

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR _____ ONLY

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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NOT FOR PUBLICATION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	
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL	<input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL	<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

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

STREET & NUMBER
212 Bedford Street

CITY, TOWN
Cumberland

VICINITY OF

STATE
Maryland 21502

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Allegany County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER
30 Washington Street

CITY, TOWN
Cumberland

STATE
Maryland 21502

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

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.

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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.

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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.

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HERITAGE CONSERVATION AND RECREATION SERVICE

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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					
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input checked="" 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/HUMANITARIAN			
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER			
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION			
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)			
		<input type="checkbox"/> 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

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Maryland

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(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.

MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Allegheny County Land Records, Courthouse, Cumberland, Maryland.

AL-IX-A-113

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

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET #4.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 54' x 155'

UTM REFERENCES

A	1,7	6,9,2,0,5,0	5,4,9,1,7,4,0
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C			

B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
D			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Reference Allegheny 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, Allegheny County Committee

NAME / TITLE

William Pratt and Dave Dorsey, Surveyors

ORGANIZATION

Allegheny 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

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

FHR-8-300A
(11/78)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
HERITAGE CONSERVATION AND RECREATION SERVICE

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Allegany County
Maryland

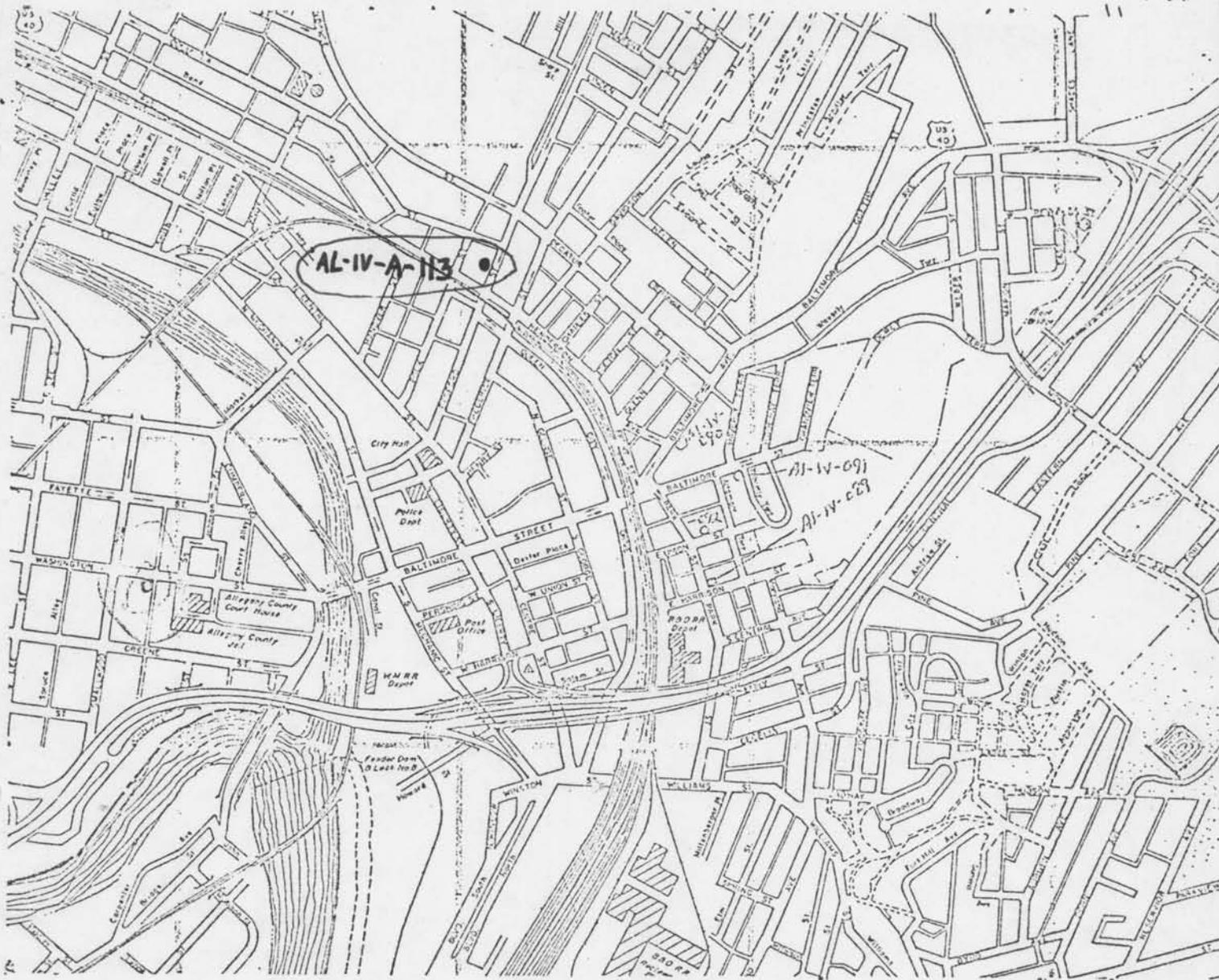
CONTINUATION SHEET

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(MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES CONTINUED)

Thomas, James W., & Williams, T.J.C. History of Allegany County, Maryland. Philadelphia:
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Stegmaier, Harry, Jr. Allegany County-A History. Parsons, W.Va.: McClain Printing Co.,
1976.

