

Architectural And Historic Survey



180

Identification

STREET ADDRESS: 632 West Main Street

MAP & PARCEL: 29-1

CENSUS TRACT AND BLOCK: 1-303

PRESENT ZONING: M-1

ORIGINAL OWNER: Delevan Baptist Church

ORIGINAL USE: Church

PRESENT USE: Church

PRESENT OWNER: First Baptist Congregation

ADDRESS: 632 West Main Street

Charlottesville, Virginia 22901

HISTORIC NAME: Delevan/First Baptist Church

DATE / PERIOD: 1877-1883

STYLE: Victorian Romanesque

HEIGHT (to cornice) OR STORIES: 1 storey

DIMENSIONS AND LAND AREA: 12,980 sq. ft.

CONDITION: Good

SURVEYOR: Thomsen/Bibb

DATE OF SURVEY: 1977/1985

SOURCES: City/County Records

Alexander, Recollections of Early Ch'ville
Richard T. McKinney, Keeping the Faith

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION

First Baptist Church is an excellent example of Victorian Romanesque style. The building is rectangular in form, three bays wide by six bays long. A high single-storey facade fronts on Main Street, but because of ground slope, the main floor is raised above a full-storey basement at the sides and rear. Construction is brick, common bond on the facade, American elsewhere. A square, projecting tower of brick forms the central bay on the entrance facade. Above the peak of the roof gable, the tower supports a large octagonal lantern on a square base, both of wood. The lantern is decorated with attenuated corner pilasters and is covered with a domed roof. Matching projecting towerlets stand at the facade corners and rise slightly above the roof eaves. The main structure is covered with a gable roof of red, composition shingle. Eaves are finished with a white-painted projecting wood cornice above a corbel-arch supported brick overhang. Projecting piers suggestive of pilasters separate the bays along the side wall of the main floor and serve to buttress the high walls. A corbelled brick water table separates the basement from main floor. Main floor windows, one each bay, are high, semi-circular headed, double-hung sash with leaded stained glass. Basement windows are large, six-over-nine-light, double-hung sash. Main entry is through paneled, double doors, with segmental-arch lintel, in the base of the tower. A single window like other main-floor windows is located in the tower above the door. A low, wrought iron fence, with alternating tall and short piles, and gothic-motif gateposts, surrounds the church yard.

HISTORICAL DESCRIPTION

In 1863, the 800 black members of the Charlottesville Baptist Church petitioned for, and were granted, approval to separate from the church and form their own congregation. They conducted services in the parent church for awhile and later in the basement of the old Delevan Hotel, taking its name for the congregation. Built in the 1820's by General John H. Cocke of Brema as a temperance hotel, the building had later housed a classical school and had been used as a military hospital during the Civil War. A free school for blacks had been conducted there since the War. The hotel was popularly known as "the Mudwall" because of the terre pise wall that enclosed the property. The congregation purchased the hotel building in 1868 (ACDB 68-76). When the deteriorating old building was condemned in 1876, it was demolished, and work was begun immediately on the present church building. The cornerstone was laid on November 7, 1877, and Builders and Mechanics Liens give December 12, 1883 as the date of completion (ACDB 82-458, 83-76). It was dedicated on January 2, 1884, but apparently was not yet quite ready for occupancy, as there is a record of the first service being held there in the basement on July 3, 1884. With the completion of the new building the congregation changed its name from "the Delevan Baptist Church of Charlottesville" to "the First Colored Baptist Church of Charlottesville".

RECONNAISSANCE LEVEL SURVEY REPORT

DEPARTMENT OF HISTORIC RESOURCE
RECONNAISSANCE SURVEY FORM*Reviewed by Margaret Peters*

DHR Identification Number: 104-0214

Other DHR Number:

Property Date(s) 1883

PROPERTY NAMES

Delevan Baptist Church (632 W. Main St.)

EXPLANATION

Historic/Location

First Baptist Church

Historic

County/Independent City: Charlottesville

State: Virginia

Magisterial District: N/A

Tax Parcel: 29-1

USGS Quad Map Name: CHARLOTTESVILLE EAST

UTMs of Boundary:

Center UTM:

Restrict location and UTM data? N

ADDRESSES

Number	Thoroughfare Name	Explanation
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632 -	W. Main St.	
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Vicinity: Town/Village/Hamlet:

Name of National Register Historic District:

Name of DHR Eligible Historic District:

Name of Local Historic District:

632 West Main Street Minor Design Control District

Physical Character of General Surroundings: City

Site Description/Notable Landscape Features:

Built up, narrow front and east side yards, historic iron fence along Main Street sidewalk, railroad tracks directly behind.

