

From: Scala, Mary Joy
Sent: Monday, April 02, 2012 2:54 PM
To: pastorhodari@gmail.com
Subject: BAR Action

March 30, 2012

First Baptist Church
Pastor Hodari
632 W Main Street
Charlottesville, VA 22902

RE: Certificate of Appropriateness Application
BAR 12-03-06
632 W Main Street
Tax Map 29 Parcel 1
Pastor Hodari Hamilton, Applicant/ First Baptist Church, Owner
Change window to door for emergency exit

Dear Applicant,

The above referenced project was discussed before a meeting of the City of Charlottesville Board of Architectural Review (BAR) on March 20, 2012.

The following action was taken:

The BAR accepted (9-0) the applicant's request for deferral.

Please resubmit no later than Tuesday April 3 in order to be heard at the next meeting on Tuesday April 17.

If you have any questions, please contact me at 434-970-3130 or scala@charlottesville.org.

Sincerely yours,

Mary Joy Scala, AICP
Preservation and Design Planner

Mary Joy Scala, AICP
Preservation and Design Planner
City of Charlottesville
Department of Neighborhood Development Services
City Hall - 610 East Market Street
P.O. Box 911
Charlottesville, VA 22902
Ph 434.970.3130 FAX 434.970.3359
scala@charlottesville.org

**CITY OF CHARLOTTESVILLE
BOARD OF ARCHITECTURAL REVIEW
STAFF REPORT
March 20, 2012**



Certificate of Appropriateness Application

BAR 12-03-06

632 W Main Street

Tax Map 29 Parcel 1

Pastor Hodari Hamilton, Applicant/ First Baptist Church, Owner

Change window to door for emergency exit

Background

The Delevan/First Baptist Church (1877-1883) is a contributing structure in the West Main Street ADC district. The historic survey is attached.

January 15, 2002 - A preliminary BAR discussion was held regarding the proposed expansion of First Baptist Church, including demolition of the Priority Press building.

April 16, 2002 - the BAR granted a COA to partially demolish all but the front 20 feet in depth of the Priority Press building. Staff had recommended denial of the demolition because it did not meet most of the review criteria for demolition. The BAR approved the partial demolition 6-1, with a suggestion that the east wall also be considered to be retained. This approval was extended by the BAR for one year, or until April 16, 2004.

May 20, 2003 - The BAR voted 6-1 to deny your request to demolish the rear (6 ft. deep service stair/corridor) portion of First Baptist Church based on City Code Sec. 34-577b (1-7) and the Design Review Guidelines demolition criteria (1-5).

The BAR made generally positive comments regarding the preliminary plan for the proposed addition. The majority accepted the proposed plan for handicapped access that would alter the front east stained glass window. Concern was expressed that the changes should not jeopardize the National Register listing. The BAR also suggested that the church look into selling historic tax credits.

Application

The applicant is requesting approval to replace an existing 43" x 72" window with a door on the basement level of the 7th Street SW façade. That façade has six bays; the subject window is located in the third bay from the rear. The new door is proposed to match a door located in the front bay that leads to stairs up to the sidewalk.

The proposed door would exit onto an areaway located several feet below the sidewalk. The purpose of the door is to provide access via wheelchair and walker, and to allow additional children in the space. The application does not include further information about a ramp to the sidewalk.

Criteria, Standards and Guidelines

Review Criteria Generally

Sec. 34-284(b) of the City Code states that,

In considering a particular application the BAR shall approve the application unless it finds:

- (1) That the proposal does not meet specific standards set forth within this division or applicable provisions of the Design Guidelines established by the board pursuant to Sec.34-288(6); and*
- (2) The proposal is incompatible with the historic, cultural or architectural character of the district in which the property is located or the protected property that is the subject of the application.*

Pertinent Standards for Review of Construction and Alterations include:

- (1) Whether the material, texture, color, height, scale, mass and placement of the proposed addition, modification or construction are visually and architecturally compatible with the site and the applicable design control district;*
- (2) The harmony of the proposed change in terms of overall proportion and the size and placement of entrances, windows, awnings, exterior stairs and signs;*
- (3) The Secretary of the Interior Standards for Rehabilitation set forth within the Code of Federal Regulations (36 C.F.R. §67.7(b)), as may be relevant;*
- (4) The effect of the proposed change on the historic district neighborhood;*
- (5) The impact of the proposed change on other protected features on the property, such as gardens, landscaping, fences, walls and walks;*
- (6) Whether the proposed method of construction, renovation or restoration could have an adverse impact on the structure or site, or adjacent buildings or structures;*
- (8) Any applicable provisions of the City's Design Guidelines.*

Pertinent Design Review Guidelines – Rehabilitation

p. 4.4 & 4.5

WINDOWS

- 1) Prior to any repair or replacement of windows, a survey of existing window conditions is recommended. Note number of windows, whether each window is original or replaced, the material, type, hardware and finish, the condition of the frame, sash, sill, putty, and panes.*
- 2) Retain original windows when possible.*
- 3) Uncover and repair covered up windows and reinstall windows where they have been blocked in.*
- 4) If the window is no longer needed, the glass should be retained and the back side frosted, screened, or shuttered so that it appears from the outside to be in use.*
- 5) Repair original windows by patching, splicing, consolidating or otherwise reinforcing. Wood that appears to be in bad condition because of peeling paint or separated joints often can be repaired.*
- 6) Replace historic components of a window that are beyond repair with matching components.*
- 7) Replace entire windows only when they are missing or beyond repair.*
- 8) If a window on the primary façade of a building must be replaced and an existing window of the same style, material, and size is identified on a secondary elevation, place the historic window in the window opening on the primary façade.*
- 9) Reconstruction should be based on physical evidence or old photographs.*
- 10) Avoid changing the number, location, size, or glazing pattern of windows by cutting new openings, blocking in windows, or installing replacement sash that does not fit the window opening.*

....

p. 4.6 & 4.7

D. Entrances, Porches, and Doors

Entrances and porches are often the primary focal points of a historic building. Their decoration and articulation help define the style of the structure. Entrances are functional and ceremonial elements for all buildings. Porches have traditionally been a social gathering point as well as a transition area between the exterior and interior of a residence.

