

AN ORDINANCE DESIGNATING THE PROPERTY OF First Baptist Church

LOCATED AT North Salisbury and West Edenton Streets

IN THE CITY OF RALEIGH, NORTH CAROLINA, A HISTORIC SITE.

WHEREAS, the General Assembly of the State of North Carolina authorized the creation of a Historic Sites Commission for the City of Raleigh and otherwise provided for the preservation of certain historic sites and buildings by the passage of Chapter 1058 of the 1967 Session Laws of North Carolina; and

WHEREAS, the Raleigh Historic Sites Commission has made an investigation and recommended the following property be designated a Historic Site; and

WHEREAS, the North Carolina State Department of Archives and History has made an analysis and recommendation that the following property be designated a historic site; and

WHEREAS, on the 16 day of April, 1968, a joint public hearing was held in the Council Chambers of the Municipal Building, Raleigh, North Carolina, by the Historic Sites Commission and the City Council of the City of Raleigh to determine whether the hereinafter described property should be designated a historic site; and

WHEREAS, said hearing was advertised and the property owners of the property hereinafter described were notified by certified mail of the date and purpose of said public hearing at least ten (10) days prior to the date set for the hearing; and

WHEREAS, all requirements of Chapter 1058 of the 1967 Session Laws of North Carolina, preceding the adoption of this ordinance, have been complied with.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF RALEIGH THAT:

Section 1. The Property of First Baptist Church

Located at North Salisbury and West Edenton Streets  
in the City of Raleigh, North Carolina, be and is hereby declared a historic site.  
Said property being more particularly described as follows:

BEGINNING at the corner of Salisbury and Edenton Streets - the North-Western corner of the Capitol Square in the City of Raleigh - N.  $87\frac{3}{4}^{\circ}$  W. 127 feet, thence S.  $2\frac{1}{2}^{\circ}$  W. 25 feet  
Thence N.  $87\frac{3}{4}^{\circ}$  E. 59 feet, Thence S.  $2\frac{1}{2}^{\circ}$  W.  $3\frac{1}{2}$  feet - thence S.  $87\frac{3}{4}^{\circ}$  E. 68 feet to  
Salisbury Street - Thence N.  $2\frac{1}{2}^{\circ}$  E.  $90\frac{1}{2}$  feet, to the beginning containing one quarter of  
an acre or thereabouts.

Section 2. No building or structure located on the hereinbefore described site may be demolished or materially altered unless and until a sixty-day (60) written notice to the Historic Sites Commission of the intent to demolish or materially alter said structure, and the elapsing of said sixty-day (60) period.

Section 3. That all owners and occupants of the property hereinabove described, whose identity and addresses can be ascertained by the exercise of due diligence be sent by certified mail a copy of this ordinance.

Section 4. This ordinance shall be indexed under the property owner's name in the grantor index in the Office of the Register of Deeds of Wake County as provided by Chapter 1058 of the 1967 Session Laws of North Carolina.

Section 5. City administration and the Historic Sites Commission are hereby authorized and directed to have erected an appropriate sign on the site hereinabove described setting forth the fact that said site has been designated a historic site by action of the Historic Sites Commission and the City Council of the City of Raleigh, provided, should the owners of the hereinabove described property not consent to the erection of said sign on the described premises, City administration and the Historic Sites Commission are hereby authorized and directed to have said sign located on the public right of way adjacent to said property.

Section 6. Any violation of this ordinance shall be unlawful as by law provided.

Adopted: 6/16/69

#### CERTIFICATION

I, Mary D. Lassiter, City Clerk and Treasurer of the City of Raleigh, North Carolina, do hereby certify the foregoing to be a true copy of a ordinance duly adopted at a regular meeting of the City Council held on the 16th day of June, 1969

IN WITNESS WHEREOF I have hereunto set my hand and have caused the Seal of the City of Raleigh to be affixed this 26th day of June, 1969.



*Mary D. Lassiter*  
 Filed for Clerk and Treasurer *10:05 A.M.*  
 JUN 26 1969 19          and registered in the  
 Office of the Register of Deeds for Wake County  
 North Carolina, in Book 1883 Page 333  
 \_\_\_\_\_, 19         

*J. A. Rowland*  
 REGISTER OF DEEDS  
*Louise J. Jurek* DEPUTY

## THE FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

The First Baptist Church, dedicated in 1859, occupies the southwest corner of Edenton and Salisbury Streets, opposite Union Square. It is one of four churches bounding the square, a tradition in Raleigh since 1826.

Designed by William Percival, a noted nineteenth century architect, the First Baptist Church is an important example of the then popular Gothic Revival style of architecture. Percival departed from the characteristic picturesque irregularity of the style and adopted a symmetrical composition for the brick building. The pointed, soaring central spire dominates the front (east) facade of the building and features a rose window above the main entrance. The traditional cruciform plan is evident, with the crossings emphatically expressed in the steep gabled transepts. The main level of the building rests on a high basement. Originally the brick facades were stuccoed and deeply scored to represent stone building blocks. Today they are smoothly stuccoed, dramatizing the buttresses, weatherings and label molds, creating sharp contrasts of light and shadow.

Many additions and renovations have occurred over the past century, however, none have enhanced the character of the original church building as successfully as the most recent additions designed by the Raleigh architecture firm of Haskins and Rice in the 1960s. Inspired by the design forms of the Gothic Revival style, the architects created an addition which injects a new vitality into the church. Harmony of color, proportion and ornament have resulted in a sensitive blending of old and new architecture.

The first Baptist Church of Raleigh was organized in 1812 by 23 members of the

Cool Spring Baptist Church of Wake County. These members, listed in church records as five "white male", five "white female", five "colored male" and nine "colored female", held their first services in the State House. Over the years the church prospered in various locations in the city and in 1856, under the pastorate of Reverend Doctor Thomas E. Skinner, the construction of the present church building began. Dr. Skinner came to Raleigh from Petersburg, Virginia and perhaps had become acquainted with the work of architect William Percival there, as he had practiced architecture and civil engineering there before being commissioned to design the First Baptist Church.

This well-known landmark opposite the Capitol Building is the mother church of several Baptist churches in Raleigh. The First Baptist Church is an architecturally beautiful symbol of the successful establishment of one of the major religious institutions in Raleigh.