Ownership: Private

NR Resource Type: Building

WUZITS

Seq. #	# of	Wuzit Types	Historic?
1.0	0	Church	Historic

TOTAL:	0	
Historic:	0	

Non-Historic: 0

PRIMARY RESOURCE EXTERIOR COMPONENT DESCRIPTION

Component	#	Comp Type/Form	Material	Material Treatment
Structural System	0	Masonry	Brick	Stretcher Bond
Roof	0	Gable: front	Asphalt	Shingle
Window(s)	0	Round-arched	Glass	Stained

INDIVIDUAL RESOURCE INFORMATION

SEQUENCE NUMBER: 1.0 WUZIT: Church

Primary Resource? Yes

Estimated Date of Construction: 1883

Source of Date: Written Data

Architectural Style: Late Victorian

Description:

Delevan Baptist Church is one of Charlottesville's premier Victorian churches. The large nave-plan building features elevations with recessed wall surfaces and decoratively corbeled brickwork at the cornice level. Round-arched door and window openings have memorial stained-glass. A tower rises up the center of the front (north) elevation and resolves into an octagonal two-stage frame cupola with pilastered sides, round-arched louvered vents, and a copper-sheathed domed roof. The church also features a marble name and date plaque on the front elevation, a rectangular apse-like wing to the rear, and a basement level.

Condition: Good

Threats to Resource: None Known

Additions/Alterations Description:

Number of Stories: 1.0

Interior Plan Type:

Accessed?

Interior Description:

Relationship of Secondary Resources to Property:

DHR Historic Context: Architecture/Community Planning
Ethnicity/Immigration
Religion

Significance Statement:

Delevan Baptist Church, listed individually in the National Register, is one of several black baptist churches that historically constituted the heart of Charlottesville's African-American community. The congregation separated from the white-administered Charlottesville Baptist Church in 1863 and met at first in the basement of the Delevan Hotel, an antebellum building that stood on the site of the present church. The cornerstone for the present building was laid in 1877 and the church was essentially complete in 1883, although the first service in the new church was not held until 1884. The church was also known historically as "the First Colored Baptist Church of Charlottesville." Today, Delevan Baptist Church stands as one of the city's

foremost historic and architectural landmarks.

GRAPHIC DOCUMENTATION

Medium	Medium ID #	Frames	Date
B&W 35mm Photos	14632	27 - 31	2/ /1996

BIBLIOGRAPHIC DATA

Sequence #: 1.0 Bibliographic Record Type: Local Records
Author: City of Charlottesville
Citation Abbreviation:
Charlottesville Architectural and Historic Survey files
Notes:

Sequence #: 2.0 Bibliographic Record Type: Report
Author: Liebman and McQuaid
Citation Abbreviation:
Study of Ten Black Baptist Churches in Albemarle County.
Notes:

CULTURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT EVENTS

Date: 2/ /1996
Cultural Resource Management Event: Reconnaissance Survey
Organization or Person: J. Daniel Pezzoni, Preservation Con
ID # Associated with Event:
CRM Event Notes or Comments:

MAILING ADDRESS

Honorif:
First :
Last :
Suffix :
Title :
Company: First Baptist Church
Address: 632 W. Main St.
City : Charlottesville State: VA
Zip : 22901- Country: USA
Phone/extension: 804-979-0952