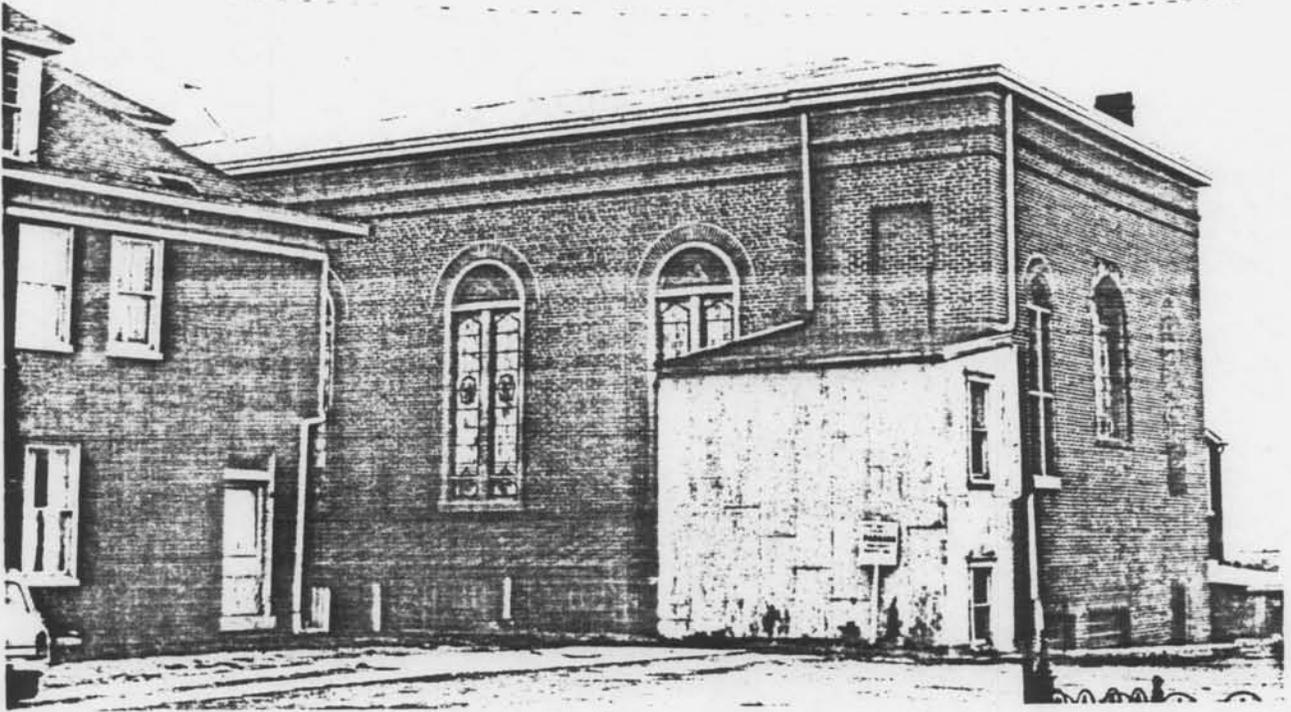


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First Baptist Church
212 Bedford Street
Cumberland, Maryland 21502

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



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AL-IV-A-113

