

LANDMARK



SURVEY

IDENTIFICATION

Street Address: East Jefferson Street
 Map and Parcel: 33-200
 Census Track & Block: 1-106
 Present Owner: First Baptist Church
 Address: East Jefferson Street
 Present Use: Church
 Original Owner: First Baptist Church
 Original Use: Church

BASE DATA

Historic Name: First Baptist Church
 Date/Period: 1904
 Style: Romanesque Revival
 Height to Cornice: 70
 Height in Stories: 2 with a 3 story tower
 Present Zoning: B-1
 Land Area (sq.ft.): 120 x 107
 Assessed Value (land + imp.): 22,460 + 193,170 = 215,630

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION

Certainly the largest and most ambitious Romanesque structure in the city. Although popular in larger northern towns, the Romanesque style, with its round arches, curved walls and small window openings, was not received well in the south. This example was a conscious effort to relate the plan to its corner site. The round sides of the sanctuary meet the curving walls of the tower in an attempt to direct the visitor's attention to the entrance, while at the same time opening the corner to pedestrian traffic. The rather whimsical turrets flanking the tower gives the facade a fortress-like effect admired by the architects of the Romanesque. The finest feature of the interior are the rows of stained glass windows, most of which are original.

HISTORICAL DESCRIPTION

The land upon which the First Baptist Church is located was donated to the congregation by Mrs. Gilley Marshall Jones, the wife of Colonel John Jones, the builder of "Social Hall" (1814). The present structure was constructed in 1904. The congregation was formed in 1831.

GRAPHICS

34(11)
P 37(2)

CONDITIONS

Good

SOURCES

Mrs. Lucille Carr, Church Historian
 Alexander's Recollections p. 20.