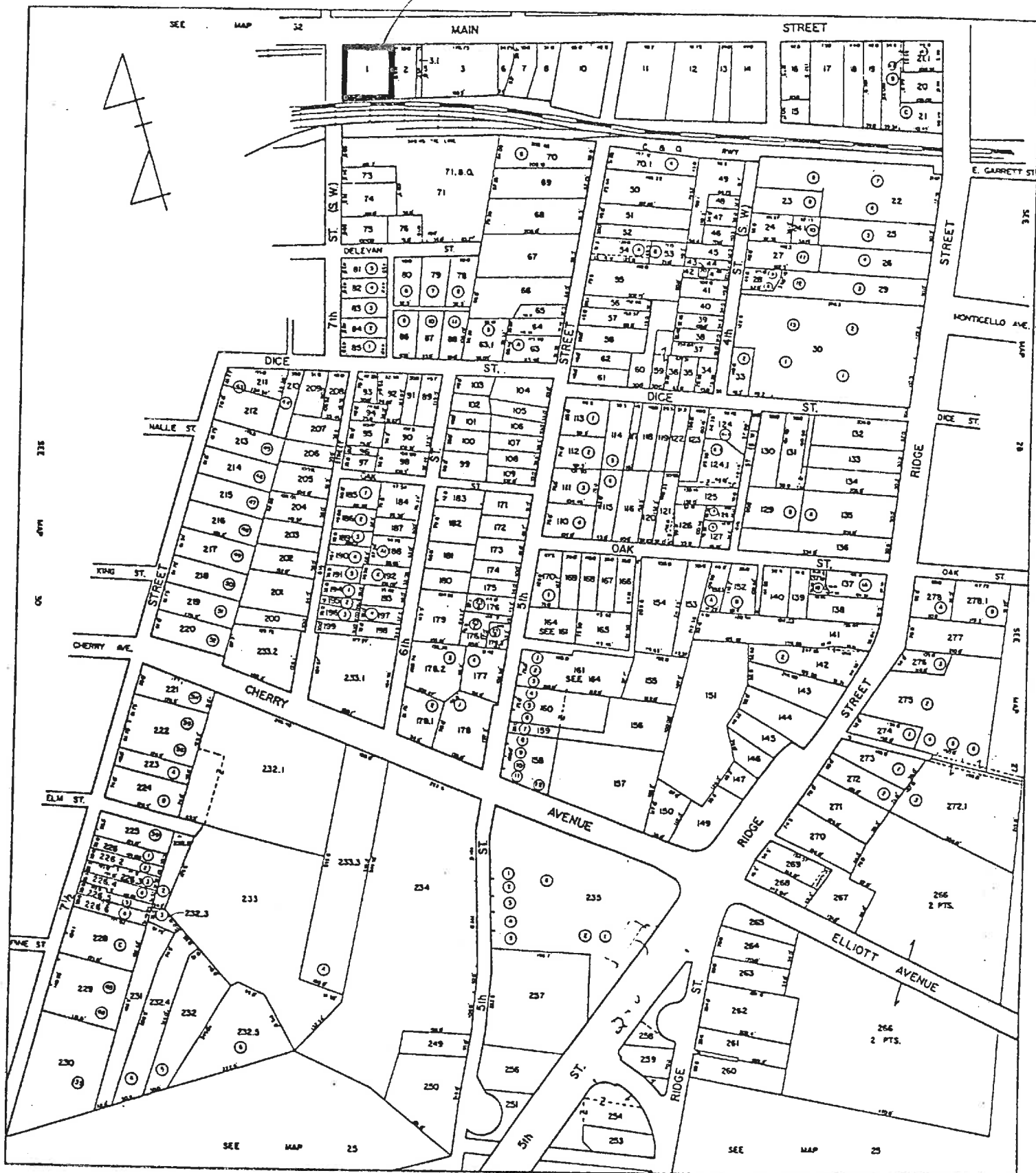
Individual Category Codes:

Mailing Address Notes:

Surveyor's Notes:

104-214

CITY OF CHARLOTTESVILLE



reconnaissance main screen 1 of 2

Where is data filed at DHR?

DHR Idem. #

Other DHR no.

Property date(s)

Property Names

Explanation*

Seq. #

Name

First Bap... Ch...

Address	Alternate spelling	Former/current	Historic/location	Original
Address-current	Current	Function/location	Location	VLR listing
Alleged	Descriptive	Historic	NHL listing	
Alternate name	Former	Historic/current	NRHP listing	

County/Ind. City

State VA Virginia

Magis'l District

USGS Quad Map Name

Center UTM-Zone/East/North

Tax Parcel Number 29-1

UTM# of Boundary

reconnaissance main screen 2 of 2

Restrict Location and UTM data?