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

Bedford St, Cumberland

WILLIAM J. PRATT

10/13/77

~~WEST~~ NORTHWEST



AL-IV-A-113

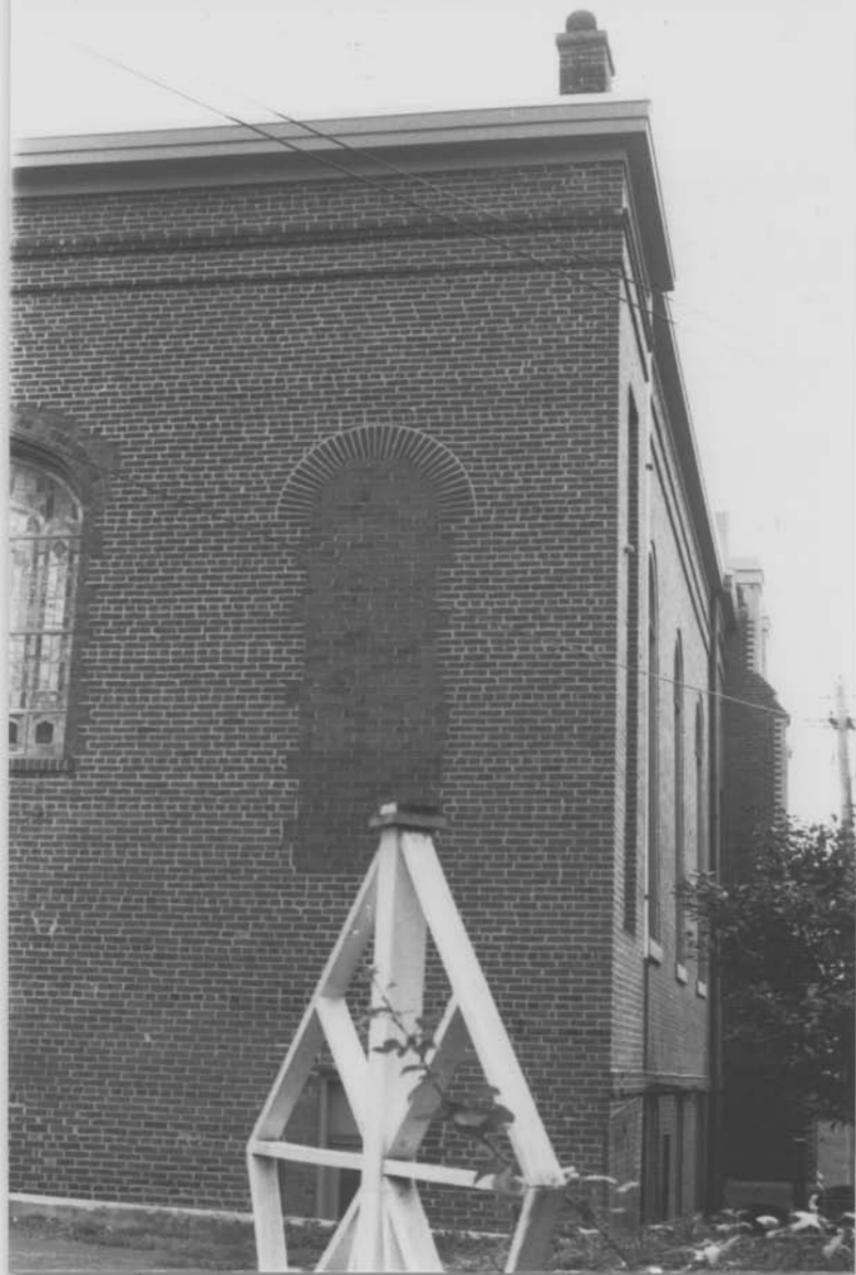
FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

