installed in 1921 and was recently rennovated.

1. STATE Maryland COUNTY Allegany TOWN Cumberland VICINITY Northeast STREET NO. 212 Bedford St. ORIGINAL OWNER First Baptist ORIGINAL USE Religious PRESENT OWNER First Baptist PRESENT USE Religious WALL CONSTRUCTION Brick NO. OF STORIES		HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY INVENTORY AL-101 2. NAME FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH DATE OR PERIOD 1847/1848 STYLE Gothic ARCHITECT BUILDER 3. FOR LIBRARY OF CONGRESS USE	
4. NOTABLE FEATURES, HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE AND DESCRIPTION OPEN TO PUBLIC Yes Church seats about 300. Original Church with additions; Annex-218 Bedford Street had been rectory of St. Luke's Lutheran Church-Columbia Street. Stained Glass window Memorials. Communion Table in memory of Mr. and Mrs. John Vandegrift. Building used as Civil War Hospital. ..above data by Dr. Benjamin Bruner, Pastor. 1849--Cornerstone laid; Church between Front Street (now Henderson Boulevard) and Columbia Street; Consecrated Nov.4, 1849. First meetings of the congregation were held in the Pioneer Hose Company. Note: Defect found in title to property and congregation had to pay twice for their land. ...Scharf History, p.1410, 1411 CIVIL WAR HOSPITAL in the old church--Thomas History, p.476 New part of church dedicated Jan.21, 1917 " " (\$15,000) Note: The first church in Allegany County was Baptist-built in 1772 in part now Garrett County...H.G.H. V.Good Exterior V.Good			
5. PHYSICAL CONDITION OF STRUCTURE Endangered Interior V.Good Exterior V.Good			
6. LOCATION MAP (Plan Optional)		7. PHOTOGRAPH	
8. PUBLISHED SOURCES (Author, Title, Pages) INTERVIEWS, RECORDS, PHOTOS, ETC. " Dr. Bruner, Pastor, by H.G.H. Scharf and Thomas History Research by Helen S. Hinkle		9. NAME, ADDRESS AND TITLE OF RECORDER Hazel Groves Hansrote, V-Chairman Maryland Historical Trust, Allegany County Dec.1, 1970 DATE OF RECORD	

INVENTORY NO: AL-IV-A-113DATE: 10/13/774/259REMODELING: Drastic, moderate, minor4/39854 x 155NAME OF PROPERTY: First Baptist ChurchLOCATION OF PROPERTY: 212 Bedford StreetDIRECTION DWELLING FACES: EastNAME OF OWNER: First Baptist ChurchADDRESS: 212 Bedford StreetCumberland, Maryland 21502STORIES: 1(1/2) 2() 3() 4(1/2) 5() 6() BAYS: 1() 2(X) 3() 4() 5() 6() 7() ()WINGS, ADDITIONS: (2) (See other page)

DWELLING SHAPE: (square, cross, rectangular) "T" shaped. Head of "T" is white glazed brick extending over eastern facade and one bay on north and south.

WALL CONSTRUCTION:

Stretcher bond on eastern facade.

- () FRAME: Bevel, clapboard, weatherboard, wood shingles, board & batten (type?)
(X) BRICK: Bond type - common, English, Flemish. Sketch variants. Random on north, south.
() STONE: Bond type - rubble, ashlar (random or regular), quoins-plain, rusticated
() LOG 7 buttresses, 34 recessed panels with pointed
() OTHER: Coverings brick arches. Moulded concrete trim on eastern
(On south, north and west.) facade. Repointing of brick work.

WALL FEATURES: (Belt Course) Pilasters, Others One low brick belt course on south, changes to stone. 2 high ones on south, north and west. Rock faced coursed ashlar bond on southFOUNDATIONS: High, Low, Brick, StoneWATER TABLE: None, Plain, Beveled, Moulded Brick and north. West is uncoursed rubble.

FOUNDATIONS - 10 foot high concrete base under new eastern facade.

