

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICENATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

SEP 24 1976

DATE ENTERED

DEC 22 1976

DATA SHEET

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

## 1 NAME

HISTORIC  Antioch Missionary Baptist Church

AND/OR COMMON

Antioch Baptist Church

## 2 LOCATION

STREET &amp; NUMBER 313 Robin St.

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

CITY, TOWN Houston

VICINITY OF

STATE

Texas

CODE  
048COUNTY  
HarrisCODE  
201

## 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	<b>PUBLIC ACQUISITION</b>	<b>ACCESSIBLE</b>	<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 Antioch Baptist Church

STREET &amp; NUMBER

313 Robin

CITY, TOWN

Houston

VICINITY OF

STATE

Texas

## 5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Harris County Courthouse

STREET &amp; NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Houston

STATE

Texas

## 6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE Historic Sites Inventory

DATE

Jan. 1975

FEDERAL  STATE  COUNTY  LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

Texas Historical Commission

CITY, TOWN

Austin

STATE

Texas

## 7 DESCRIPTION

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

### DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Located in the midst of what was once a vital black settlement on the west side of downtown, Antioch Missionary Baptist Church now stands as the final reminder of that important segment of Houston's Black history. As Houston's business district began to expand into this area in the 1950's, the small Black residential and business community gradually disappeared. Today Antioch Church stands on a tiny lot amidst ground-level commercial parking. A couple of blocks to the east, the multi-story Allen Center Office Building and the Regency Hyatt Hotel stand as the now predominant building scale for the area. Only two blocks to the north is Sam Houston Park displaying examples of 19th century Houston homes, while the freeway runs within two blocks of the church to the west.

A simple one-story frame rectangular building formed the first meeting place for the church in 1867 at the corner of Rusk and Bagby Streets, 6 blocks north of the present church site. With the increased enrollment, the church voted to buy new land in 1873 on Robin Street, the present location of Antioch Baptist Church. Between 1875-1879 Richard Allen, a contractor and member of Antioch, built a one-story brick building, 70' x 40', which served as the church building until the 1890's.

The decade of the 1890's saw the enlargement of the building to its present form. The congregation voted in 1891 to accept the bid of Robert Jones to enlarge the church, but Rev. Yates, Antioch's minister since 1868, resigned due to his objection over borrowing the money to complete the remodeling. For three years the church was without leadership and the plans were discontinued. However, in 1894, the church members chose Rev. Frederick Lee Lights as the new minister and he began to finalize plans for remodeling the church.

Enlarged from the original one-story building, the new Antioch Missionary Baptist Church was basically a two-story brick T-shaped building with gabled wings at the north (front), west and south facades. A semi-octagonal bay projected on a portion of the east facade. Rising from the intersection of the north and west wings a three-story brick tower crowned by a slender wooden belfry and steeple dominated the structure. At the first floor of the front gable and tower were two double wooden doors with a pointed arched transom. Above each of these entrances was a grouping of two small

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NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
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DEC 22 1976

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 1

lancet windows and above them a round window with star motif. Flanking the east side of the central door was a small rectangular window on the first level and a narrow lancet window on the second level. Molded brick pilasters divided the gable into three bays, while buttresses formed the corner supports on the tower.

The west, south and east facades contained similar apertures with rectangular openings on the first floor and lancet windows across the second floor. Brick pilasters divided these elevations into bays, while buttresses marked the corners of the semi-octagonal bay at the east.

A storm in 1915 blew the steeple off the original tower and it was replaced by a brick addition. The dentilled cornice and pedimented roof crowning the original brick portion were removed and a square brick addition replaced the original wooden belfry and spire. Two lancet windows formed the opening in the new addition and buttresses were added to support the corners. A parapet completed the tower with small spire projections at each corner.

Further remodelings in the 1930's replaced the grouping of small lancet windows and circular window on the gabled wings and in the upper portion of the tower with a large stained glass, pointed arched window. A one-story, pitch-roofed entrance vestibule was attached to the west of the tower and some two-story additions were made at the southeast and southwest (rear) corners of the church. The original brick was plastered and scored.

The interior plan contains the auditorium and offices on the first floor, while the sanctuary takes up most of the 2nd-story space. The pulpit rests in the octagonal wing on the east and the pews are arranged in a semi-circle around the pulpit. The sanctuary floor slopes to the pulpit providing a good viewing space from any seat. Enclosed at the southwest are a choir room and finance room, at the southeast are the pastor's study and a small chapel, and at the northeast corner is the baptismal.

