

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Registration Form

1. Name of Property

historic name Antioch Baptist Church

other names/site number n/a

2. Location

street & number 4213 North Market Street [n/a] not for publication

city or town St. Louis [n/a] vicinity

state Missouri code MO county St. Louis [Independent City] code 510 zip code 63113

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this  
 nomination  request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the  
National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my  
opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered  
significant  nationally  statewide  locally.  
( See continuation sheet for additional comments [ ]. )

*Claire F. Blackwell*  
Signature of certifying official/Title Claire F. Blackwell/Deputy SHPO

12 August 1999  
Date

Missouri Department of Natural Resources  
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria.  
( See continuation sheet for additional comments [ ]. )

Signature of certifying official/Title

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:

- entered in the National Register  
See continuation sheet [ ].
- determined eligible for the  
National Register  
See continuation sheet [ ].
- determined not eligible for the  
National Register.
- removed from the  
National Register
- other, explain  
See continuation sheet [ ].

Signature of the Keeper

Date

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**5. Classification**

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	Number of Resources within Property		
		Contributing	Noncontributing	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	1	0	buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input type="checkbox"/> district	0	0	sites
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site	0	0	structures
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure	0	0	objects
	<input type="checkbox"/> object	1	0	Total

Name of related multiple property listing.

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register.

n/a

0

**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Function**

Religion/religious facility  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

**Current Functions**

Religion/religious facility  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

**7. Description**

**Architectural Classification**

Late Gothic Revival  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

**Materials**

foundation limestone  
 walls brick  
 roof asphalt  
 other sandstone  
 glass

**Narrative Description**

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

**8. Statement of Significance**

**Applicable National Register Criteria**

**A** Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history

**B** Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.

**C** Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.

**D** Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

**Criteria Considerations**

Property is:

**A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.

**B** removed from its original location.

**C** a birthplace or grave.

**D** a cemetery.

**E** a reconstructed building, object, or structure.

**F** a commemorative property.

**G** less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

**Areas of Significance**

Ethnic Heritage--Black

**Periods of Significance**

1921-1948

**Significant Dates**

n/a

**Significant Person(s)**

n/a

**Cultural Affiliation**

n/a

**Architect/Builder**

Robinson, W.B./T.J. Ward

Construction Company

**Narrative Statement of Significance**

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

**9. Major Bibliographic References**

**Bibliography**

(Cite the books, articles and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

**Previous documentation on file (NPS):**

preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested

previously listed in the National Register

previously determined eligible by the National Register

designated a National Historic Landmark

recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey

# \_\_\_\_\_

recorded by Historic American Engineering Record

# \_\_\_\_\_

**Primary location of additional data:**

State Historic Preservation Office

Other State Agency

Federal Agency

Local Government

University

Other:

Name of repository: Landmarks Association of St. Louis, Inc.

**10. Geographical Data**

**Acreage of Property** less than one acre

**UTM References**

A. Zone	Easting	Northing	B. Zone	Easting	Northing
15	740320	4282420			
C. Zone	Easting	Northing	D. Zone	Easting	Northing

[ ] See continuation sheet

**Verbal Boundary Description**

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

**Boundary Justification**

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title see continuation sheet  
organization \_\_\_\_\_ date \_\_\_\_\_  
street & number \_\_\_\_\_ telephone \_\_\_\_\_  
city or town \_\_\_\_\_ state MO zip code \_\_\_\_\_

**Additional Documentation**

Submit the following items with the completed form:

**Continuation Sheets**

**Maps**

- A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- A Sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

**Photographs**

Representative black and white photographs of the property.

