

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	
DATE ENTERED	

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC **Eighth and Center Streets Baptist Church**
AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER **722 Center Street**

CITY, TOWN **Hannibal**

STATE **Missouri**

VICINITY OF **#9 - Hon. Harold Volkmer**
CODE **29**

NOT FOR PUBLICATION
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT
COUNTY **Marion** CODE **127**

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 **Trustees of Eighth and Center Streets Baptist Church**

STREET & NUMBER **722 Center Street**

CITY, TOWN **Hannibal**

VICINITY OF

STATE **Missouri** **63401**

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. **Circuit Clerk and Recorder**

STREET & NUMBER **Marion County Courthouse**

CITY, TOWN **Palmyra**

STATE **Missouri** **63461**

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE **Missouri State Historical Survey**

DATE **1979**

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS **Office of Historic Preservation, Department of Natural Resources**

CITY, TOWN **P. O. Box 176, Jefferson City, Missouri 65101**

STATE

DESCRIPTION

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

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Eighth and Center Streets Baptist Church is a red brick, two-level rectangular building facing Center Street at the northeast corner of Eighth in Hannibal, Missouri. The external measurements are approximately 70 feet long by 40 feet wide.

The brick structure rests on a foundation of plain ashlar; the stones at the corners of the building are unusually large. The front entrance is through a round-arched doorway. Its wooden doors were hung about 1959, at the same time that a neon lighted cross was installed over the door.

Romanesque Revival features on the front elevation include pilaster strips, an arcaded corbel table, and round-headed windows. In the gable end is a small double window with a circular window above it, giving the illusion of a trefoil. The side elevations have ground-level windows with segmental arches and four-over-four double-hung sash. The twelve windows of the main floor are stained glass inscribed with the names of the fraternal organizations which donated them, thus forming a record of the social life of the Negro community in the early 1900's when they were installed. The northwest window is inscribed to the memory of Feronia McDowell, daughter of the pastor at the time.

Stairways on either side of the entrance lead to the main floor where the sanctuary is located. Their woodwork is comparable to that of other buildings in Hannibal dating from c. 1885. The plastered walls of the sanctuary are painted a pinkish beige. The high arched ceiling has the original tin ceiling and convex cornice. One early lamp bracket can be seen on the west wall. A balcony along the upper south wall of the sanctuary is reached by stairs above the entrance stairs. Three different early styles of pews - one believed to date back to the building of the church - are housed there, along with recently installed airconditioning units. The floor of the balcony is tiered. The sanctuary now has light oak pews purchased in 1974. The aisles of the wood floors are carpeted in blue. The pulpit is centered at the north end of the sanctuary. An arched alcove behind it accomodates the choir. This space is above the original baptismal pool, which was thought to be of dubious structural soundness.

The ground level, one step down from the entrance, contains a vestibule, dining room, kitchen and restrooms. A raised platform at the north end of the dining room conceals the baptistry moved here from the main level. Steps at the east end of this platform ascend to the sanctuary. Three cast iron columns run down the middle of the dining room, serving as supports for the sanctuary above. They are banded in the middle, fluted on the lower half, with capitals formed of detachable acanthus leaves.

The church is located in a reasonably well-kept residential neighborhood. A brick parsonage, built in 1903, adjoins the church on the north. It is a simple two-story, three-bay structure with a hipped roof.

SIGNIFICANCE

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 1872

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Eighth and Center Streets Baptist Church is the principal historical landmark of the Negro population of Hannibal, Missouri. The history of the congregation reflects the aspirations and achievements of this group in the face of slavery and segregation. The site of the present church also has early associations with Blanche Kelso Bruce (1814-1898), a black leader of national prominence in the post-Civil-War period.

The Eighth and Center Streets Baptist Church traces its origins to November 25, 1837, when the Zoar Church was organized at the home of Stuart Self, two miles west of Hannibal.¹ Attending this meeting were Robert and Mary A. Hendren, Francis Dunn, Stuart and Nancy Self, James Brown, and two black women known as "Maria and Providence." At first the membership worshipped in a schoolhouse. Moving to Hannibal in 1841, the church was reorganized under the name of the Hannibal United Baptist Church. This church was located on the corner of Fourth and Church Streets and also had both black and white members. The tensions leading to the Civil War, which also caused the Methodist and Presbyterian churches in Hannibal to split, resulted in a division of the Baptist Church in 1853, when the white members formed the First Baptist Church, and the black members moved to the present location.