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ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 2

Open beam ceilings follow the contour of the pitched roof, dropped in the center to form a flat ridge. The pointed arched, stained glass windows, visible on the 2nd floor of the exterior, light the sanctuary. A unique feature of these windows is the circular brown stained glass in the center of the windows that display the portraits of prominent figures associated with the church.

## 8 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 checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		Black history

SPECIFIC DATES 1875-79, 1895

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

Richard Allen, Robert Jones

### STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Antioch Missionary Baptist Church has important historical significance both to Houston and to the city's Black community. One of the oldest remaining buildings in the downtown area, the church represents a part of 19th century Houston that is fast disappearing from the city's architectural landscape. To Houston's Black community, the church's significance arises from its being the oldest Black Baptist Church in the city and the mother church for succeeding Black Baptist congregations. In addition, the church is associated with several important historical leaders in the Black community and did pioneering work in the field of Black education in Houston. As one of the few structures that chronicles the contribution of Blacks to 19th century Houston, Antioch Baptist Church represents an epoch of ethnic history that figures prominently into the development of the city.

Antioch Missionary Baptist Church was organized in January 1866 as the first Black Baptist Church in Houston. The first services were held in the First Baptist Church and the German Baptist Church, but by August 1866 the members built a brush arbor on the banks of the Buffalo Bayou as a place to worship. Rev. I. S. Campbell, a Black Missionary sent by the White Baptist Miss. Society, ministered to this new group and by the following Spring, the membership had greatly increased and a large frame structure was built at the corner of Rusk and Bagby Streets.

A friend of Rev. Campbell's, Rev. John Henry Yates, was chosen in 1868, shortly after his ordination by Campbell, as the first full time pastor of Antioch. A native of Virginia, Rev. Yates was born a slave and moved to Matagorda County, Texas, in 1863 or 1864. Following Texas Emancipation in 1865, he settled his family in the young city of Houston. Yates became a property owner and continued to invest in land throughout the 19th century. He tirelessly urged his congregation to invest their meager savings in Fourth Ward real estate and become property owners. Yates was also responsible for persuading his congregation to purchase a site with the Trinity Methodist Church to use as a park commemorating Texas Emancipation Day, June 19, 1865.

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By 1873, the frame structure was too small to accommodate the growing congregation and the trustees voted to purchase land for a new building. Two lots were purchased on Antioch's present site and Richard Allen was chosen as the builder. The foundation was laid in 1875 for the one-story brick structure on Robin Street and was finally completed in August 1879.

The church's builder, Richard Allen, was born in Virginia and later moved to Texas. After Emancipation, he settled his family in Harris County. A contractor and bridge builder by profession, Allen was also a prominent political figure. During Reconstruction, Allen was elected from Harris County to the 12th Legislative Session in 1870-71, the first Texas Legislature in which Blacks served. He continued in local politics as Customs Collector of the Port of Houston, City Alderman and City Scavenger. He was the first Grand Master of the Colored Masons of Texas and was a presidential elector every term until four years prior to his death in 1911.

Antioch Baptist Church under Rev. Yates' guidance was also a pioneer in the field of Black education. As one of the initial contributors toward the establishment of Bishop College, a school for Blacks founded in Texas by Nathan Bishop of New York, Rev. Yates tried to have the institution located in Houston. He was disappointed when Marshall was selected as the site in 1881. However, in 1885, the Northern Baptist Convention sent two white missionaries, Florence Dysart, and Jennie L. Peck, to the Antioch Missionary Baptist Church and helped Rev. Yates establish the Houston Baptist Academy in 1885. The Academy (later known as Houston College) was identified variously in the Houston City Directories as a private literary, industrial and ministerial school for Blacks and operated through the 1920's.

In 1891, Antioch voted to remodel their church, but activities were stalled after Rev. Yates resigned that year. The second full time pastor, Rev. Frederick L. Lights, took over as minister of Antioch in 1894. Rev. Lights began to finalize plans for completing the church alterations. The structure was enlarged to a two-story brick edifice during the first years of his pastorate and has maintained this basic

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ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 2

shape through the 20th century. Serving the Antioch community from 1894-1921, Rev. Lights became a recognized leader in local, state and national religious, educational and civic affairs. For many years he served as President of the Foreign Mission Convention of Texas and an officer in the National Baptist Convention. In addition, he was President of the General Board of Trustees of Missionary and Educational Convention, President of the Minister's Alliance of Houston and Treasurer of Old Land Mark Association. His educational interests engaged him as the Chairman of the Board of Trustees for the Houston Baptist Academy and he also assisted in the establishment of The Western Star, a weekly Black newspaper in Dallas and Houston. Finally, Rev. Lights was recognized as a leader in the business community by being chosen as President of the Oregon Bank, a bank for Blacks in the vicinity of Antioch Church.