Suffix Thoroughfare Name

Address

Explanation

Address Superfield Screen

Address Explanation

Sequence Number

Main Street Number

Number Suffix

Street Name

Alternate

Current

Name Change

Number Change

Vicinity of: Town/Village/Hamlet

Name of National Register Historic District

Name of VDHR Eligible Historic District

Name of Local Historic District

reconnaissance main screen 3 of 2

Physical Character of General Surroundings

City

Hamlet

Rural

Suburban

Town

Village

Site Description/Notable Landscape Features

want yd, bk, tracks behind, w/rt iron fence along st

Ownership

F Public-Federal

L Public-Local

P Private

S Public-State

NR Resource Type

B Building

D District

O Object

S Site

U Structure

Seq. #

of

Wuzit Count

Wuzit Types

Historic?

Total

Historic

Non-Historic

Historic	Non-Historic	Undetermined
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reconnaissance main screen 4 of 2
Primary Resource Exterior Component Description

Component

chimney(s)

columns

cornice

door(s)

foundation

porch

roof

walls

windows

Comp Type/Form

Material

Material Treatment

Individual Resource Information

Seq. # Wuzit

Primary?

Date Built

Individual Resource Superfield Screen

Sequence Number

Wuzit

Primary Resource?

Estimated Date of Construction

Source of Date

Architectural Style

Art Deco

Beaux Arts

Bungalow/Craftsman

Chicago

Classical Revival

Colonial

Colonial Revival

Commercial Style

Dutch Colonial

Early Class. Rev.

Early Republic

Exotic Revival

Federal

French Colonial

French Renaissance

Georgian

Gothic

Gothic Revival

Greek Revival

International Style

Italian Renaissance

Italian Villa

Italianate

Late 19th &

20th C. Revivals

Late 19th & Early

20th C. Amer.

Movements

Late Gothic Revival

Late Victorian

Mid-19th C.

Mission/Spanish

Colonial Revival

Mixed (more than 3 styles

from different periods)

Modern Movement

Moderne

No Style Listed

Octagon Mode

Other

Postmedieval English

Prairie School

Pueblo

Queen Anne

Renaissance

Romanesque

Second Empire

Shingle Style

Skyscraper

Spanish Colonial

Stick/Eastlake

Tudor Revival

Description

Condition

Demolished

Deteriorated

Excellent

Fair

Good

Good-Excellent

Good-Fair

N/A

Poor

Rebuilt

Remodeled

Ruinous

Threats to Resource

Demolition

Deterioration

Development

Major Alteration

Neglect

None

None Known

Public Util. Expan.

Relocation

Structural Failure

Trans. Expan.

Vacant

Additions/Alterations Description

Conditional Individual Resource Superfield Screen

Number of Stories _____
 Interior Plan Type _____
 Accessed? _____

If not, why not? _____
 Denied _____ No Trespassing _____ Not Accessible _____

Interior Description

Relationship of Secondary Resources

reconnaissance main screen 5 of 7
Historic Context

DHR Historic Context(s):

Agriculture/Subsistence	Ethnicity/Immigration	Recreation/Arts
Architecture/Landscape Architecture/Community Planning	Funerary	Religion
Commerce/Trade	Health Care	Settlement Patterns
Domestic	Industry/Processing/Extraction	Social
Education	Landscape	Traffic Engineering
	Military/Defense	Transportation
		Other

Significance Statement

reconnaissance main screen 6 of 7
Graphic Documentation

Medium*	Medium ID #	Frames	Date
* 2 x 2 B & W photos	B & W 35 mm photos	Historic photos	Slides
4 x 5 B & W photos	Color 35 mm photos	Measured drawings	

Bibliographic Data

Seq. #	Type	Citation
_____	_____	_____

Bibliographic Superfield Screen

Sequence #: _____ Bibliographic Record Type: _____ Author: _____

Citation Abbreviation: _____ Notes: _____

Bibliographic Superfield Screen

Sequence #: _____ Bibliographic Record Type: _____ Author: _____

Citation Abbreviation: _____ Notes: _____

reconnaissance main screen 7 of 7
Cultural Resource Management Events

Date	CRM Event	Agency/Individual	Assoc. ID#
_____	_____	_____	_____

CRM Event Superfield Screen

Date: _____ Cultural Resource Management Event: _____

Organization or Person: _____

ID# Associated with Event: _____

Notes or Comments

Mailing Address Superfield Screen

HONORIF: _____ Record Created: _____
 FIRST: _____ Last Updated: _____
 LAST: _____
 SUFFIX: _____
 TITLE: _____
 COMPANY: _____ PHONE/EXTENSION: _____
 ADDRESS: _____ STATE: _____
 CITY: _____ COUNTRY: _____
 ZIP: _____