WINDOWS, TRIM, SHUTTERS: 1/1() 2/2() 6/6() 9/6() 9/9() other()

(See other page) pegged(X) nailed() wide() narrow() mitred() pediment()ENTRANCE, DOORS: LOCATION: Northern corner of eastern facade.HARDWARE: original(X) replaced()

FAN LIGHT, TRANSOM, SIDE LIGHTS, PLAIN

6 Paneled, Verticle, Horizontal Boards Plain wooden frame.

Boxed

CORNICE, BARGE, EAVES: (crown, fascia, soffit, bed)

original() replaced(X) rafter ends, modillions, dentils, frieze, architrave

ROOF: Gable front, Gable flank, Hip, Shed, Mansard, Gambrel, Flat, Dormers #

MATERIAL: wood shingles, slate, tin, asphalt; sheets original() replaced(X)

On eastern facade are a false parapet and gable.

PORCHES: SHAPE OF ROOF - shed() hip() gable()

CHIMNEYS: Number: 2 Brick(X) Stone() Corbeled(X) Cap original() replaced(X)Location: Flush end() Inside end(2) Outside end() Central() Interior()ARCHES: Door & Windows: Keystone, Flat, Segmental, Semicircular Pointed brick arches
(See other page)

COMMENTS: Originally built under greek influence, now new eastern facade and window on western facade are influenced by Gothic revival style.

USE: ReligionSIGNIFICANCE: Architecture/HistoryDATE CONSTRUCTED: 1849CONDITION: Fair

FLOOR PLAN:

- () CENTRAL HALL: Two rooms, each side; double parlor, one side
- () SIDE HALL: One room deep, two rooms deep
- (X) IRREGULAR Meeting house with narthex, nave, chancel and balcony, entrance in basement wooden partition divides nave. Flat plaster ceiling - ceiling corners curved.

STAIRWAYS:

- () ENCLOSED: Single flight, two flights with landing
- (X) OPEN: Well Single flight, two flights - one landing, three flights - two landings
- () DOG-LEG Seven landings Six and a half flights
- () DOG-LEG with WINDERS walnut
- () SPIRAL Wainscot in stairway
- () ROUNDED plain string
- () SYMMETRICAL DIVIDED FLIGHTS

WALL FINISH:

- (X) PLASTER
- () PANELED: original; replaced
- () BOARD PARTITION: baseboard, cornice, chair rail, wainscot

FIREPLACES:

NUMBER _____
 LOCATION: parallel to walls, diagonal
 MANTELS: wood mouldings, pilasters, columns, masonry, marble