The important focal point of an entrance or porch is the door. Doors are often a character-defining feature of the architectural style of a building. The variety of door types in the districts reflects the variety of styles, particularly of residential buildings.

- 1. The original details and shape of porches should be retained including the outline, roof height, and roof pitch.*

2. *Inspect masonry, wood, and metal on porches and entrances for signs of rust, peeling paint, wood deterioration, open joints around frames, deteriorating putty, inadequate caulking, and improper drainage, and correct any of these conditions.*
 3. *Repair damaged elements, matching the detail of the existing original fabric.*
 4. *Replace an entire porch only if it is too deteriorated to repair or is completely missing and design to match the original as closely as possible.*
 5. *Do not strip entrances and porches of historic material and details.*
 6. *Give more importance to front or side porches than to utilitarian back porches.*
 7. *Do not remove or radically change entrances and porches important in defining the building's overall historic character.*
 8. *Avoid adding "Colonial" decorative elements, such as broken pediments, columns, and pilasters or installing decorative iron supports.*
 9. *Avoid adding a new entrance to the primary elevation.*
 10. *Do not enclose porches on primary elevations and avoid enclosing porches on secondary elevations in a manner that radically changes the historic appearance.*
 11. *Provide needed barrier-free access in ways that least alter the features of the building.*
 - a. *For residential buildings, try to use ramps that are removable or portable rather than permanent.*
 - b. *On nonresidential buildings, comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act while minimizing the visual impact of ramps that affect the appearance of a building.*
 12. *The original size and shape of door openings should be maintained.*
 13. *New door openings should not be introduced on facades visible from the street.*
 14. *Original door openings should not be filled in.*
 15. *Reuse hardware and locks that are original or important to the historical evolution of the building.*
 16. *Avoid substituting the original doors with stock size doors that do not fit the opening properly or do not blend with the style of the building.*
 17. *Retain transom windows and sidelights.*
-

Pertinent Standards for Review of Demolitions include:

- (a) The historic, architectural or cultural significance, if any, of the specific structure or property, including, without limitation:*
- (1) The age of the structure or property;*
 - (2) Whether it has been designated a National Historic Landmark, listed on the National Register of Historic Places, or listed on the Virginia Landmarks Register;*
 - (3) Whether, and to what extent, the building or structure is associated with an historic person, architect or master craftsman, or with an historic event;*
 - (4) Whether the building or structure, or any of its features, represent an infrequent or the first or last remaining example within the city of a particular architectural style or feature;*
 - (5) Whether the building or structure is of such old or distinctive design, texture or material that it could not be reproduced, or could be reproduced only with great difficulty; and*
 - (6) The degree to which distinguishing characteristics, qualities, features or materials remain;*
- (b) Whether, and to what extent, a contributing structure is linked, historically or aesthetically, to other buildings or structures within an existing major design control district, or is one of a group of properties within such a district whose concentration or continuity possesses greater significance than many of its component buildings and structures.*
- (c) The overall condition and structural integrity of the building or structure, as indicated by studies prepared by a qualified professional engineer and provided by the applicant or other information provided to the board;*
- (d) Whether, and to what extent, the applicant proposes means, methods or plans for moving, removing or demolishing the structure or property that preserves portions, features or materials that are significant to the property's historic, architectural or cultural value; and*
- (e) Any applicable provisions of the city's Design Guidelines.*

Pertinent Design Review Guidelines – Demolition

1. *The standards established by the City Code (see above).*
2. *The public necessity of the proposed demolition.*
3. *The public purpose or interest in land or buildings to be protected.*
4. *Whether or not a relocation of the structure would be a practical and preferable alternative to demolition.*

5. *Whether or not the proposed demolition would affect adversely or positively other historic buildings or the character of the historic district.*
6. *The reason for demolishing the structure and whether or not alternatives exist.*
7. *Whether or not there has been a professional economic and structural feasibility study for rehabilitating or reusing the structure and whether or not its findings support the proposed demolition.*