Individual's Category Codes

Informant	Occupant	Owner	Specimens (owner of specimens)	Tenant
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____

Notes

Surveyor's Notes

Date Processing Events

Date	Event	Person
_____	_____	_____

SITE PLAN

North arrow

N.T.S.
 Date: _____
 SES - 2/98

Drawn by: _____
 Agency: _____

Delevan - after the eminent reformer of Albany N.Y.
John H. Corlies built a large hotel where no
liquor was allowed, called Mud wall because of
1) Adobe wall surrounding lot, 2) stucco of
yellow muddy color.

" Since this was the colored Baptists, 800 of whom
had been members of the old Baptist church in this
town, were dismissed in 1864 to form a new
church, and the church now occupies the
building as their house of worship and
is known as the Delevan Baptist Church
Rev M Lewis is at this time pastor

Early Charlottesville, Recollections of James Alexander

building the story-and-a-half house with dormers, such as Charlie's Hope, the old Nick Edmunds house on Route 620, and Bothwick Hall. Houses of the nineteenth century usually are two-storied houses with a hip or gabled roof, no dormers, and perhaps half a story of the cellar showing above ground.

Few old buildings in the county have anything but wood siding. One can date the coming of the brickyard to Lawrenceville by the architecture of the town.

The only old brick houses remaining, since the loss of Bentfield, are Hobson's Choice and Woodlands. Buildings in Lawrenceville, however, beginning with the Courthouse in 1859, have been increasingly made of brick. The only stone house built before 1850 in the county seems to be the old Meherrin Plantation building, owned by the Fleshood family. There are stone barns, however, as at Prestwood, and other rock structures.

One construction method for outside walls that deserves examination is the use of pounded earth like the walls of the Kennon House, now a restaurant in Gasburg on Route 626. This form of construction is known as pisé. The Kennon House was the overseer's house for Pea Hill Plantation. This building, and many of the dependencies or outbuildings such as the slave quarters, were built of this material. The owner of the plantation was General John Hartwell Cocke, who also owned Meherrin Plantation, Rose's Creek Plantation where St. Paul's College is today, and a plantation at the Fort Christanna site. Cocke lived, however, at Bremono, his magnificent estate on the James, built between 1810 and 1820, which stands today. The process of making pisé walls had been detailed by the Board of Agriculture before 1800. Pisé work could be done inside on rainy days according to a paper R. Jefferson Jones of Lawrenceville has; the paper has an exact description of how the work is done. Thomas Jefferson was interested and made notes, which are preserved in the Library of Congress. Jefferson helped his friend Cocke plan the buildings at Bremono, and Cocke erected buildings there made of pisé as an experiment. They worked well. Into forms, moistened dirt was packed tightly. For a while at Meherrin plantation there were remains of a wall, three feet thick, that had the footprints of children impressed into the dirt showing the method of packing. There were no foundations or corner posts at all in these buildings. When the dirt had set hard, it was plastered thickly on the outside and painted. The roof had deep eaves to protect the building from the rain. Several of these structures still exist and are in daily use.

From photographs of the slave houses that were built in this manner on Rose's Creek and at Meherrin Plantation, it seems that the same forms were

The old Delevan Hotel was of this pisé construction
-hence its nickname "Mudwall"

Arch

First Baptist Church is an excellent example of Victorian Romanesque style. The building is rectangular in form, three bays wide by six bays long. A high single-storey facade fronts on Main Street, but because of ground slope, the main floor is raised above a full-storey basement at the sides and rear. Construction is brick, common bond on the facade, American elsewhere. A square, projecting tower of brick forms the central bay on the entrance facade. Above the peak of the roof gable, the tower supports a large octagonal lantern on a square base, both of wood. The lantern is decorated with attenuated corner pilasters and is covered with a domed roof. Matching projecting towerlets stand at the facade corners and rise slightly above the roof eaves. The main structure is covered with a gable roof of red, composition shingle. Eaves are finished with a white-painted, projecting wood cornice above a corbel-arch-supported brick overhang. Projecting piers suggestive of pilasters separate the bays along the side walls of the main floor and serve to buttress the high walls. A corbelled-brick water table separates basement from main floor. Main-floor windows, one each bay, are high, semi-circular headed, double-hung sash with leaded stained glass. Basement windows are large, six-over-nine-light, double-hung sash. Main entry is through paneled, double doors, with segmental-arch lintel, in the base of the tower. A single window, like other main-floor windows is located in the tower.

above the door. A low, wrought iron fence, with alternating tall and short pikes and gothic-motif gateposts, surrounds the churchyard.