The land was purchased from Zachariah G. Draper and Eleanor M. Draper, his wife, on April 22, 1853, for the sum of thirty-seven dollars and fifty cents. The trustees who bought the ground were James Daws, Carter Braxton, George Bishop, Jerry Wade and John Hannon, all free persons of color. This property included most of the block.

"It is understood and agreed by the undersigned grantors and grantees, that the lot of ground herein described and sold, has been purchased by voluntary contributions of colored persons, within and near the city owned by others who are friendly to the objects for the purpose of erecting thereon a church edifice or place of religious worship to be called "The Afffrican Church," under rules and regulations which shall be made under the direction of trustees for the several denominations of Methodists, Baptists and such denominations as the said trustees, may according to such rules and regulations permit."²

Mr. Byron Lakeman and Mrs. Queary of Hannibal state that the old church fronted on Eighth Street where the parsonage is now located, and school

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

EIGHTH AND CENTER STREETS BAPTIST CHURCH

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8

PAGE 1

was held in the rear. Baptists, Methodists, and other denominations shared the building for worship services. The Methodists built their own church, Allen Chapel, in 1869. The Baptists were known as the Second Baptist Church until the 1880's, when the present name came into use, paralleling the change from First Baptist to Fifth Street Baptist.

The school teacher from 1861 to 1865 was Blanche K. Bruce. Bruce, a former slave, was born in Prince Edward County, Virginia, and was taken to Missouri several years before the Civil War. In 1861 he escaped and came to Hannibal, where he organized the school. After the war, he went to Mississippi, which he served in the United States Senate from 1875 to 1881, the only black Senator to serve a full term from that state. In later life he was a public official and leading citizen of Washington, D. C., where his home is now a National Historic Landmark. School was held in the church until 1870, when a free public school for Negroes was built in Hannibal.

Oliver H. Webb was pastor of the church for forty years from 1853; by 1878 he had already served longer than any other pastor in the city. As a mark of respect he was known as "Father" Webb. During the time he was not in the pulpit he worked on a transfer wagon. He labored late at night with other members of the church to build their new building.

There is some uncertainty as to the date of the present structure, as it is said to have remained unfinished at the time the second pastor took office in 1893. Recently, however, reference to a construction date of 1872 has been located. This date accords with the building's Romanesque Revival style, which was most popular in the 1850's and 1860's. The sophisticated use of the arcaded corbel table and pilaster strips suggests that a professional architect or builder may have had a hand in the building, but his name is not recorded. The cost of the structure was said to be \$8,000, but this figure probably omits the many contributions of bricks and labor by the members.

Subsequent pastors have presided over the continued improvement of the building. G. H. McDaniel, who succeeded Father Webb, was notable as the publisher of the Missouri Baptist Standard, which at the time was the only Negro publication in Missouri. The fifth pastor, C. R. McDowell (served 1901-1916), built the parsonage in 1903 and directed installation of the windows, including one in memory of his daughter Feronia. E. H. McDonald (served 1919-1922) installed the lighting and heating systems and completed decoration of the interior.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

EIGHTH AND CENTER STREETS BAPTIST CHURCH

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 2

Although membership in Eighth and Center Streets Baptist Church has declined in recent years, dedicated members continue to preserve the church. Placing it on the National Register of Historic Places will help to maintain the rich heritage of the black community and will make its significance apparent to the many people who visit Hannibal from around the world.

Footnotes

1. The chief source for the early history of the church is Edward M. January, "History of Eighth and Center Streets Baptist Church" (Hannibal, Mo.: Eighth and Center Streets Baptist Church, 1930), now extremely rare. Material drawn from this source can be found in 110th Anniversary "Forward Through The Ages" (Hannibal: Eighth and Center Streets Baptist Church, 1963); and in Hurley and Roberta Hagood, The Story of Hannibal (Hannibal: Standard Printing Co., 1976).
2. Quoted by January.
3. U. S. Department of Commerce, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, For the Dignity of Humanity, 2nd Annual Commemoration of Black History (Washington, D. C.: U. S. Government Printing Office, Feb. 1979).
4. Letitia W. Brown and Elsie M. Lewis, Washington In The New Era, 1870-1970 (Washington, D. C.: National Portrait Gallery, 1972), p. 9.
5. Marion D. Powers, "The Development of Public Education in Hannibal, Missouri, With Special Emphasis on the Education of the Negro" (unpubl. thesis, Lincoln University of Missouri, June 1948).
6. Hannibal Daily Courier, January 15, 1878.
7. Ibid.
8. Carroll L. V. Meeks, "Romanesque Before Richardson in the United States," Art Bulletin, Vol. XXXV, No. 1 (March 1953); Marcus Whiffen, American Architecture Since 1780 (Cambridge, Mass.: MIT Press, 1969), pp. 61-67.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

1. Denkler, Susan. "History recounted as church celebrates its 124th anniversary," Hannibal Courier-Post, April 30, 1977.
2. Hagood, Hurley and Roberta. The Story of Hannibal. Hannibal, Mo.: Standard Printing Co., 1976.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY .115 acre

QUADRANGLE NAME "Hannibal East, Mo.-Ill."

QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:24000

UTM REFERENCES

A

1	5	6	4	0	3	1	0	4	3	9	6	4	1	0
ZONE EASTING					NORTHING									

B

ZONE EASTING					NORTHING									

C

ZONE EASTING					NORTHING									

D

ZONE EASTING					NORTHING									

E

ZONE EASTING					NORTHING									

F

ZONE EASTING					NORTHING									

G

ZONE EASTING					NORTHING									

H

ZONE EASTING					NORTHING									

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The Eighth and Center Streets Baptist Church is situated on a rectangular parcel at the southwest corner of Out Lot 75, with frontage of 77 ft. on Center Street and 65½ ft. on Eighth Street.

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
Missouri	29	Marion	127
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE
1. Hiawatha M. Crow, Church Historian

ORGANIZATION
Eighth and Center Streets Baptist Church

DATE
November 5, 1979

STREET & NUMBER
722 Center Street

TELEPHONE
church (314) 221-5721; home 221-1088

CITY OR TOWN
Hannibal

STATE
Missouri 63401

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

TITLE Director, Department of Natural Resources and
State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

DATE

ATTEST: KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

CHIEF OF REGISTRATION

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

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

EIGHTH AND CENTER STREETS BAPTIST CHURCH

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 9 PAGE 1

-
3. 110th Anniversary "Forward Through The Ages". Hannibal, Mo.: Eighth and Center Streets Baptist Church, 1963.

