

AN ORDINANCE DESIGNATING THE PROPERTY OF TABERNACLE BAPTIST CHURCH LOCATED AT 219-223 EAST HARGETT STREET IN THE CITY OF RALEIGH, NORTH CAROLINA, A HISTORIC PROPERTY

WHEREAS, the General Assembly of the State of North Carolina authorized the creation of a Historic Properties Commission for the City of Raleigh and otherwise provided for the preservation of certain historic sites and buildings by the passage of Part 3B, Article 19, Chapter 160A North Carolina General Statutes; and

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

WHEREAS, the North Carolina State Department for Cultural Resources has made an analysis and recommendation that the following property be designated a historic property; and

WHEREAS, on the 4th day of September, 1979, a joint public hearing was held in the Council Chambers of the Municipal Building, Raleigh, North Carolina, by the Historic Properties Commission and the City Council of the City of Raleigh to determine whether the hereinafter described property should be designated a historic property; and

WHEREAS, said hearing was advertised and the property owners of the property hereinafter described were notified by 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 Part 3B, Article 19, Chapter 160A of the North Carolina General Statutes, 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 Tabernacle Baptist Church located at 219-223 East Hargett Street, in the planning jurisdiction in the City of Raleigh, North Carolina, be and is hereby declared a historic property. Said property being more particularly described as follows:

Block A-67, Lots 14 & 15, containing approximately 40,202.8 square feet, deed recorded in Book 536, Page 518, Wake County Courthouse.

Section 2. Those elements of the property that are integral to its historical, architectural, archaeological, or any combination thereof are as follows:

TABERNACLE BAPTIST CHURCH, 1881 TO 1909  
219-223 East Hargett Street

The Tabernacle Baptist Church is a building characterized by a balanced, yet asymmetrical composition resulting from incremental growth through six remodelings from 1881 to 1909. The present Late Gothic Revival building is the work of James Matthew Kennedy, a noted early twentieth-century Raleigh architect. The main (south) facade contains three square towers, each increasing in height from west to east with pointed-arch windows, a one-story loggia, and a crenelated tower. Two gable-roofed blocks are separated by the towers. The east block, the nave, is proportionally larger than its western counterpart. The building is constructed of brick, scored and stuccoed to imitate smooth ashlar masonry.

Section 3. No building or structure that is designated in this ordinance located on the hereinbefore described site may be altered, restored, moved, remodeled, or reconstructed so that a change in design, material or outer appearance occurs unless and until a certificate of appropriateness is obtained from the Raleigh Historic Properties Commission or its successors.

Section 4. No building or structure which is designated in this ordinance on the hereinbefore described site may be demolished unless and until either approval of demolition is obtained from the Raleigh Historic Properties Commission or, after the Commission has received a completed request for demolition, one-hundred and eighty (180) days have elapsed.

Section 5. 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 6. This ordinance shall be indexed under the property owner's name in the grantor and grantee indexes in the Office of the Register of Deeds of Wake County.

Section 7. City administration and the Historic Properties 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 property by action of the Historic Properties 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 Properties Commission are hereby authorized and directed to have said sign located on the public right-of-way adjacent to said property.

Section 8. In the event any building or structure is demolished in accordance with the ordinances of the City of Raleigh, this ordinance shall automatically be null and void.

Section 9. Any violation of this ordinance shall be unlawful as by law provided.

Adopted: 9/4/79

Effective: 9/4/79

CCLK/34tp

Distribution: City Manager  
City Attorney  
Planning Department (2)  
Inspections Division (3)  
Historic Properties Commission  
Wake County Tax Supervisor  
Wake County Tax Collector  
Property Owner and/or Occupant  
Register of Deeds

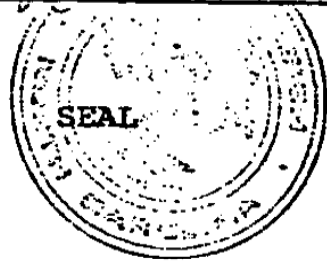
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA )  
COUNTY OF WAKE )

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CERTIFICATION

I, Gail G. Smith, City Clerk and Treasurer of the City of Raleigh, North Carolina, do hereby certify that the attached is a true and exact copy of Ordinance No. (1979) 205 adopted by the City Council at their meeting held on September 4, 1979.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and have caused the Seal of the City of Raleigh to be affixed this 30 day of November, 1979.



*Gail G. Smith*  
Gail G. Smith  
City Clerk and Treasurer

Filed for registration at 3:15 PM o'clock 3 day of December, 1979,  
and registered in the office of the Register of Deeds for Wake County,  
in Book 2791, Page 70, December 3, 1979.

R. B. MCKENZIE, JR.

*Jayce S. Johnson*  
Register of Deeds  
Deputy

TABERNACLE BAPTIST CHURCH (118 South Person Street)

The Tabernacle Baptist Church occupies the southeast corner of Hargett and Person Streets. The main elevation faces Moore Square, one of the two remaining downtown parks which were laid out in 1792 in the original plan of the city of Raleigh.

The Late Gothic Revival building is characterized by a balanced, yet asymmetrical composition. This is the result of the incremental growth of the original building since its erection in 1881. The church underwent six remodelings from 1881 to 1909 before it obtained the appearance it has today. The building is constructed of brick, scored and stuccoed to imitate smooth ashlar masonry.

The main (south) facade presents a geometric progression of architectural elements. Three square towers, each increasing in height from west to east, punctuate the facade. Two gable-roofed blocks are separated by the towers. The east block, the nave, is proportionally larger than its western counterpart.