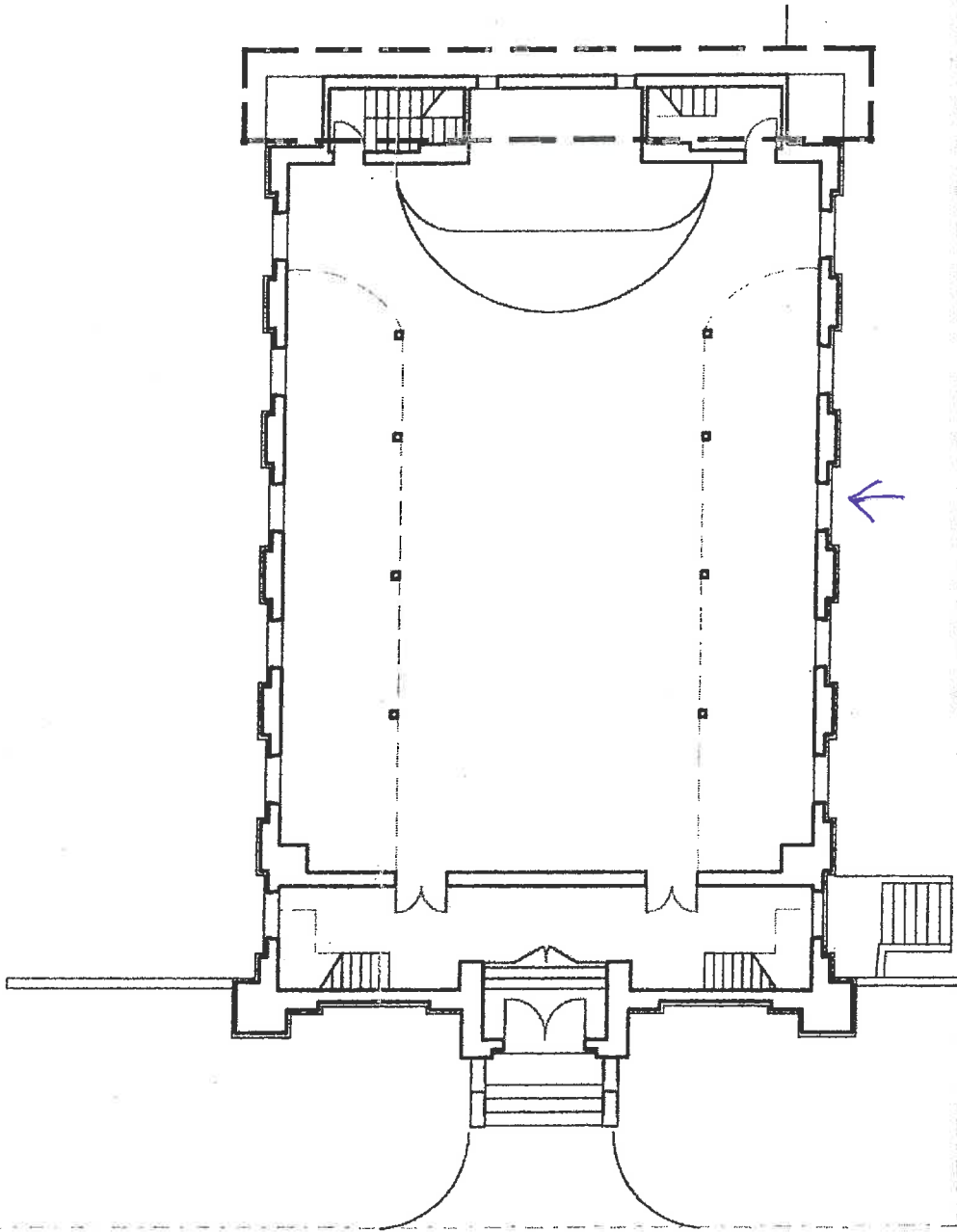
Discussion and Recommendations

More information is needed why this bay was chosen, and where the door will lead, but the request is reasonable.

Suggested Motion

Having considered the standards set forth within the City Code, including City Design Guidelines for Demolition and Rehabilitation, I move to find that the proposal to change a window to a door satisfies the BAR's criteria and is compatible with this property and other properties in this district, and that the BAR approves the application with the following modifications

PROPOSED PARTIAL DEMOLITION



7th Street SW

W Main Street

AN - ELEVATION

100

1/16" = 1'-0"

04.29.03

FLC
anish

Architectural and Historic Survey



Identification

STREET ADDRESS	632 West Main Street	HISTORIC NAME	Delevan/First Baptist Church
MAP & PARCEL	29-1	DATE / PERIOD	1877-1883
CENSUS TRACT AND BLOCK	1-303	STYLE	Victorian Romanesque
PRESENT ZONING	M-1	HEIGHT (to cornice) OR STORIES	1 storey
ORIGINAL OWNER	Delevan Baptist Church	DIMENSIONS AND LAND AREA	12,980 sq. ft.
ORIGINAL USE	Church	CONDITION	Good
PRESENT USE	Church	SURVEYOR	Thomsen/Bibb
PRESENT OWNER	First Baptist Congregation	DATE OF SURVEY	1977/1985
ADDRESS	632 West Main Street Charlottesville, Virginia 22901	SOURCES:	City/County Records Alexander, <i>Recollections of Early Ch'ville</i> Richard T. McKinney, <i>Keeping the Faith</i>

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 Brems 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 82-45B, 83-76). It was dedicated on January 7, 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".

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

**Delevan Baptist Church, #104-0376
Charlottesville, Virginia**

Section 7,8 Page 2

7. Architectural Description (additional information):

Located at 632 West Main Street, at the corner of 7th Street in Charlottesville, the cornerstone for the First Baptist Church (now the Delevan Baptist Church) was laid in 1877 and the building completed in 1883. This rectangular three-bay brick building is an excellent example of the Romanesque Revival style and features a projecting brick square entrance tower topped by an octagonal wooden lantern on a square base. The main entry is at the base of the tower through paneled double-leaf doors with a segmental-arched lintel. Matching projecting brick towers stand at the façade corners and rise slightly above the roof eaves. The gabled roof is clad in asphalt shingles. The six-bay sides of the brick building are articulated into bays by projecting piers that also serve to buttress the high walls, and contain double-hung, round-arched stained-glass windows and a corbelled brick cornice. The rear of the building has a hip-roofed rectangular apse with a taller gable-roofed projecting. A corbelled brick water table separates the basement level from the main floor. The basement level windows contain square-headed six-over-nine double-hung windows.