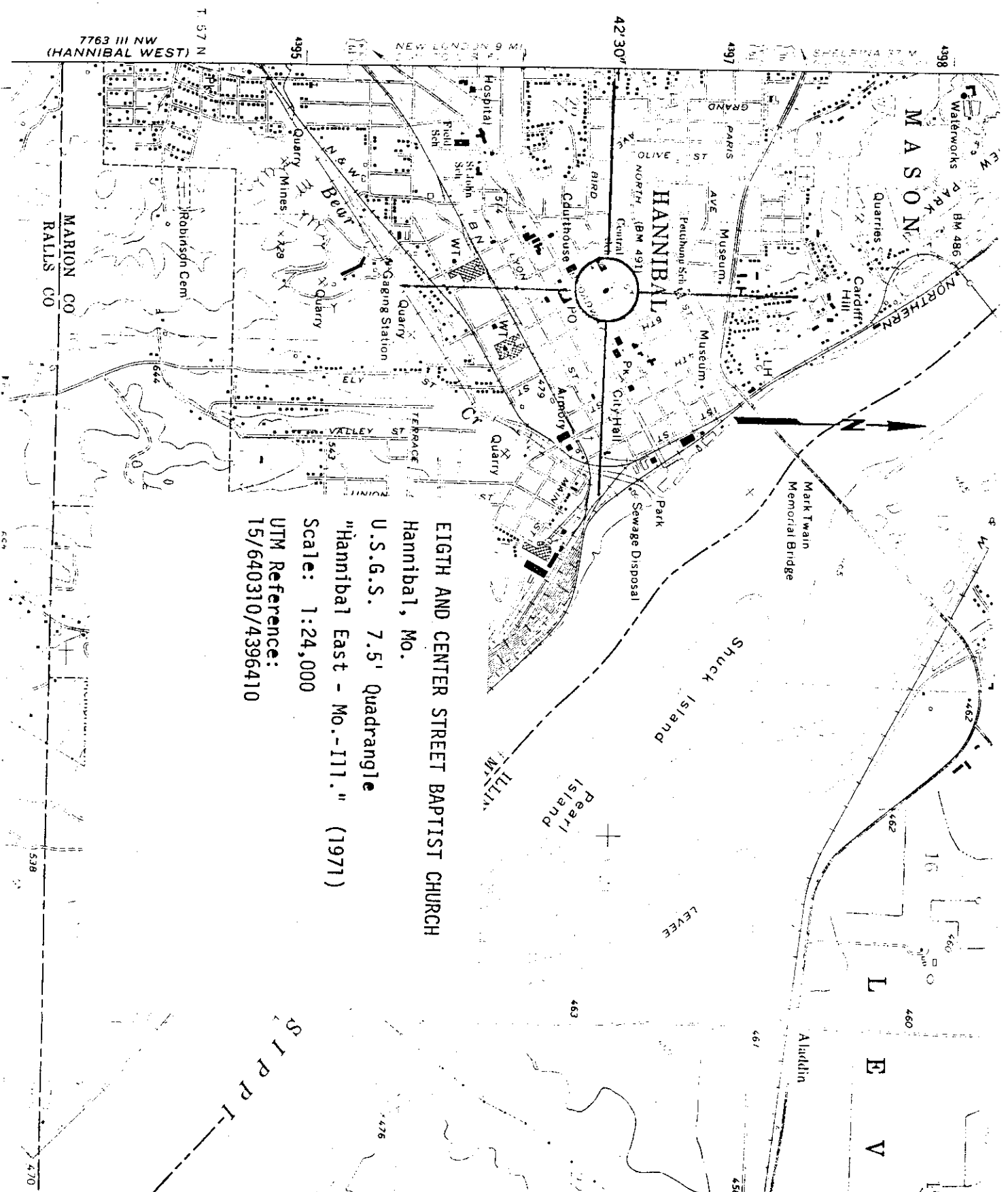
11 1

2. Esley Hamilton
1169 Ursula Avenue
University City, Missouri 63130

January 28, 1980
(314) 727-0428

3. James M. Denny, Section Chief, Nominations-Survey
and State Contact Person
Department of Natural Resources
P.O. Box 176
Jefferson City

February 22, 1980
314/751-4096
Missouri 65102



EIGHTH AND CENTER STREET BAPTIST CHURCH
 Hannibal, Mo.

U.S.G.S. 7.5' Quadrangle

"Hannibal East - Mo.-111." (1971)

Scale: 1:24,000

UTM Reference:

15/640310/4396410

1 57 N

7763 III NW
 (HANNIBAL WEST)

MARION CO
 RALLS CO

538

470

51 P P I

L E V

438

437

42°30'

4395

NEW LONDON 9 MI

WILSON ST

MASON PARK

HANNIBAL

OLIVE

NORTH

AVENUE

MUSEUM

PELHAM ST

ST

ST

ST

ST

ST

ST

ST

ST

ST

ST

ST

ST

ST

ST

ST

ST

ST

ST

ST

ST

ST

ST

ST

ST

ST

ST

WATERWORKS

BM 486

QUARRIES

CARDIFF HILL

NORTHERN

MARK TWAIN MEMORIAL BRIDGE

SHUCK ISLAND

PEARL ISLAND

LEVEE

ALADDIN

462

460

458

461

463

476

470

475

476

476

476

476

476

476

476

476

476

476

476

476

476

476

476

476

476

476

476

476

476

476

476

476

476

476

476

476

476

476

438

437

436

435

434

433

432

431

430

429

428

427

426

425

424

423

422

421

420

419

418

417

416

415

414

413

412

411

410

409

408

407

406

405

404

403

402

401

400

399

398

397

396

395

394

393

438

437

436

435

434

433

432

431

430

429

428

427

426

425

424

423

422

421

420

419

418

417

416

415

414

413

412

411

410

409

408

407

406

405

404

403

402

401

400

399

398

397

396

395

394

393

438

437

436

435

434

433

432

431

430

429

428

427

426

425

424

423

422

421

420

419

418

417

416

415

414

413

412

411

410

409

408

407

406

405

404

403

402

401

400

399

398

397

396

395

394

393

EIGHTH AND CENTER STREETS BAPTIST CHURCH

#436

COUNTY:

Marion

LOCATION:

722 Center St., Hannibal, Mo.

OWNER:

Trustees of Eighth & Center Sts. Baptist
Church
722 Center Street, Hannibal, Mo. 63401

ADDRESS:

DATE APPROVED BY A.C.:

April 25, 1980

DATE SENT TO D.C.:

June 16, 1980

DATE OF REC. IN D.C.:

June 18, 1980

DATE PLACED ON NATIONAL REGISTER:

September 4, 1980

DATE AWARDED CERTIFICATE
(AND PRESENTOR):