**Additional Items**

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

**Property Owner**

(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

name Antioch Baptist Church  
street & number 4213 North Market Street telephone 314/535-1110  
city or town St. Louis state MO zip code 63113

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 7 Page 1

**Antioch Baptist Church**  
**St. Louis [Independent City], MO**  
**Historic and Architectural Resources of the Ville, St. Louis**

**Summary:** Antioch Baptist Church, 4213 North Market Street, St. Louis [Independent City], is an example of the Institutional Buildings property type in the associated multiple property submission "Historic and Architectural Resources of the Ville, St. Louis." Located on the north corner of North Market and Annie Malone Drive (formerly Goode) in City Block 3686, the Gothic-style two-story, red brick church has a random ashlar limestone foundation and dressed sandstone coping, window sills, buttress caps and hood moldings (photo #1). Gothic-arched and rectangular stained glass windows in two rows indicate the division of floor and balcony inside. The roofline is given added interest with false gables centering both street elevations and a crenelated corner tower. Completed in 1921, the church is in good condition. Despite a 1954-55 addition to the west, which houses education and office functions, the building retains high integrity on the primary exterior elevations and interior.

**Narrative:** Designed in 1920 by W. B. Robinson and built by T.J. Ward Construction Co., the cost of the building listed on the August 24, 1920 building permit was \$45,000; a caption above a picture of the church in the October 22, 1920 *St. Louis Argus* noted that its cost was to be "nearly \$55,000;" and a history written by the church put the final cost at \$74,041 (including the purchase price of the property and a \$3,000 organ). The cornerstone was laid in October ; construction was rapid and the new sanctuary was dedicated in May 1921.

The nearly square-shaped church, constructed of red brick, is five bays long on the south elevation and six on the east. The building is distinguished by buttresses at the corners and defining the doors and bays. Visual interest is added by slightly projecting bays at the center of both east and south elevations; their steep-pitched stepped gables, corbeled in a less pronounced imitation of the corner tower, pierce the roofline. Below, each has a large, tripartite, traceried Gothic-arched window above a tripartite flat-arched window. The square, crenelated corner tower is topped with a corbeled blind arcade with white stone diamond-shaped insets above. The primary entrance to the sanctuary is located in the east side of this tower, reached via a flight of steps. Additional entrances are located at the north end of the east elevation, the west end of the south elevation, and in the education annex to the west.

Two stacked rows of opaque stained glass windows on the east and south elevations reflect the division of interior space (balconies separating upper and lower levels on three sides of the sanctuary). Both upper and lower windows feature a lancet arch glass pattern; the lower set of windows, with the exception of those in the tower, feature this pattern within a rectangular frame; upper windows are within arched openings. Except for those in the projecting bays, all of the windows on the south and west sides are sash windows and appear to be or have been operable. The north side of the original building features a full-height protruding volume (corresponding to the baptismal font behind the altar) with one double-height lancet arch window to either side (photo # 2).

Attached to the west end of the building is a flat-roofed 1954-55 red brick education building with sandstone trim (Photo #3). Although modern in design, the addition fits well with the scale of the building and does not significantly reduce the impact of either of the two primary elevations. The education building replaced an earlier church building attached to the Antioch sanctuary to the west.

Antioch Baptist Church appears to be in good exterior condition and maintains a high degree of integrity. The few alterations other than the west addition include coverage of the stained glass with a protective

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**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section 7 Page 2

**Antioch Baptist Church  
St. Louis [Independent City], MO  
Historic and Architectural Resources of the Ville, St. Louis**

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clear layer (either glass or plastic); the addition of an air conditioning system and ductwork at the north side; replacement gutters and downspouts; and a hanging sign for the church above the east side entrance.

The interior of the church has also been well-maintained and seems to have had few alterations. A balcony which wraps the east, south, and west sides of the church is supported by slender iron columns. Pews, panelling and altar appear to be original, and the pipe organ is believed to be the same \$3,000 organ installed in 1920. Behind the pulpit is an important feature of the interior: a full-immersion baptismal font of concrete behind a clear glass window. The stained glass windows all appear to be original to the building.

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National Park Service

## NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 8 Page 3

**Antioch Baptist Church**  
**St. Louis [Independent City], MO**  
**Historic and Architectural Resources of the Ville, St. Louis**

**Summary:** Antioch Baptist Church, 4213 North Market Street, St. Louis [Independent City], is significant under Criterion A in the area of Ethnic Heritage for its importance to the black community of the Ville neighborhood and greater St. Louis. It represents the "Institutional Buildings" property type in the Historic and Architectural Resources of the Ville, St. Louis MPS; its cultural significance relates to the context "The Ville as a Center for Black Culture, 1910-1950." The history of Antioch Baptist Church has been closely linked with that of the Ville since 1878, when the congregation was organized. The African-American church was perhaps the most important social institution in a segregated society, allowing its members a degree of autonomy, self-determination, and security not available in other institutions and offering social benefits which extended well beyond the primary religious purpose of the church. The period of significance extends from the date of construction of the building in 1921 to the arbitrary fifty year cutoff date, 1948.