HIST.

Builders and Mechanics' Lens (County DE 32-458 and 83-76) give the date of completion for the Delaware Baptist Church as 12 Estate, ¹⁸⁸³ and its cost \$6098.60 plus \$120. for extra ceiling work. John C. Sinclair was the builder. In 1864, 800 colored Baptists were dismissed from the old Baptist Church in town, and in August 1868, the Colored Baptist Congregation purchased lot #6 of the Delaware property (County DB 68-76) for their place of worship. Their church was the old Delaware Hotel, built in the 1820's (?) by Genl John H. Cooke as a temperance hotel and named after a certain Delaware, an "eminent reformer of Albany N.Y." The hotel had also been called "Mudwall", from either an adobe or terre pisé wall surrounding the property or from the clay-like appearance of its stucco walls. (Plat, DB 64-172).

Sources.

County and City Records
Early Charlottesville

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

DB 68-76, 28 Mar 1873

"Whereas on the 26th day of August 1868, P.B. Cabell sold certain portions of the property near Charlottesville known as the Mudwell(?) or Delavan property viz. two lots lying on the road leading from Charlottesville to the UVa described ... as lots 5 & 6 to Col R.P. Prentiss, W.D. Wheeler & J.A. Proffit, and ... Prentiss Wheeler & Proffit sold ... lot no. 6 to William Brown, Charles Jones, James Ferguson, Robert Murray, and P.A. Cross(?) ... for the Colored Baptist Congregation"

upon which is situated a bldg known as the "Delavan Church".

Plat DB 64-172

... In Trust nevertheless for the use of the Colored Baptist Congregation of Charlottesville Virginia known as the Delavan Congregation and which worships in the said Delavan Church situated on said lot No 6

DB 82-458,

The Congregation and Trustees of Delevan Baptist Church
1883 In a/c with Mrs C. Sinclair

Oct. 12. In building church 6063.00

" building two extra chimneys

1150 brick each 23.00

" 1 1/2 feet extra in height of towers

630 brick each 12.60

Cr.

6098.60

By payments on same

4308.80

Bal due

\$1789.80

Know all men by these presents That ~~Geo~~ Mrs (John)
C. Sinclair the builder and contractor of above work, signifies
his intention to claim and does hereby claim the benefit
of the Mechanics + Builders Lien, given by Chapter 115 of the
Code of Virginia 1873, as amended by Act of the Assembly,
approved Feb 10, 1880, on the building lately erected on the
lot known as the Delevan Church Property situated on
the road leading from Charlottesville to the University
of Va., and between said road and the Chesapeake &
Ohio Railway ... etc.

Dated 16th day of November 1883

Geo. A. Sinclair agt 

DB 83-76 28 Dec 1883

Addition of \$120.00 to above lien ~~for~~

"Add this sum on account of extra work ordered on ceiling,
\$120.00

Total amount due Oct 12th 1883, the date of the
Completion of said Church."

THREE NOTCHED ROAD SURVEY

Bldg. No. 82 Date May 1976 Researchers T. S. Scharer

Name First Baptist Church County city

Location West Main

Date of Original

Erection Owner

Original Use church Present Use church

No. of Acres Present Condition: House good Grounds average

Present Owner

Source of Information

Historic Description

Architectural Description

The details of this pleasing church are based on the Romanesque Revival. The gable end faces the street and features an entrance through the central tower. The three bay facade has a stained glass window on either side of the entrance and a diminutive pier at each end. The wooden tower is a graceful octagon with a rounded top. An elaborate cornice of brick extends around the building. It is six bays long, each bay having a round topped stained glass window and a brick pier between it and the next.

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

29-1

Corner 7th St. S.W. & W. Main.