February 13, 1981
Jill Johnson

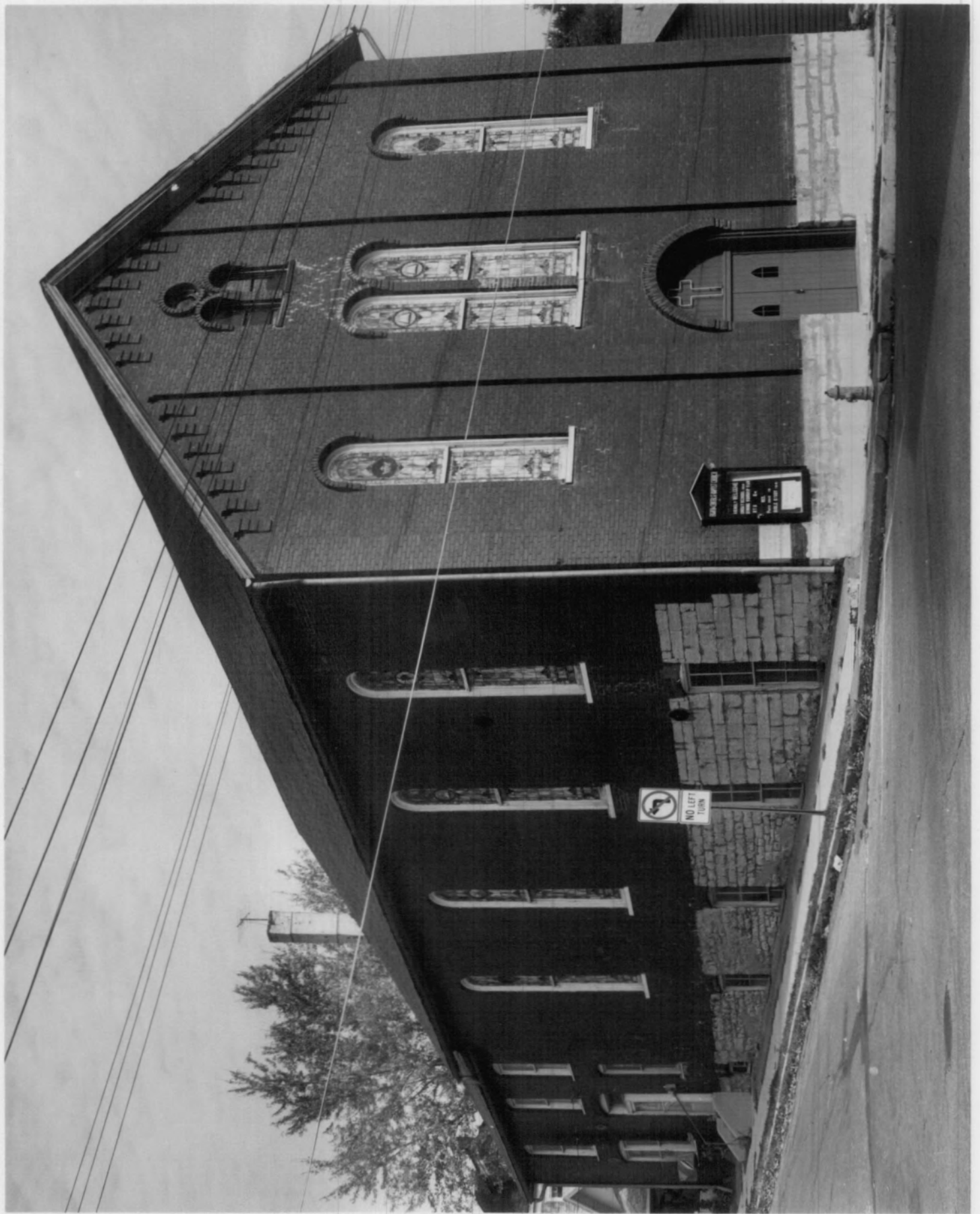
DATE FILE REVIEWED:

The Eighth and Center Streets Baptist Church is the principal historical landmark of the Negro population of Hannibal, Missouri. The history of the congregation reflects the aspirations and achievements of this group in the face of slavery and segregation. The site of the present church also has early associations with Blanche Kelso Bruce (1814-1898), a black leader of national prominence in the post-Civil-War period.