**Narrative:** Antioch Baptist Church was organized in 1878 at the home of William and Laura Coker on Wash (now Whittier) Street in what was then known as Elleardsville, a suburb recently incorporated into the City of St. Louis. Twelve members of the local black community formed the church and quickly gained new converts in the neighborhood. Soon after, the church moved into a building on Lambdin Avenue near Kennerly. After only a few years, the congregation acquired a site at 4215-17 Kennerly and built a small chapel at the back of the lot. A new frame church at the front of the lot (now the site of Turner School) was completed in 1885. The church was incorporated in 1884.

Under the Rev. Dr. William Lucas Perry, M.D., D.D., who served as pastor from 1907-1945, Antioch experienced its greatest period of growth. After a brief "pulpit vacancy" in 1907, Dr. Perry of the Chamber Street Baptist Church was asked to lead a revival. The results were so successful that he was invited to remain as pastor. Dr. Perry soon moved to 4452 Kennerly and became a community leader in the Ville, organizing support for a number of African-American institutions such as the St. Louis Colored Orphans Home and the Pine Street Y.M.C.A. Unusually accomplished for a black man of that period, Dr. Perry also held a medical degree and apparently continued to practice medicine after he accepted the Antioch ministry.

The black population of the Ville grew dramatically from World War I onwards as the application of race-restrictive covenants prevented blacks from living in many other areas of north St. Louis. After purchasing the predominantly white Goode Avenue Methodist Episcopal Church in 1909 for \$6,000 (located on the present site of Antioch's Educational Building), the church continued to expand. When fund raising for a new sanctuary began in 1915, the congregation had nearly 500 members. By the October 1920 cornerstone laying ceremony, the congregation had swelled to over 700 members. An architect's drawing and Sanborn maps show that the 1920 sanctuary was attached to the original Goode Avenue church instead of replacing it.

The dedication of the new sanctuary on May 1, 1921 was marked by festivities, speeches, and a parade from Sumner high school to the new building.<sup>1</sup> A period of expansion and activity followed over the next several decades. Several choirs, including the Junior Choir and the Angelus Singers performed both in

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<sup>1</sup>"New Antioch Bapt. Church Opening Sunday at 2 P.M." *St. Louis Argus*, April 29, 1921.

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## NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 8 Page 4

**Antioch Baptist Church**  
**St. Louis [Independent City], MO**  
**Historic and Architectural Resources of the Ville, St. Louis**

and out of church. Toward the end of the Depression, the church sponsored Boy Scout and Girl Scout troops and organized wartime drives. Dr. Perry died in December 1945 and was replaced by his assistant, Rev. James E. Cook. Rev. Cook's record of achievement included the erection of a new Christian education Building which replaced the original Goode Avenue Church in 1954.

In 1948 the landmark Supreme Court decision in *Shelley v. Kramer* declared race-restrictive covenants illegal, and middle-class blacks began to move into areas of north St. Louis outside of the Ville. In the 1960s a number of those same middle-class families would follow the general exodus out of the city as large numbers of poor blacks displaced by urban renewal in the central east-west corridor moved into northside neighborhoods. As property values fell and overall population in the Ville declined, Antioch decided nonetheless less to remain in its historic location.

The decision to stay has not hurt Antioch, however; current membership exceeds 2000 and the church is financially healthy. Antioch's three-story crenelated corner tower has become a symbol of stability in an area with a relatively high demolition rate. Most church members live outside the Ville; some according to a church deacon, live as far away as Illinois and St. Charles County, Missouri. Many are long-time members who maintained ties to the church after leaving the Ville. The present pastor is Rev. Dr. William Collins, who has held the post since 1961.