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

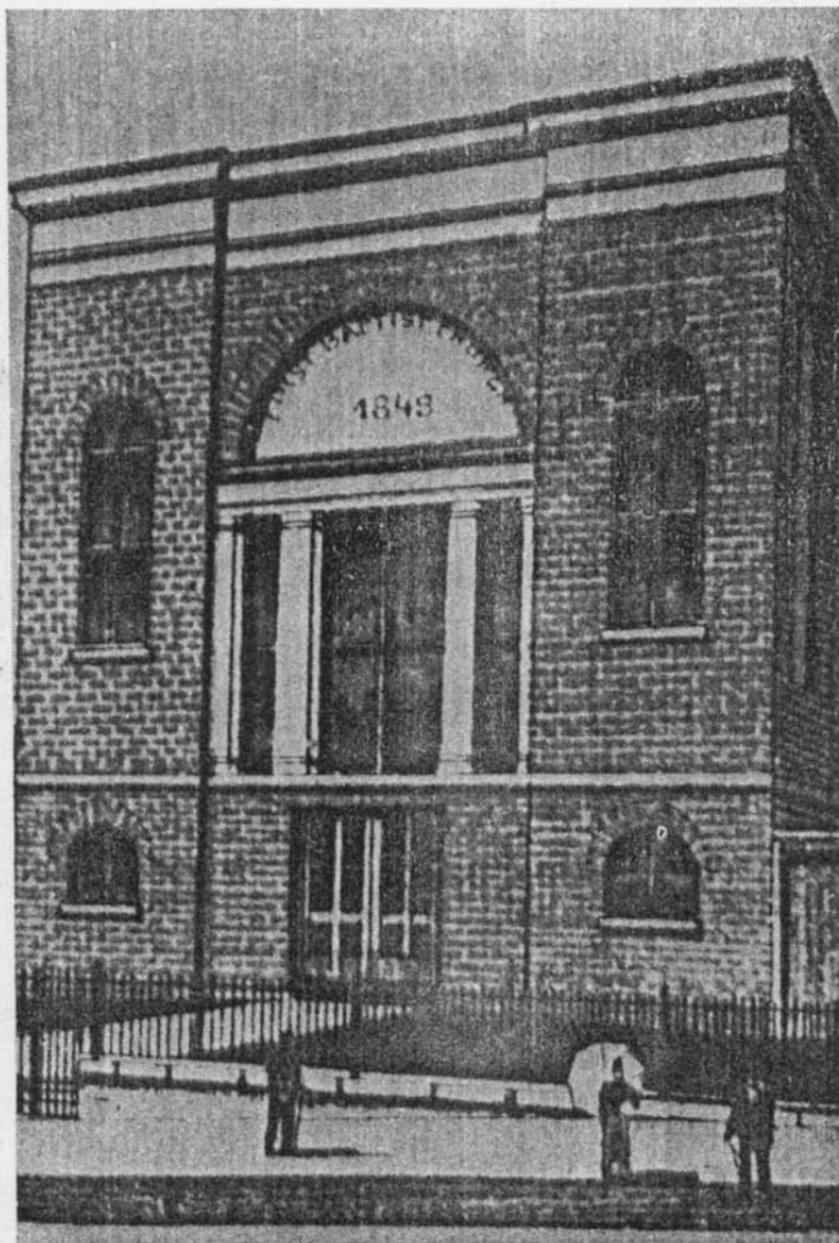
BEDFORD ST, CUMBERLAND

WILLIAM J. PRATT

10/13/77

EAST

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH HISTORY



THE FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH—1849