632. W. Main St.

Built: 1865

use: Worship

Storey: 1

Foundation: Brick

Face: Com. Brick

Roof: Gable

mat: Shingle comp.

tower: metal

Floors: softwood

Ceilings: wood

lot. 110 x 118

1977.

Land 48,700

Improvements 22,800

Keeping the Faith, Richard T. McKinney

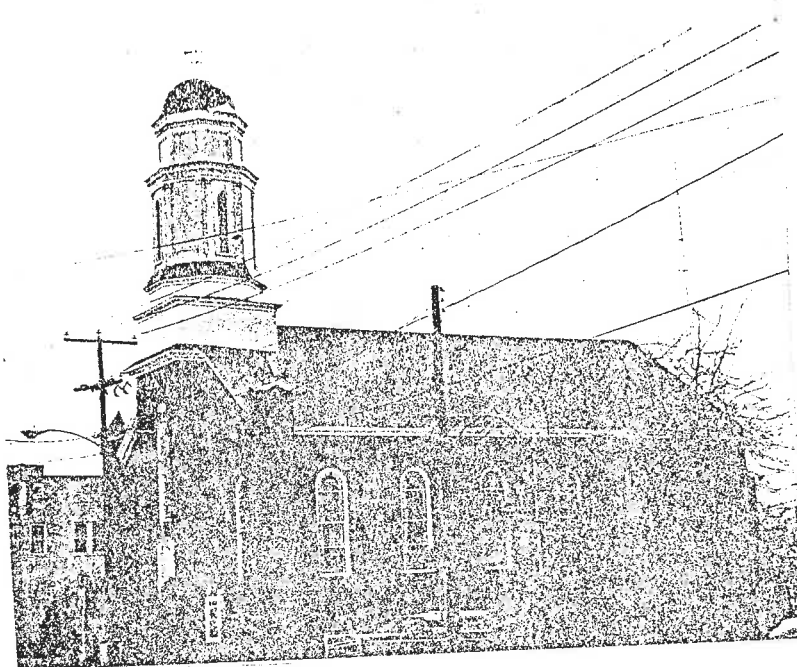
(MACH condensation - 1981)

- p. 15 3/16/1863 - black members of Ch'v Bap Ch first petitioned for org. ch.; approved 4/20/1863
- p. 19, 20 not known when began hold services in basement of old Delevan Hotel; had used Ch'v Bap Ch bldg for awhile, Bicen Prog said several yrs ^{met there} ~~used it~~ before
- p. 20 8/20/1868 - bought Delevan Hotel, prob had ~~used it~~ ^{met there} before & was already known as the Delevan Ch
- p. 22, 23 1846 - Delevan Hotel condemned
9/1846 & " " demolished - congregation met in Pres & Epia ch
11/7/1877 - cornerstone of church laid
1/2/1884 - new church bldg. dedicated
7/3/1884 - 1st service held in basement
- p. 23 1884 - trad. date for completion of church bldg
2/17/1884 - name change: Delevan Bap Ch of Ch'v → 1st Lobred Bap Ch of Ch'v
- p. 24 Milton Brigg: " ¹⁹⁷⁶ The builders did not go back & recall or attempt to match the structure erected in 1851 by the parent; that was in the classical style & the new Delevan Ch was in the latest vernac. interpretation of the Romanesque style"
It is sig. to realize that the design of the church was what was then the most modern style.
- pp. 30-31 Jeff Beh went only thru 8th grade; HS added 2 yrs after
Rev CM Long left in 1921.

p. 27 1865 Anna Gardner school for blacks in Halewan hotel bldg;
— later in charge of Jefferson Sch; in ch'g 5 yr (1865-1870)



✓ (4) First Baptist Church. Built in the mid-19th century, this church is in the Romanesque style. The gable end faces the street and features an entrance through the central tower. The three bay facade has a stained glass window on either side of the entrance and diminutive towers at each end. The wooden tower is a graceful octagon with a rounded top. An elaborate cornice of brick extends around the building. The church is six bays long, each bay having rounded stained-glass windows.