Although church anniversary programs claim that the earliest Antioch building was the first house of worship in the former Elleardsville, Compton & Dry's 1875 map clearly shows at least one other church, located in fact only two blocks from the present Antioch site. Without doubt, however, Antioch Baptist Church is one of the oldest and most respected black institutions in the Ville. The present building is the only one associated with this historic congregation. Antioch's presence in the Ville today is an important link to the neighborhood's past and a part of the foundation for its future.



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## NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 9, 10 Page 5

Antioch Baptist Church  
St. Louis [Independent City], MO  
Historic and Architectural Resources of the Ville, St. Louis

### 9. Major Bibliographic References

- "The 96th Anniversary of Antioch Baptist Church." Pamphlet, 1974
- "100th Anniversary Celebration of Antioch Baptist Church." Souvenir Program, 1979
- City of St. Louis Building Permits for City Block 3686 (microfilm), City of St. Louis Office of the Comptroller.
- Kelleher, Daniel T. "St. Louis' 1916 Residential Segregation Ordinance," Bulletin of the Missouri Historical Society, 26 (3): 239-248.
- "New Antioch Bapt. Church Opening Sunday at 2 P.M." St. Louis Argus, 4/29/1921.
- "New Antioch Baptist Church." St. Louis Argus. 10/22/1920.
- Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps of St. Louis, v. 7 for 1909, 1951, 1961. Sanborn Fire Insurance Company.
- "Building News," St. Louis Daily Record, 8/25/1920.
- Toft, Carolyn Hewes, ed. The Ville: The Ethnic Heritage of an Urban Neighborhood. St. Louis: Social Science Institute, Washington University, 1975.
- Vose, Clement E. Caucasian Only: The Supreme Court, the NAACP, and the Restrictive Covenant Cases. Berkeley: University of California Press, 1959.
- Wright, John A. Discovering African American St. Louis: A Guide to Historic Sites. St. Louis: Missouri Historical Society Press, 1994.

### 10. Geographical Data

**Verbal Boundary Description:** The nominated property consists of Lots 15 and 16 in Block 17 of the Subdivision of the Wash Estate (City Block 3686) in the City of St. Louis, measuring 100' (along the Annie Malone Drive frontage) x 130' (along North Market Street.)

**Boundary Justification:** The boundary includes the two lots historically associated with the building. The sanctuary and its addition are included.

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**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

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**Antioch Baptist Church  
St. Louis [Independent City], MO  
Historic and Architectural Resources of the Ville, St. Louis**

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1. John Saunders and Lynn Josse  
Landmarks Association of St. Louis, Inc.  
917 Locust Street, 7th Floor  
St. Louis MO 63101  
314/421-6474  
January 1998  
original draft nomination, items 1-11
  
2. Steven E. Mitchell  
Assistant Director  
Historic Preservation Program  
Division of State Parks  
Department of Natural Resources  
P.O. Box 176  
Jefferson City, MO 65102  
573/751-4692  
November 1998  
editor, items 1-11

HISTORIC & ARCHITECTURAL RESOURCES OF

THE VILLE, ST. LOUIS (MPS)