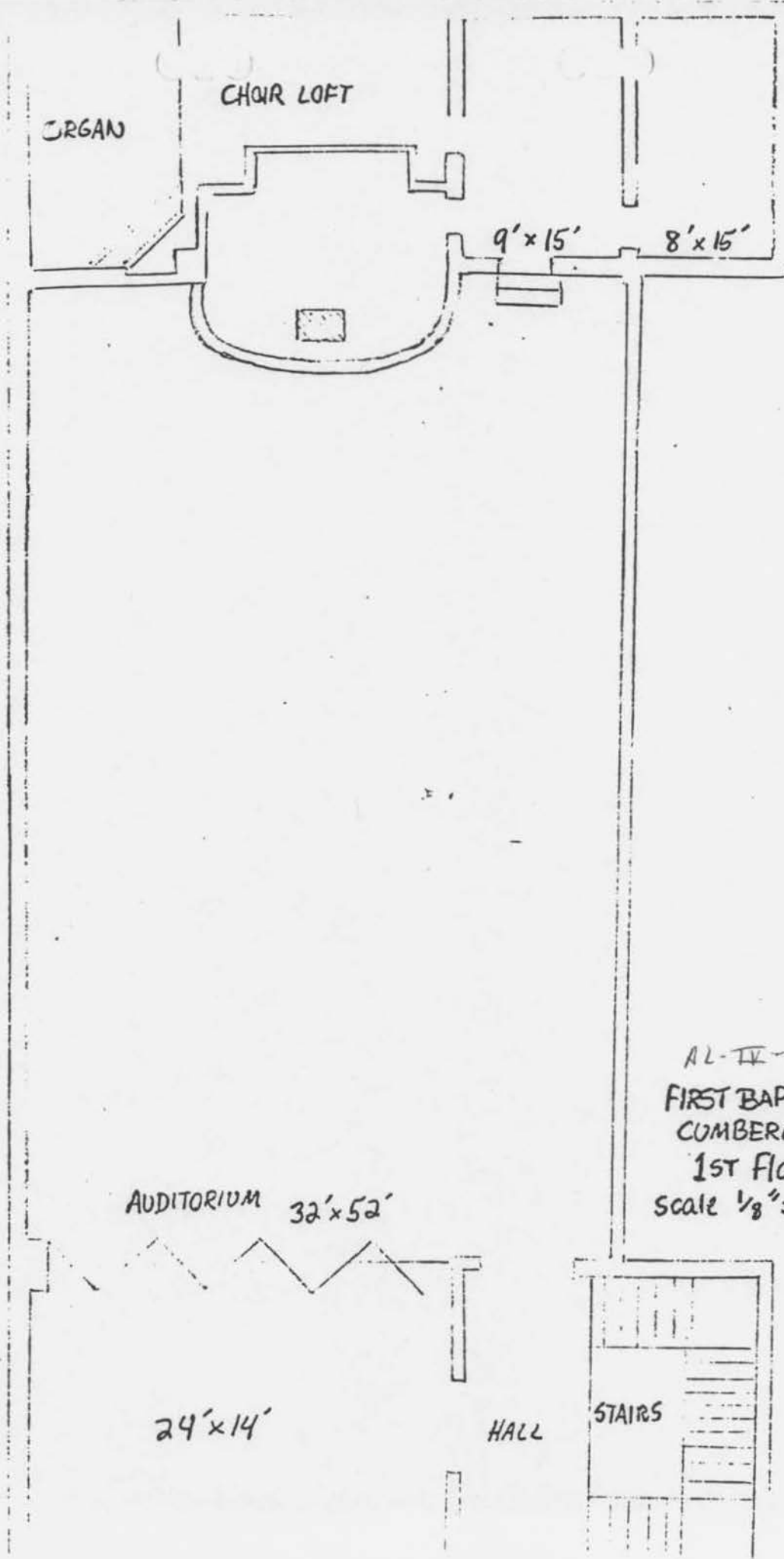
DOORS: paneled, board and batten, flush
 HARDWARE: original; replaced

Dividing the nave there is an eight door partition, seven panels horizontal boards. Also double doors same treatment

DOOR & WINDOW TRIM:

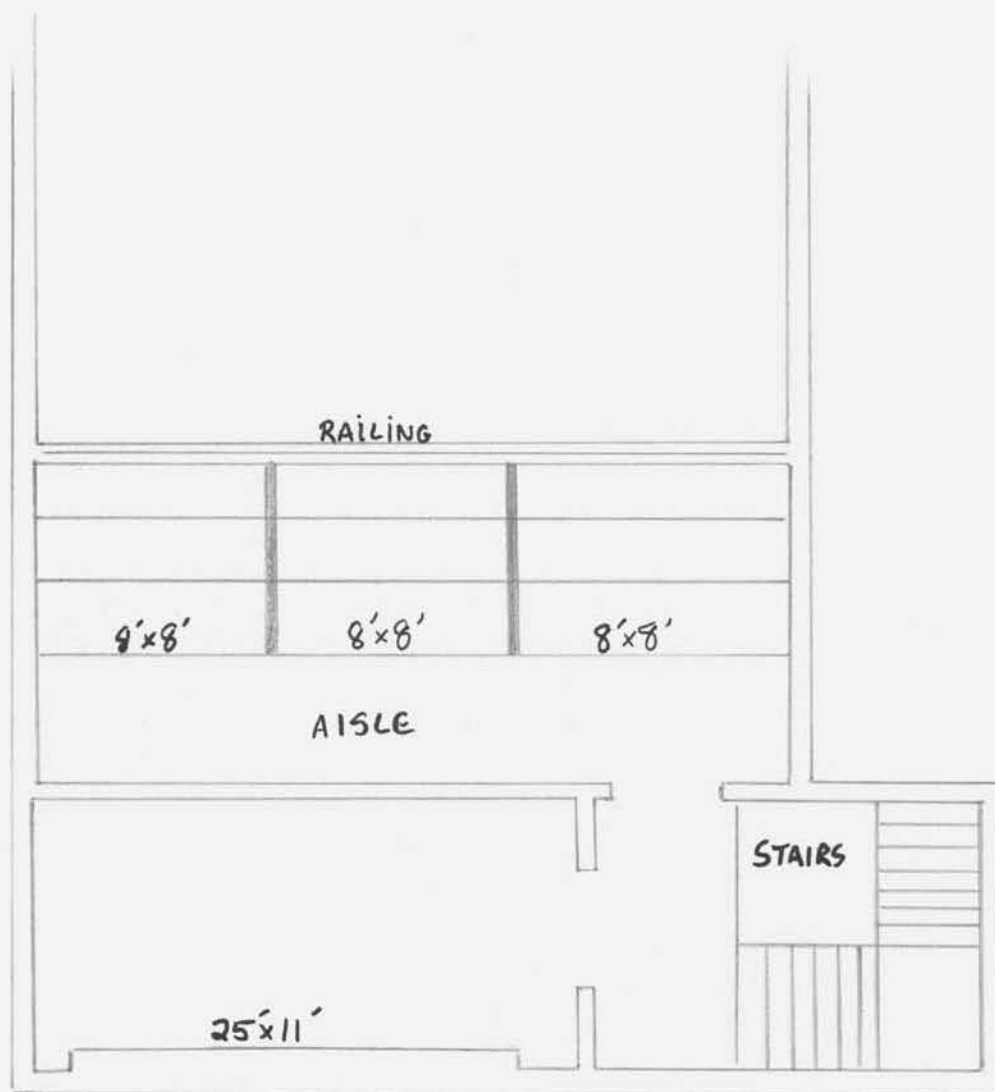
- (X) PLAIN Architrave trim around ceiling and chair rail
 - (X) ARCHITRAVE in nave, wooden partition in balcony.
 - () SYMMETRIC with CORNER BLOCKS
 - () FLUTED Pointed arches at chancel.
 - () FLUTED with CORNER BLOCKS Paneled rail around organ and choir lofts.
 - () ARCHED OPENINGS: elliptical, tudor Architrave panels on balcony face.
- Four lamps in nave chain-hung wrought iron stained glass. Wooden fluted capped pillars in chancel.

NOTES:

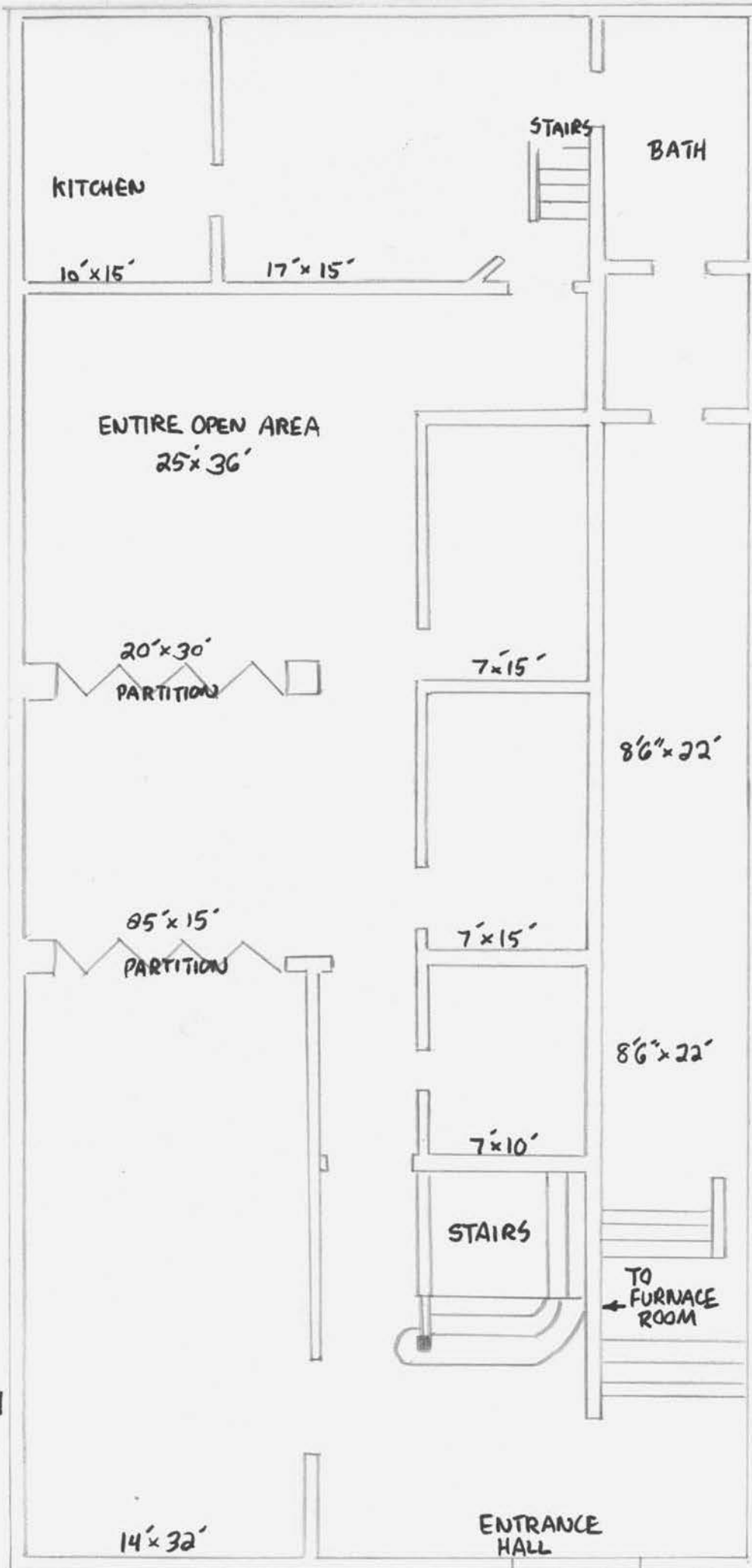




AL-IV-A-113
FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
CUMBERLAND, MD
1st Floor
Scale $\frac{1}{8}" = 1'$



AL-IV-A-113
BALCONY
FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
CUMBERLAND, MD
scale 1/8" = 1'