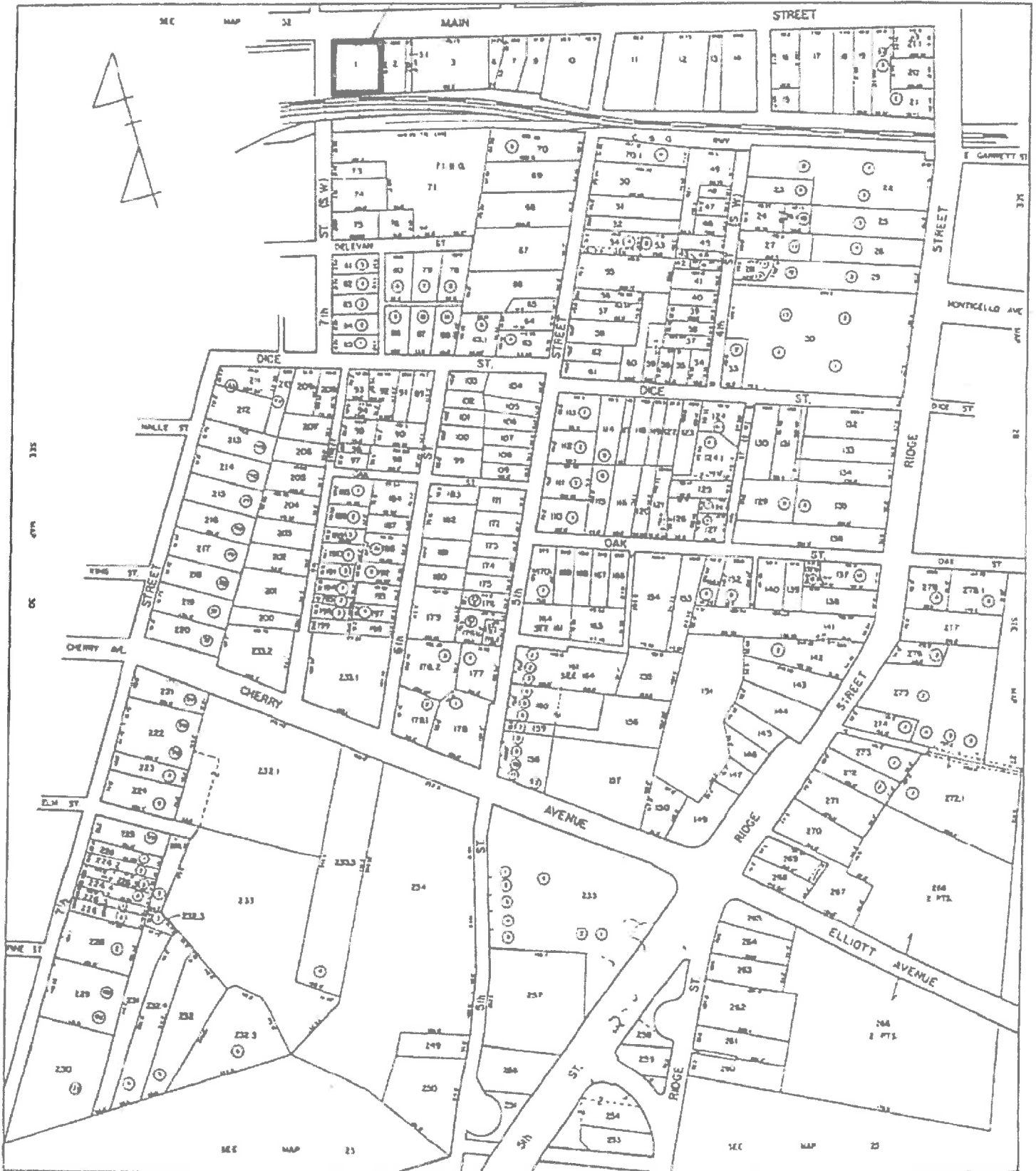
8. Significance Statement (additional information):

Originally listed as part of the Charlottesville Multiple Resource Area nomination, the Delevan Baptist Church was placed in the Virginia Landmarks Register on October 20, 1981 and in the National Register of Historic Places on October 21, 1982.

First Baptist Church, now known as the Delevan Baptist Church, is directly related to the African-American community that was growing in the eastern portion of the proposed Fifeville-Castle Hill Historic District by the 1870s and is a significant contributing resource and visual landmark within this area. Black Baptists who had formerly worshipped at Charlottesville's white First Baptist Church purchased the property on which the Delevan Hospital stood (formerly known as "Mudwall") in 1868 and began construction in 1877 of what would be called the First Colored Baptist Church, completed ca. 1883. Although several other Baptist congregations split off from the "first" church, this building made a bold statement for the African-American community in downtown Charlottesville. It stands today as the only institutional building within the proposed district's boundaries and would have been convenient to the growing number of African-Americans in the Fifeville and Castle Hill neighborhoods.

104-214

CITY OF CHARLOTTESVILLE

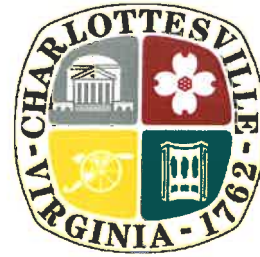


CITY OF CHARLOTTESVILLE

"A World Class City"

Department of Neighborhood Development Services

City Hall Post Office Box 911
Charlottesville, Virginia 22902
Telephone 434-970-3182
Fax 434-970-3359
www.charlottesville.org



AFFIDAVIT OF MAILING

To File: **632 W Main Street (BAR 12-03-06)**

I, Brenda Weatherford, being first duly sworn, hereby certify that I mailed the attached letter, by first class United States Mail, to the addresses shown on this affidavit on March 29, 2012.

Signed:

Brenda S Weatherford
Brenda Weatherford

ADDRESSES

See Attachments

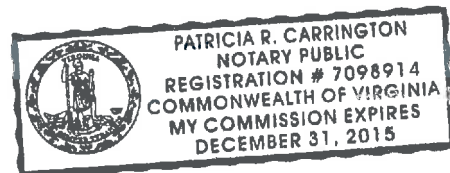
STATE OF VIRGINIA

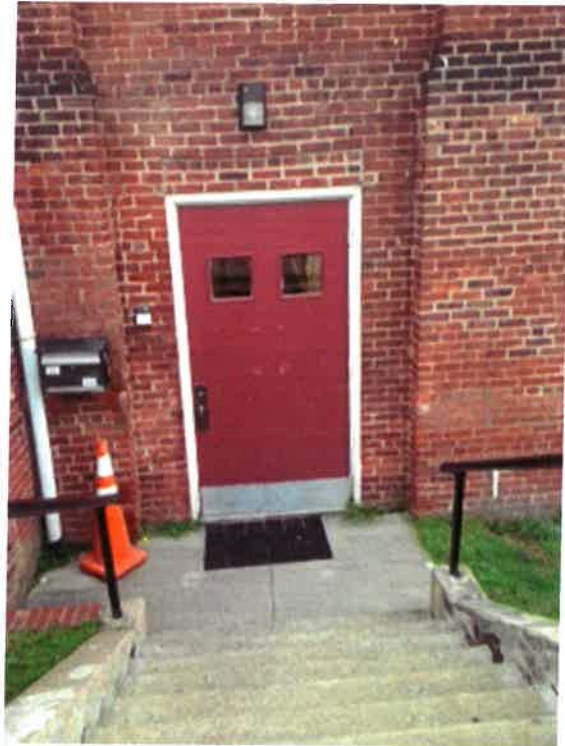
CITY OF CHARLOTTESVILLE, to-wit:

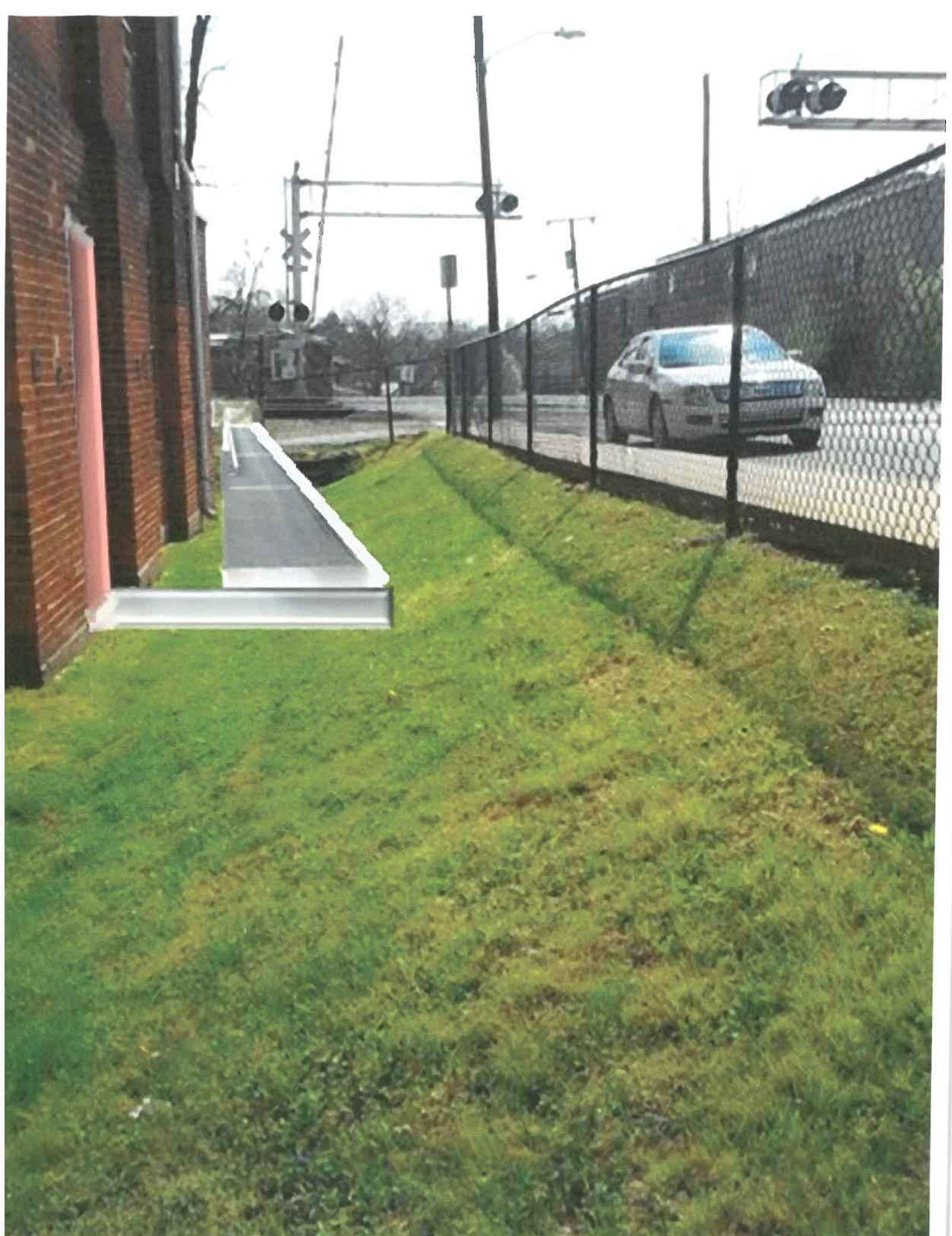
The foregoing instrument was acknowledged before me this 29th day of MARCH 2012, by Brenda Weatherford.

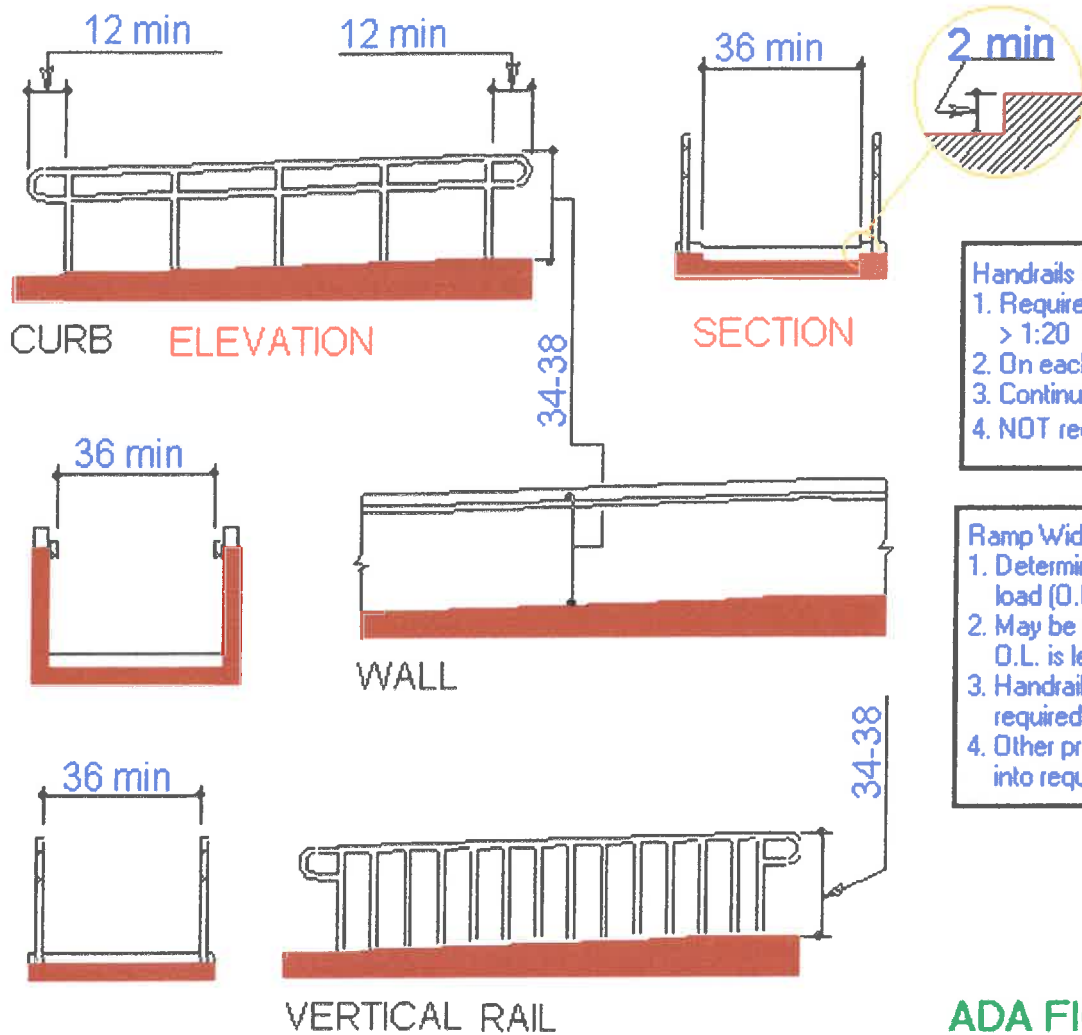
My Commission Expires: DECEMBER 31, 2015.