ANTIOCH BAPTIST CHURCH

4213 W. NORTH MARKET

ST. LOUIS (INDEPENDENT CITY), MO

BY: CYNTHIA LONGWISCH

NEG: LANDMARKS ASSOC. OF ST. LOUIS, INC

DATE: 9/1997

FACING N/NW

# 1 of 3



HISTORIC ARCHITECTURAL RESOURCES  
OF THE VILLE, ST. LOUIS

ANTIOCH BAPTIST CHURCH

4213 W. NORTH MARKET

ST. LOUIS (INDEPENDENT CITY), MO

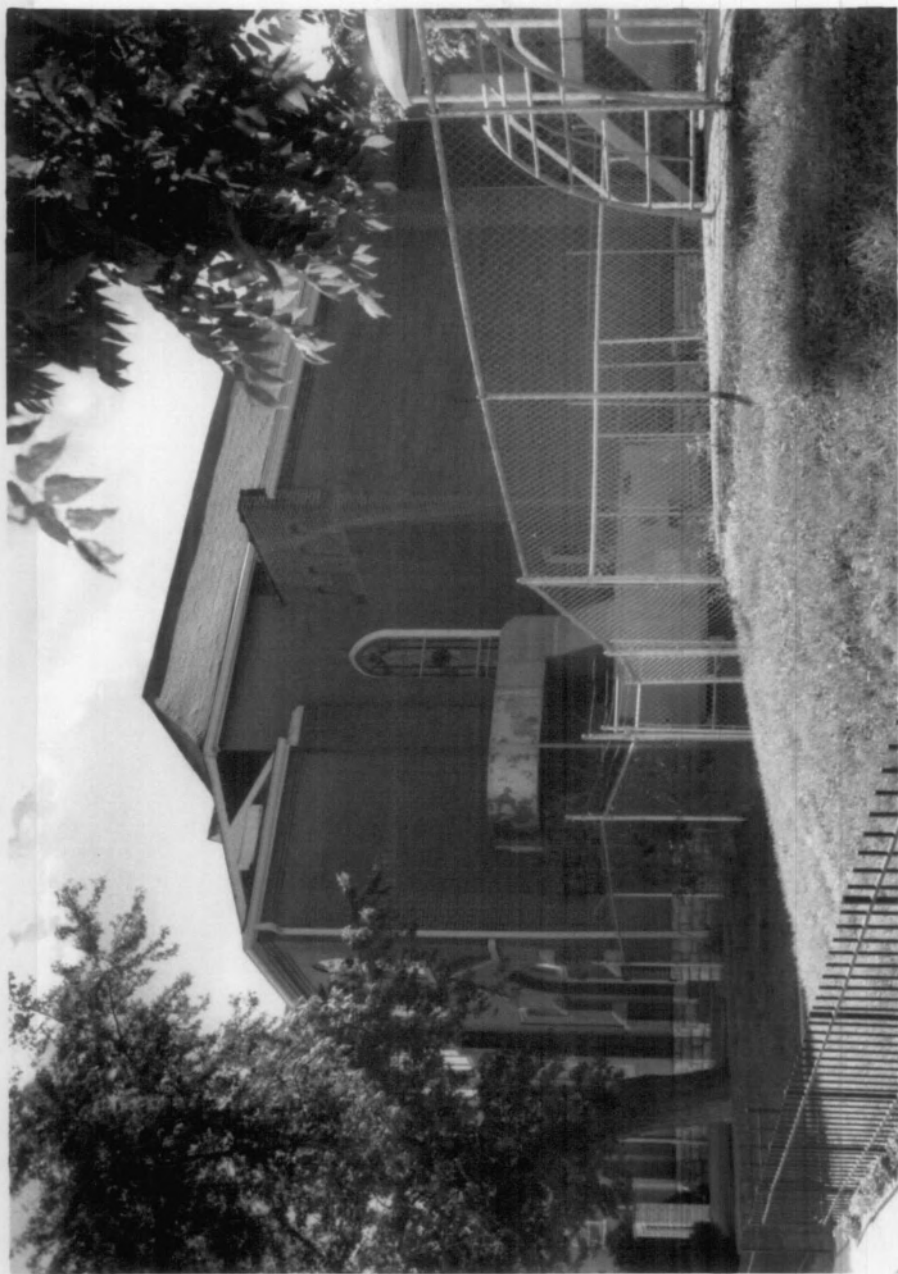
BY: CYNTHIA LONGWISH

NEG. LANDMARKS ASSOC OF ST. LOUIS

DATE: 9/1997

FACING ~~WEST~~ W/SW

# 2 of 3



HISTORIC & ARCHITECTURAL RESOURCES OF  
THE VILLE, ST LOUIS (INDEPENDENT CITY)

ANTIOCH BAPTIST CHURCH  
2401 ANNIE MALONE DRIVE

ST LOUIS (INDEPENDENT CITY) MO

BY: CYNTHIA LONGWISCH

DATE: 12/1906

NOTE: LANDMARKS ASSOC OF ST LOUIS, INC.

FACING: E/NE - SIDE ELEVATIONS

#3 of 3