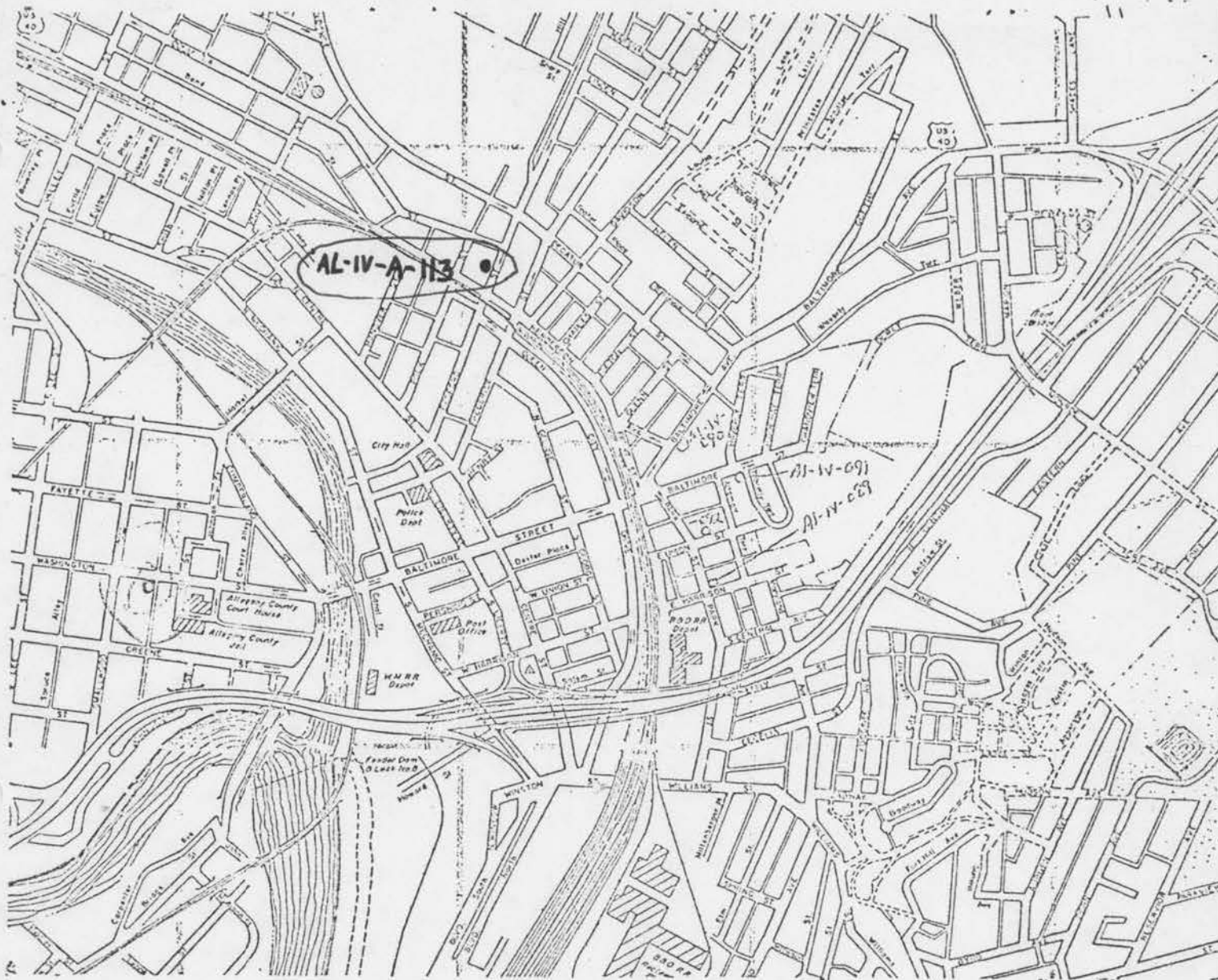


AL-IV-A-113

BASEMENT

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
CUMBERLAND, MD

scale 1/8" = 1'