Patricia R. Carrington
Notary Public









Handrails shall be:

1. Required at slopes > 1:20
2. On each side of ramp.
3. Continuous the full length of ramp.
4. NOT required at Curb Ramps.

Ramp Width:

1. Determined by occupant load (O.L.) served, min. 44".
2. May be min. 36" wide when O.L. is less than or equal to 49.
3. Handrails may project 3.5" into required width on each side.
4. Other projections: Max. 1.5" into required width.

ADA FIG: 17

Jasenich Industries

Handicap Ramps

[HOME](#)

Click on a picture for a larger view

Standard size is 48" wide with a 0.7" fall per foot.



[RAILINGS](#)

Price per 8' section with:

Full standard railing

1 side: \$1600.00

2 sides: \$2000.00

3-rail railing

1 side \$1500.00

2 sides \$1700.00

[STAIRWAYS](#)



HANDICAP RAMPS



[TRENCH GRATING](#)

Level platforms are priced according to size.

Standard sizes are:

4' x 4' in-line

5' x 5' corner

[METAL ART](#)

[SPECIALTY ITEMS](#)

[ABOUT US](#)



[EMAIL US](#)



Other options:

- Bottom diamond plate entry ramp**
- Inside handrail**
- Toe plate**

CITY OF CHARLOTTESVILLE

"A World Class City"

Department of Neighborhood Development Services

City Hall Post Office Box 911
Charlottesville, Virginia 22902
Telephone 434-970-3182
Fax 434-970-3359
www.charlottesville.org



AFFIDAVIT OF MAILING

To File: **632 West Main Street (BAR 12-03-06)**

I, Deronda Eubanks, being first duly sworn, hereby certify that I mailed the attached letter, by first class United States Mail, to the addresses shown on this affidavit on March 1, 2012.

Signed:

Deronda Eubanks

ADDRESSES

See Attachments

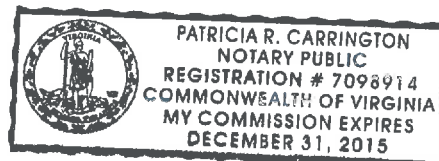
STATE OF VIRGINIA

CITY OF CHARLOTTESVILLE, to-wit:

The foregoing instrument was acknowledged before me this 1st day of MARCH 2012, by Deronda Eubanks.

My Commission Expires: DECEMBER 31, 2015

Notary Public





**Board of Architectural Review (BAR)
Certificate of Appropriateness**

RECEIVED

Please Return To: City of Charlottesville
Department of Neighborhood Development Services
P.O. Box 911, City Hall
Charlottesville, Virginia 22902
Telephone (434) 970-3130 Fax (434) 970-3359

FEB 28 2012

NEIGHBORHOOD DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

Please submit ten (10) copies of application form and all attachments.

For a new construction project, please include \$375 application fee. For all other projects requiring BAR approval, please include \$125 application fee. For projects that require only administrative approval, please include \$100 administrative fee. Make checks payable to the City of Charlottesville.

The BAR meets the third Tuesday of the month.

Deadline for submittals is Tuesday 3 weeks prior to next BAR meeting by 4 p.m.

Owner Name First Baptist Church Applicant Name Pastor Hodari Hamilton
 Project Name/Description Emergency Exit Parcel Number _____
 Property Address 632 West Main St. Charlottesville, Va 22902

Applicant Information

Address: 632 West Main St.
Charlottesville, VA
Email: Pastor.Hodari@gmail.com
Phone: (W) 434-979-0952 (H) _____
FAX: 434-295-1521

Signature of Applicant

I hereby attest that the information I have provided is, to the best of my knowledge, correct. (Signature also denotes commitment to pay invoice for required mail notices.)

James Burton, Trustee 2-28-12
Signature Date

James Burton, Trustee 2-28-12
Print Name Date

Property Owner Information (if not applicant)

Address: _____
Email: _____
Phone: (W) _____ (H) _____
FAX: _____

Property Owner Permission (if not applicant)

I have read this application and hereby give my consent to its submission.

Signature _____ Date _____

Print Name _____ Date _____

Do you intend to apply for Federal or State Tax Credits for this project? _____

Description of Proposed Work (attach separate narrative if necessary): See attached

List All Attachments (see reverse side for submittal requirements):

Two picture pages

For Office Use Only	Approved/Disapproved by: _____
Received by: <u>D. Ebank</u>	Date: _____
Fee paid: <u>\$125.00</u> Cash/Ck. # _____	Conditions of approval: _____
Date Received: <u>2/28/12</u>	_____