104-214

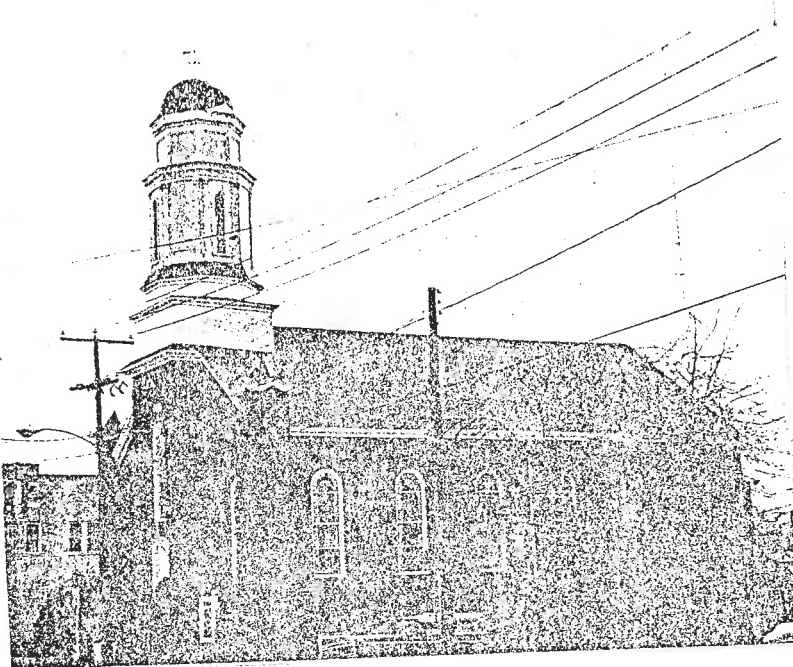
name plaque
front elev

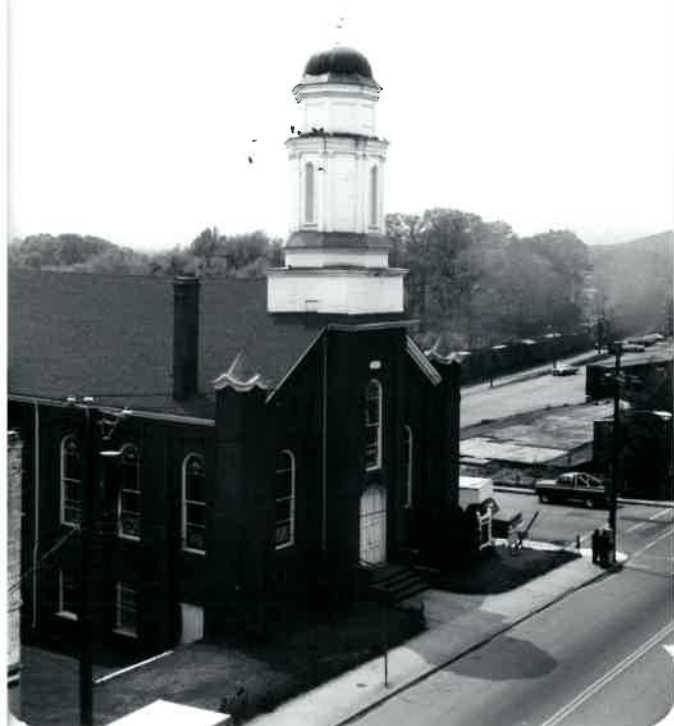
104-214
fence

104-214

14

✓ (4) First Baptist Church. Built in the mid-19th century, this church is in the Romanesque style. The gable end faces the street and features an entrance through the central tower. The three bay facade has a stained glass window on either side of the entrance and diminutive towers at each end. The wooden tower is a graceful octagon with a rounded top. An elaborate cornice of brick extends around the building. The church is six bays long, each bay having rounded stained-glass windows.





14632



Date 2.1996 File No. 104-214
 Name Delevan Baptist Church
 Town (632 W. Main St.)
 County Charlottesville
 Photographer Dan Perzerri
 Contents 6 ext. views

632 W. MAIN ST.

Delevan

1st Baptist Church

1865^o (assessor) blt 1877-78,

800 Negro members of Ch'ville Bapt. Ch.
 formed new church 1864 - had services
 in "Audubon" - bldg. run as boardinghouse
 by Gen. John Cooke for Union Students -
 then schools of various kinds, then during
 Civil War as barracks, & sube. hospital. Bldg
 condemned 1876 - this ch. blt on the
 site of "Audubon" Corner stone laid 11-7-77
 Pastor was M. T. Lewis Service in it by
 Jan 1878

#180