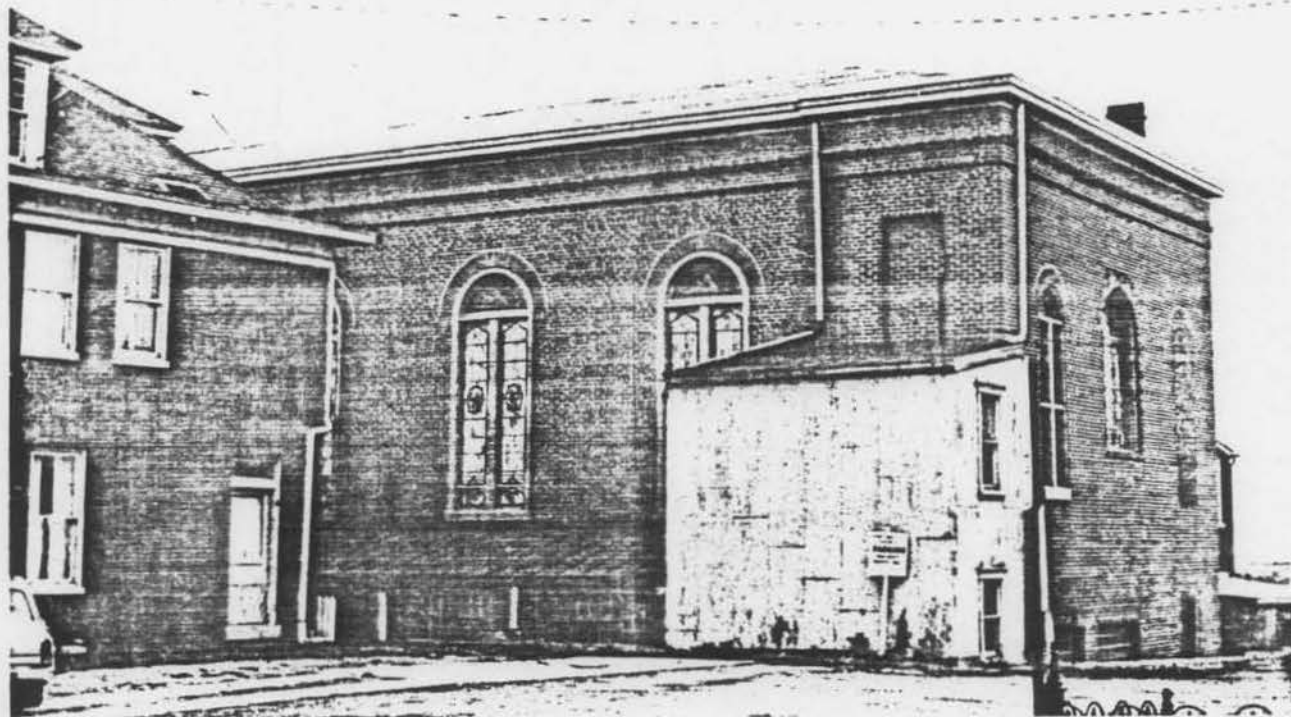


AL-IV-A-113
 First Baptist Church
 212 Bedford Street
 Cumberland, Maryland 21502

Map of City of Cumberland,
Allegany Co., Maryland
 Charles R. Nuzum, City Engineer
 revised 1971
 scale:



AL-IV-A-113





AL-1V-A-113

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

Bedford St, Cumberland

WILLIAM J. PRATT

10/13/77

~~WEST~~ NORTHWEST



AL-IV-A-113

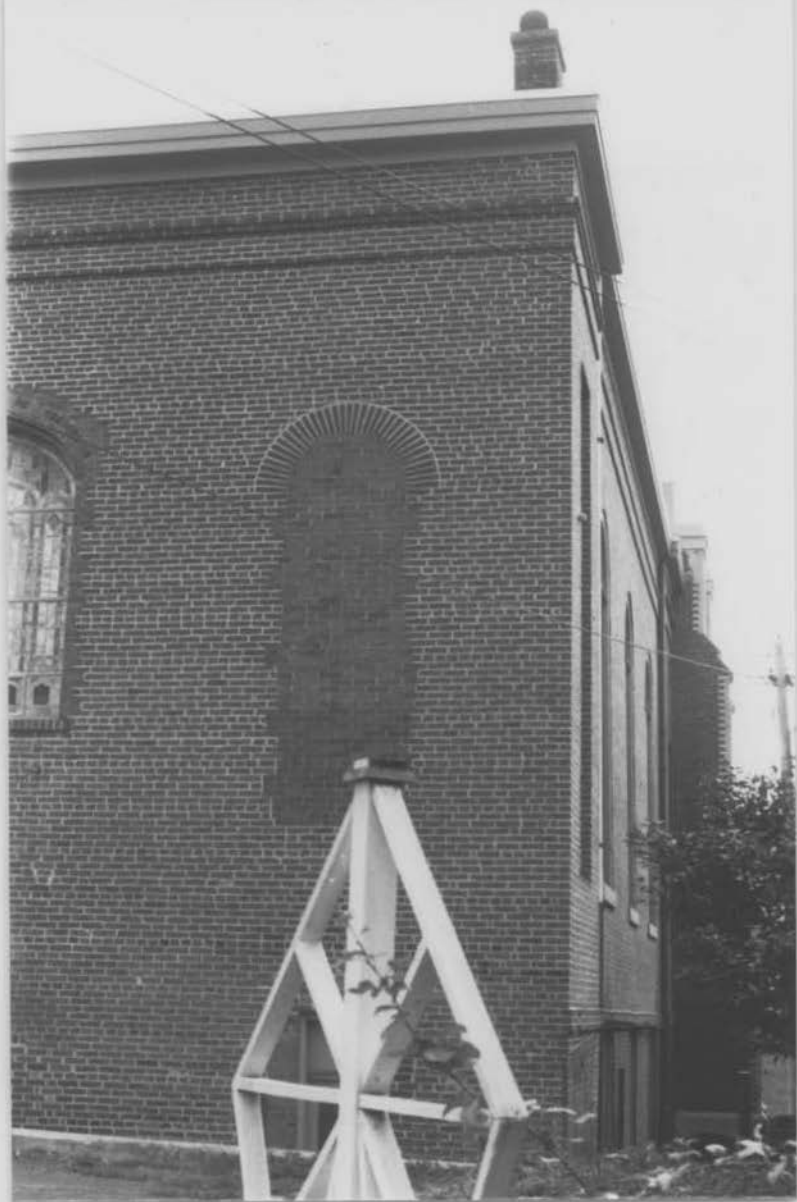
FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