Project Summary – Presented 2/28/2012

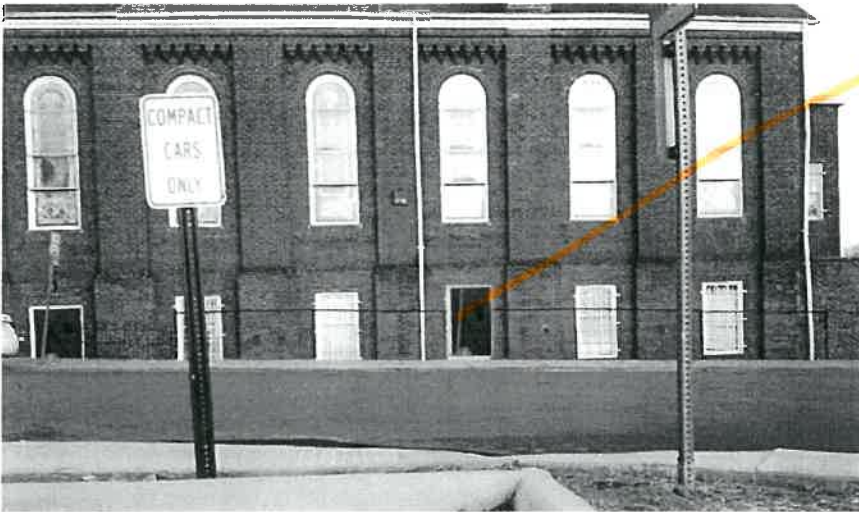
First Baptist Church plans to add an addition door on the sub-level on the west side of the Church located across from 632 West Main Street. This door will replace a large window which is 43 inches wide and 72 inches from top to bottom. Because of the slope one third of the door will not be seen from the street level.

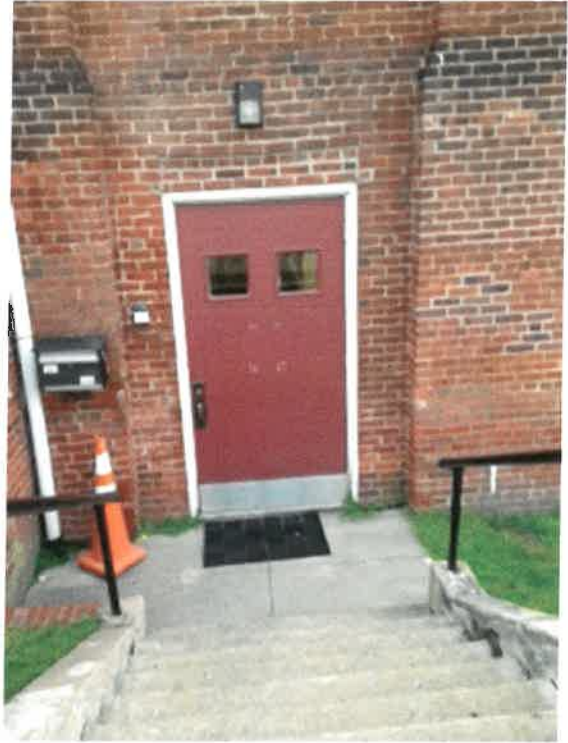
This side of build a faces the large parking lot for the Amtrak train station. The lot spans more than an acre.

Need- This will allow:

- 1.) For access via wheelchair and walker.
- 2.) For approval of additional children in the space.

This door will be uniform with the existing door (see picture below).





Narrative and photographic description for Certificate of Appropriateness Application

First Baptist Church, 632 West Main Street

Prepared for: Pastor Hodari Hamilton

Prepared by: Jessie Chapman, Architect, LEED AP

For the history of the building, please refer to attached NPS summary.

Note: This application is for approval of a new door only. Should the Church decide to go forward with a handicap ramp, another application will be made at that time.

Introduction

FBC has made an application to the BAR for a new door at the West facade to replace an existing window. The primary motive for the alteration is to allow the Church to use the existing basement space as classroom space for children attending day school and summer camp.

Door Design

Existing window is six over nine double hung wood, with 7/8" muntins and 2" brick mold. Care should be taken to avoid altering the existing brick pattern around the window opening (see photos and drawings.) New brick mold should match the existing and extend to new door sill. New brick surround should match the existing brick in color, pattern, consistency and mortar.

A transom would be the best way to preserve the rhythm of the existing fenestration. However, the dropped ceiling in the church basement may make a transom awkward. Also, the transom may be beyond the church's budget at this time. I recommend making an opening that could accommodate a transom in the future. For the time being, a blind panel could serve in its place. (See photos and drawings.)

I've recommended three options to the Church, designated as "Good, Better and Best," and labeled A, B, and C, respectively. I've advised them about possible costs, but have not spoken to a window/ millwork shop yet. Therefore, the material choice is not certain. I am proposing painted wood (likely fir) on the less costly options, and a clad door for option "C." Should they decide to move forward with the alteration, I will recommend Gaston & Wyatt to do the work.

See the following sheets for photographs of Church, context and nearby examples of similar situations.

Photographs of Church, context and nearby examples of similar situations.



First Baptist Church, from Seventh Street.

Sketchwell Architecture & Design

1421 Hazel Street Charlottesville, VA 22902

T 434-979-0211

E jessie@sketchwelldesign.com

W sketchwelldesign.com



Contiguous property: former Standard Produce Building. Owned by First Baptist Church.

Secondary doors at First Baptist Church.



East service entrance. Most likely was a window at some point.