Eighth and Center Streets Baptist Church
722 Center Street, Hannibal, Missouri
Photo Credited to Richard Cerretti, 1979
Negative Filed at Cerretti Photography,
214 N. 5th St., Hannibal, Mo.
View of church from southwest
Photo Number One of 3

October 1979

Richard Cerretti
Photographer



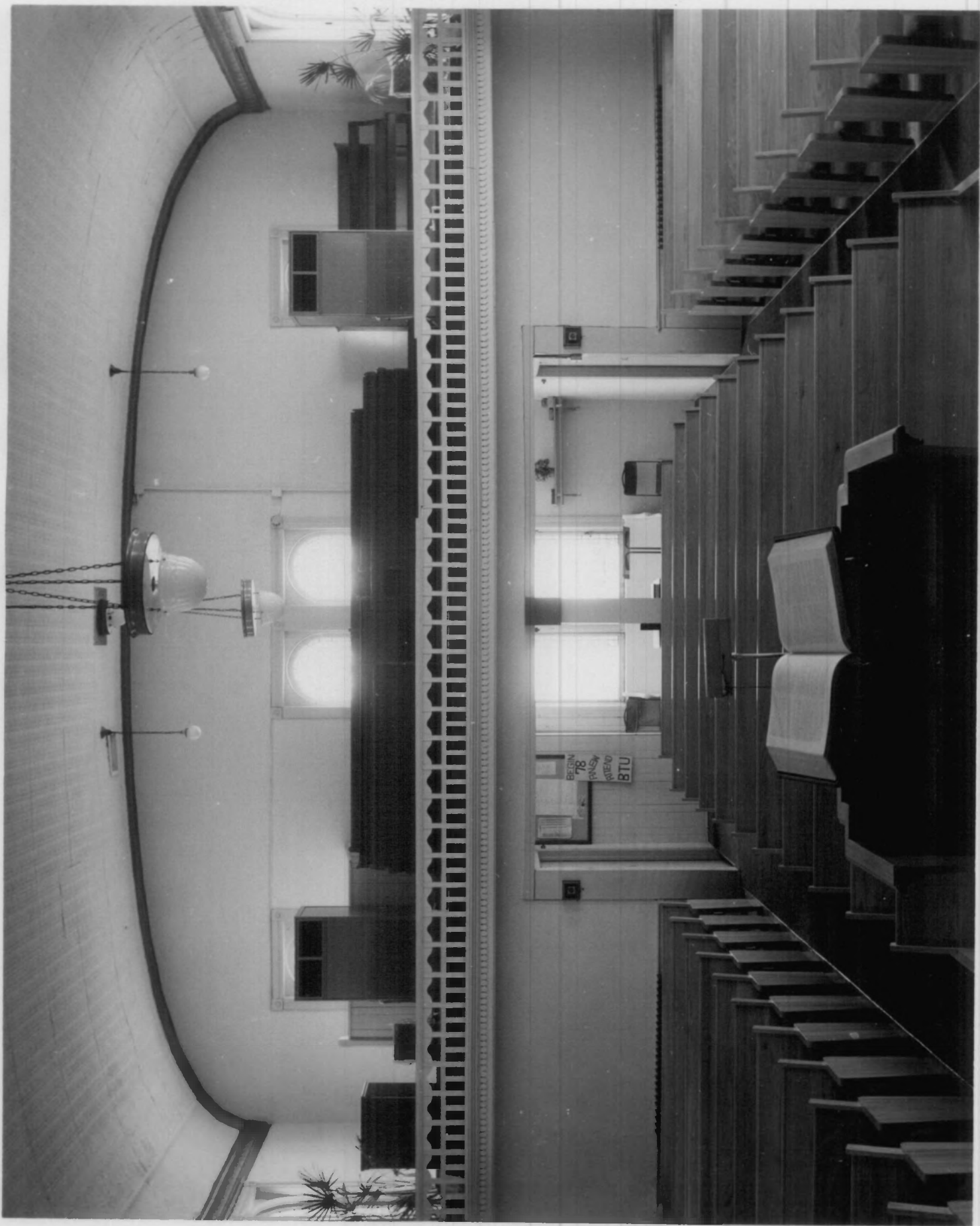
Eighth and Center Streets Baptist Church
722 Center Street, Hannibal, Missouri
Photo Credited to Richard Cerretti, 1979
Negative Filed at Cerretti Photography,
214 N. 5th St., Hannibal, Mo.
View of church from northwest, with
parsonage in foreground
Photo Number Two of 3



Eighth and Center Streets Baptist Church
722 Center Street, Hannibal, Missouri
Photo Credited to Richard Cerretti, 1979
Negative Filed at Cerretti Photography,
214 N. 5th St., Hannibal, Mo.
View of interior from pulpit, showing
balcony with original pews
Photo Number Three of 3
"

1977

Richard Cerretti
Photographer



EXTRA
PHOTOS