The word "tabernacle" often refers to a temporary place of worship, an appropriate term for the Tabernacle Baptist Church of Raleigh since it has a history of relocation and remodeling. The church was formally organized on November 15, 1874 when 10 members of the First Baptist Church left the congregation to form the Swain Street Baptist Church, which was located between Swain and Davie Streets.

The first brick church was erected between 1879 and 1881. This modest Gothic Revival Church, known as the Second Baptist Church, was a simple

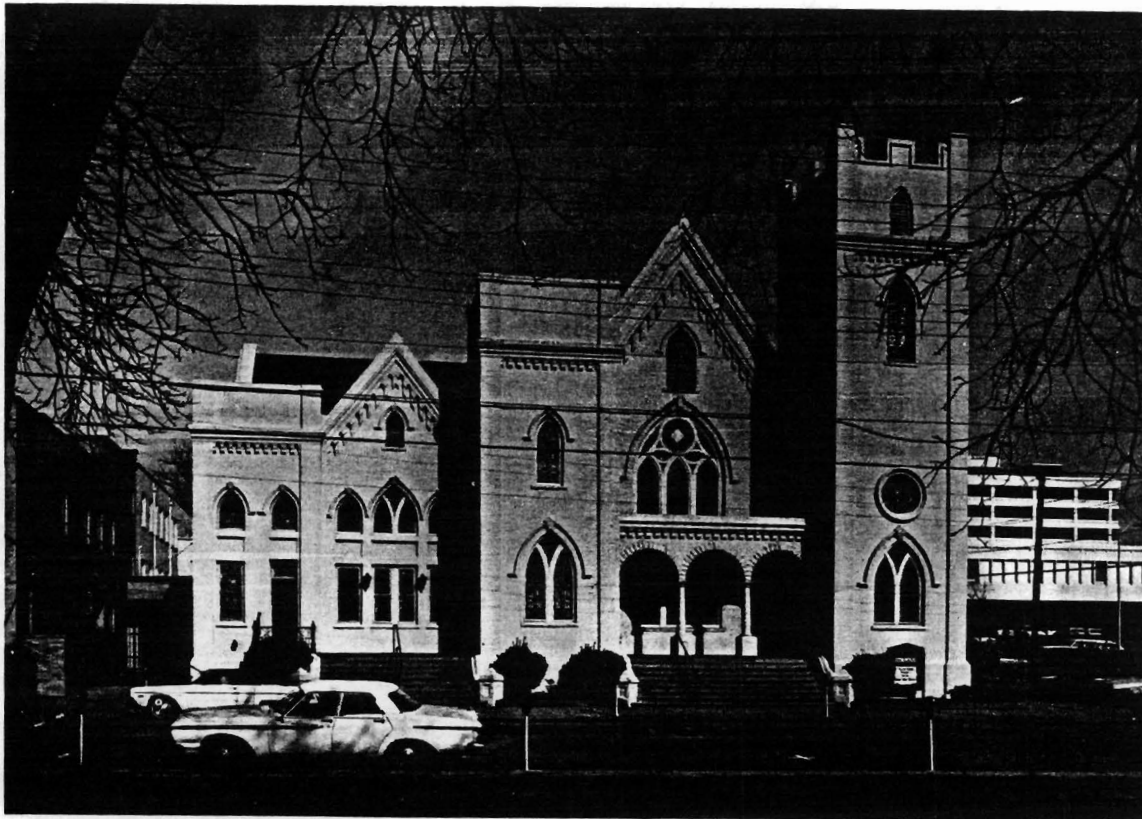
gable-front building with a projecting central tower. The first alterations to the building were directed by Pastor Thomas Dixon, Jr., renowned for his book The Clansman. It was under Reverend Dixon's pastorate that the name of the church was changed to Tabernacle Baptist. The church underwent a final remodeling in 1909.

James Matthew Kennedy, a Raleigh architect, was contracted in 1909 to renovate the church and to double the seating capacity. Kennedy's plans called for the addition of the transverse wings, the main facade loggia and the southwestern block and stair tower. In order to give the face-lift of the church a unified appearance, Kennedy stuccoed the exterior walls.

The Tabernacle Baptist Church is one of the landmarks of the Moore Square area. Across the eighteenth century wooded park stands another fine building of James Matthew Kennedy's design, the City Market. Kennedy (1880-1948), a native of Wayne County, received the fundamental training for his architectural career at the Agricultural and Mechanics College in Raleigh (now North Carolina State University), graduating in 1903. The early years of his building career were centered around the railroad industry. A Raleigh Chamber of Commerce report of 1910, "Raleigh Illustrated", states that Kennedy was the assistant building superintendent of the Atlantic Coast Line from Richmond to Savannah, and shortly thereafter the architect for the Norfolk and Southern road. This line had headquarters in Raleigh and Kennedy remained here to establish a private practice in 1907. Kennedy designed many notable buildings in Raleigh aside from the two outstanding ones on Moore Square. Among these are the Raleigh Woman's Club (destroyed 1960s) and Murphy School on Person Street. Kennedy was versatile and also designed many residences in the city.

Perhaps the most intriguing fact about the Tabernacle Baptist Church is that it was never destroyed and rebuilt; its picturesque appearance results from over twenty years of renovations and additions. The expansion of the building traces the gradual evolution of a small congregation into one of Raleigh's major centers of worship.

This statement of significance is taken from An Architectural and Historical Inventory of Raleigh, North Carolina (1978), p. 71.



## TABERNACLE BAPTIST CHURCH

The Tabernacle Baptist Church occupies the northwest corner of Hargett and Person streets. The main elevation faces Moore Square, one of the two remaining downtown parks which were laid out in 1792 in the original plan of the city of Raleigh.

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