Rear door

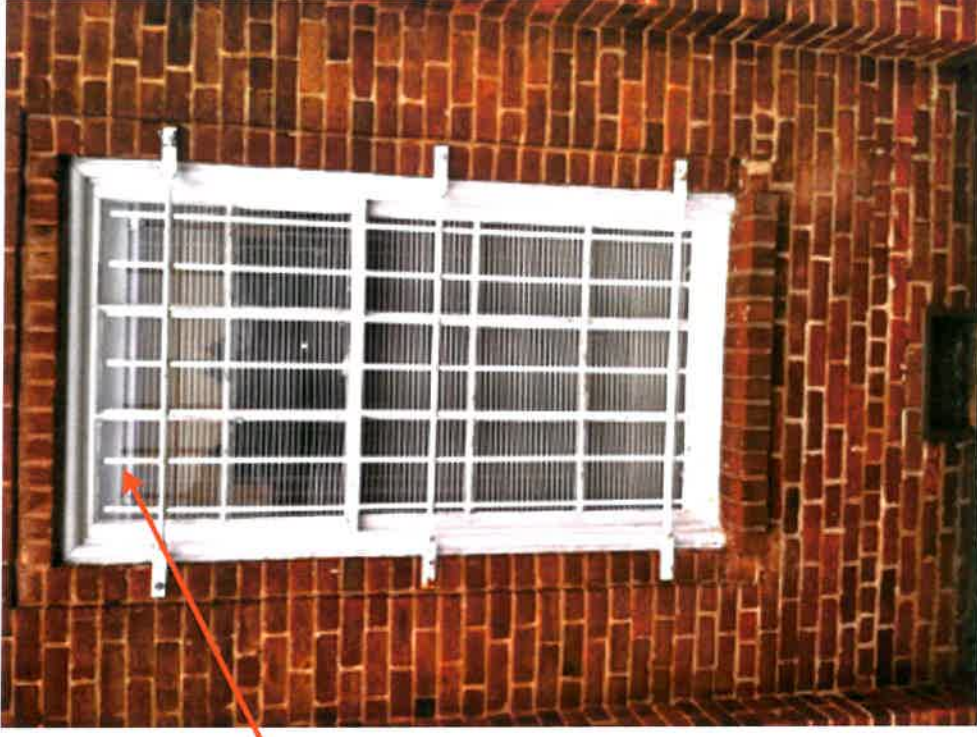


*Existing door to basement public area.
(Note removal of header course)*

West facade, First Baptist Church.

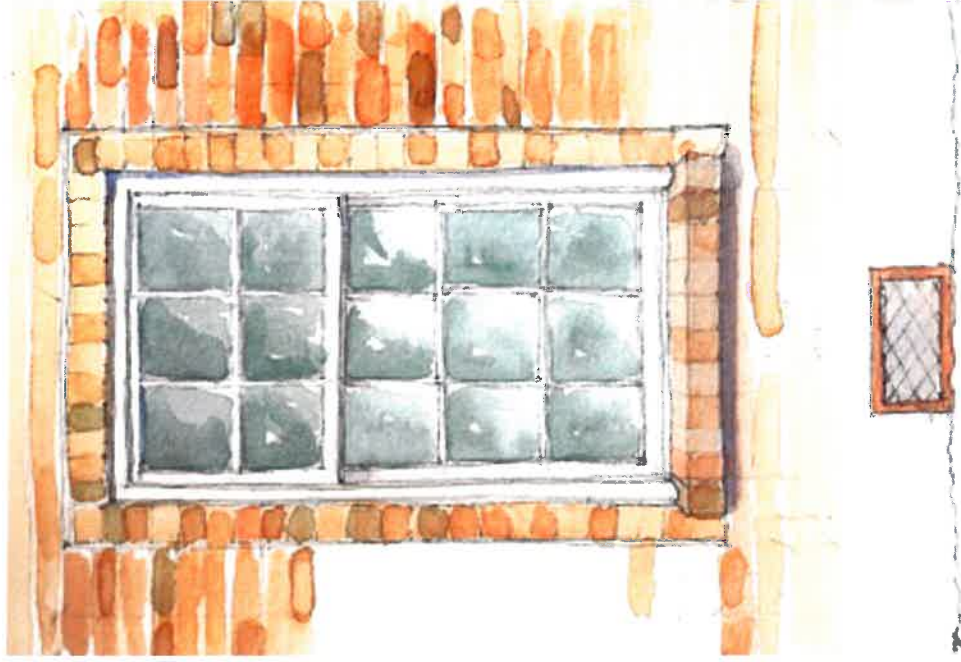


West facade, from the sidewalk on West Main Street, showing existing door and proposed.



Window detail. Note that ceiling is dropped below window head inside.

Window detail, First Baptist Church.



Window detail (not showing bars.) Note brick reveal surround.

Relevant examples in Charlottesville



Door placed in former window opening.

Note that brick surround was not disturbed.

Relevant examples in Charlottesville



Example of door with narrow brick mold and a transom. Court Square.



Example of door in a larger opening (perhaps a window.) Court Square.

Architectural and Historic



Survey

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 E. 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 corbelled 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. Coker of Brno 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 pisé 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 (ACBR 82-458, 83-76). It was dedicated on January 7, 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".

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

**Delevan Baptist Church, #104-0376
Charlottesville, Virginia**

Section 7,8 Page 2

7. Architectural Description (additional information):

Located at 632 West Main Street, at the corner of 7th Street in Charlottesville, the cornerstone for the First Baptist Church (now the Delevan Baptist Church) was laid in 1877 and the building completed in 1883. This rectangular three-bay brick building is an excellent example of the Romanesque Revival style and features a projecting brick square entrance tower topped by an octagonal wooden lantern on a square base. The main entry is at the base of the tower through paneled double-leaf doors with a segmental-arched lintel. Matching projecting brick towers stand at the façade corners and rise slightly above the roof eaves. The gabled roof is clad in asphalt shingles. The six-bay sides of the brick building are articulated into bays by projecting piers that also serve to buttress the high walls, and contain double-hung, round-arched stained-glass windows and a corbelled brick cornice. The rear of the building has a hip-roofed rectangular apse with a taller gable-roofed projecting. A corbelled brick water table separates the basement level from the main floor. The basement level windows contain square-headed six-over-nine double-hung windows.

8. Significance Statement (additional information):

Originally listed as part of the Charlottesville Multiple Resource Area nomination, the Delevan Baptist Church was placed in the Virginia Landmarks Register on October 20, 1981 and in the National Register of Historic Places on October 21, 1982.

First Baptist Church, now known as the Delevan Baptist Church, is directly related to the African-American community that was growing in the eastern portion of the proposed Fifeville-Castle Hill Historic District by the 1870s and is a significant contributing resource and visual landmark within this area. Black Baptists who had formerly worshipped at Charlottesville's white First Baptist Church purchased the property on which the Delevan Hospital stood (formerly known as "Mudwall") in 1868 and began construction in 1877 of what would be called the First Colored Baptist Church, completed ca. 1883. Although several other Baptist congregations split off from the "first" church, this building made a bold statement for the African-American community in downtown Charlottesville. It stands today as the only institutional building within the proposed district's boundaries and would have been convenient to the growing number of African-Americans in the Fifeville and Castle Hill neighborhoods.

104-214

CITY OF CHARLOTTESVILLE