BEDFORD ST, CUMBERLAND

WILLIAM J. PRATT

10/13/77

SOUTHEAST



AL-IV-A-113

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

BEDFORD ST, CUMBERLAND

WILLIAM J. PRATT

10/13/97

NORTHEAST



AL-IV-A-113

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

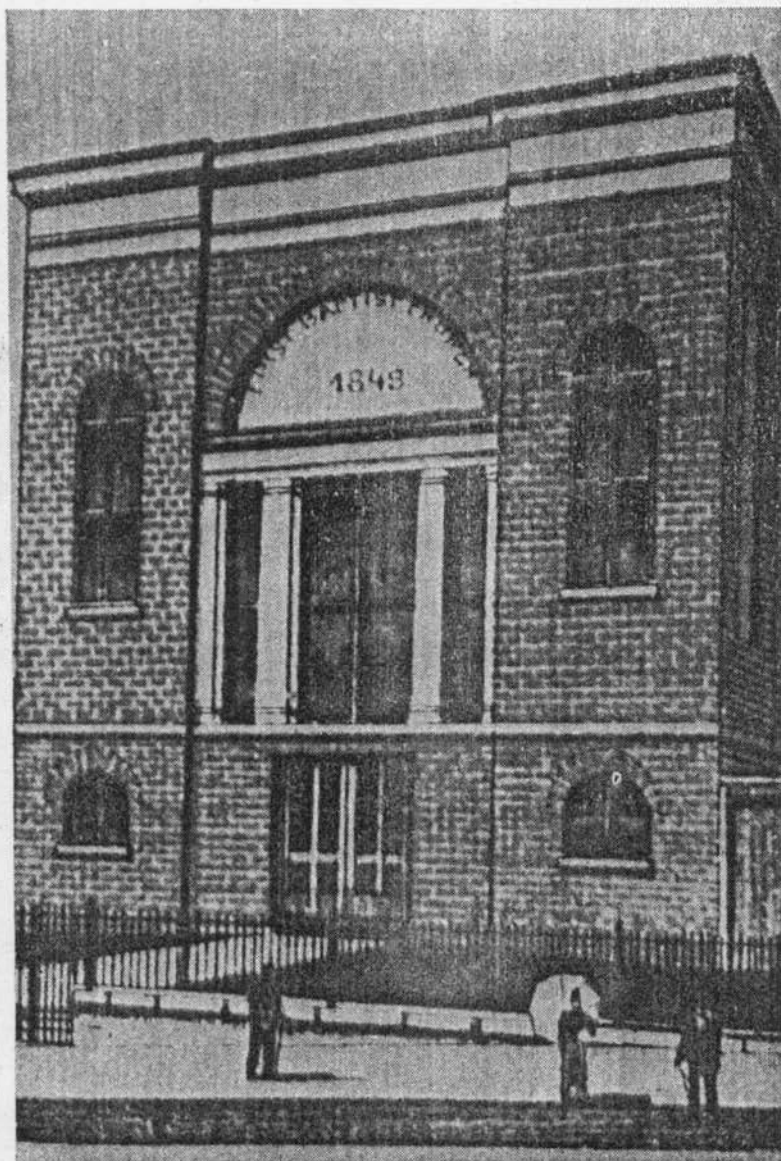
BEDFORD ST, CUMBERLAND

WILLIAM J. PRATT

10/13/77

EAST

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH HISTORY



THE FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH—1849