Throughout the 20th century the Antioch Baptist Church has continued to provide leadership in religious, educational, and civic activities. Once the center of a cohesive Black settlement, Antioch Baptist Church now finds itself surrounded by parking lots and dwarfed by nearby modern construction. As surrounding buildings have fallen victim to the downtown expansion, the historic Antioch Missionary Baptist Church remains one of the few tangible reminders of the contributions of Blacks to 19th century Houston.

## 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Brewer, J. Mason, Negro Legislators of Texas; and Their Descendents.  
Austin, Jenkins Publishing Co., The Pemberton Press, reprinted  
1970.

Brooks, Hunter, "Antioch Missionary Baptist Church of Christ,"  
unpublished history of the church, 1976.

## 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY less than one

UTM REFERENCES

A 1,5 27,1 3,1,0 3,2,9,3,18,6,0  
ZONE EASTING NORTHING

B           
ZONE EASTING NORTHING

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
-------	------	--------	------

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
-------	------	--------	------

## 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE Marie D. Landon, Historian

Joe R. Williams, Project Director

ORGANIZATION

DATE

Texas Historical Commission

8-20-76

STREET & NUMBER

TELEPHONE

Box 12276, Capitol Station

512 475-3094

CITY OR TOWN

STATE

Austin

Texas

## 12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL   

STATE   

LOCAL X

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 Texas State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE 9/21/96

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

DATE 12/22/96

ATTEST:

DATE 12/21/96

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

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ITEM NUMBER 9 PAGE 1

Houston City Directories, 1886-1930, Houston: Houston Public Library, Texas Room.

Scott, Emmett J., The Red Book of Houston; A Compendium of Social, Professional, Religious, Educational and Industrial Interests of Houston's Colored Population. Houston: Sotex Publishing Company, 1915.

Whiting, Mrs. Martha, Historical data including newspaper clippings, 1976.

Property Antioch Missionary Baptist Church

State Texas Working Number 9.24.76.4185

76002038  
Harris

**TECHNICAL**

Photos 7  
Maps 1

*no sketches*

**CONTROL**

*pal*  
9.27.76

**HISTORIAN**

*accept  
P. Grawem  
11/4/76*

**ARCHITECTURAL HISTORIAN**

*Accept  
M. Hurz  
11-23-76*

**ARCHEOLOGIST**

**OTHER**

**HAER**

Inventory \_\_\_\_\_

Review \_\_\_\_\_

**REVIEW UNIT CHIEF**

*Acting*  
**BRANCH CHIEF**

*Accept  
Cole  
11/26/76*

**KEEPER**

*Wm  
12/20/74*

National Register Write-up \_\_\_\_\_

Send-back \_\_\_\_\_

Entered DEC 22 1976

Federal Register Entry 2-1-77

Re-submit \_\_\_\_\_

INT:2106-74



A

OCT 7 1976

PHOTO #1 *47*

Antioch Missionary Baptist Church  
North Elevation

Photo By: Mike Yancey, 9-76  
Texas Historical Commission

*Harris Co., Texas*

PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

NPS Number *104*

DEC 22 1976

Title: *9-76*  
*ecy*

Loc. \_\_\_\_\_



JESUS SAVES

AMPCO/  
AUTOMOTIVE  
PARKING INC.  
659-8224

CONTRACT  
PARKING ONLY

OCT 7 1976

PHOTO #2 of 7

Antioch Missionary Baptist Church  
Northwest Oblique

Photo By: Mike Yancey, 9-76  
Texas Historical Commission

Harris Co. Texas

NPS Number DEC 22 1976

Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Loc. \_\_\_\_\_

PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER



— covered  
7-76

OCT 7 1976

PHOTO #3 ✓ 7

# Antioch Missionary Baptist Church

## East Elevation

Photo By: Mike Yancey, 9-76  
Texas Historical Commission

Harris Co., Texas

Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Loc. \_\_\_\_\_

—



2nd  
T, 9-76

OCT 7 1976

PHOTO #4 of 7  
Antioch Missionary Baptist Church  
Southeast Oblique  
Photo By: Mike Yancey, 9-76  
Texas Historical Commission

PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

NPS Number DEC 22 1976

Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Loc. \_\_\_\_\_



9-76

OCT 7 1976

PHOTO #5 of 7

Antioch Missionary Baptist Church  
Southwest Oblique

Photo By: Mike Yancey, 9-76  
Texas Historical Commission

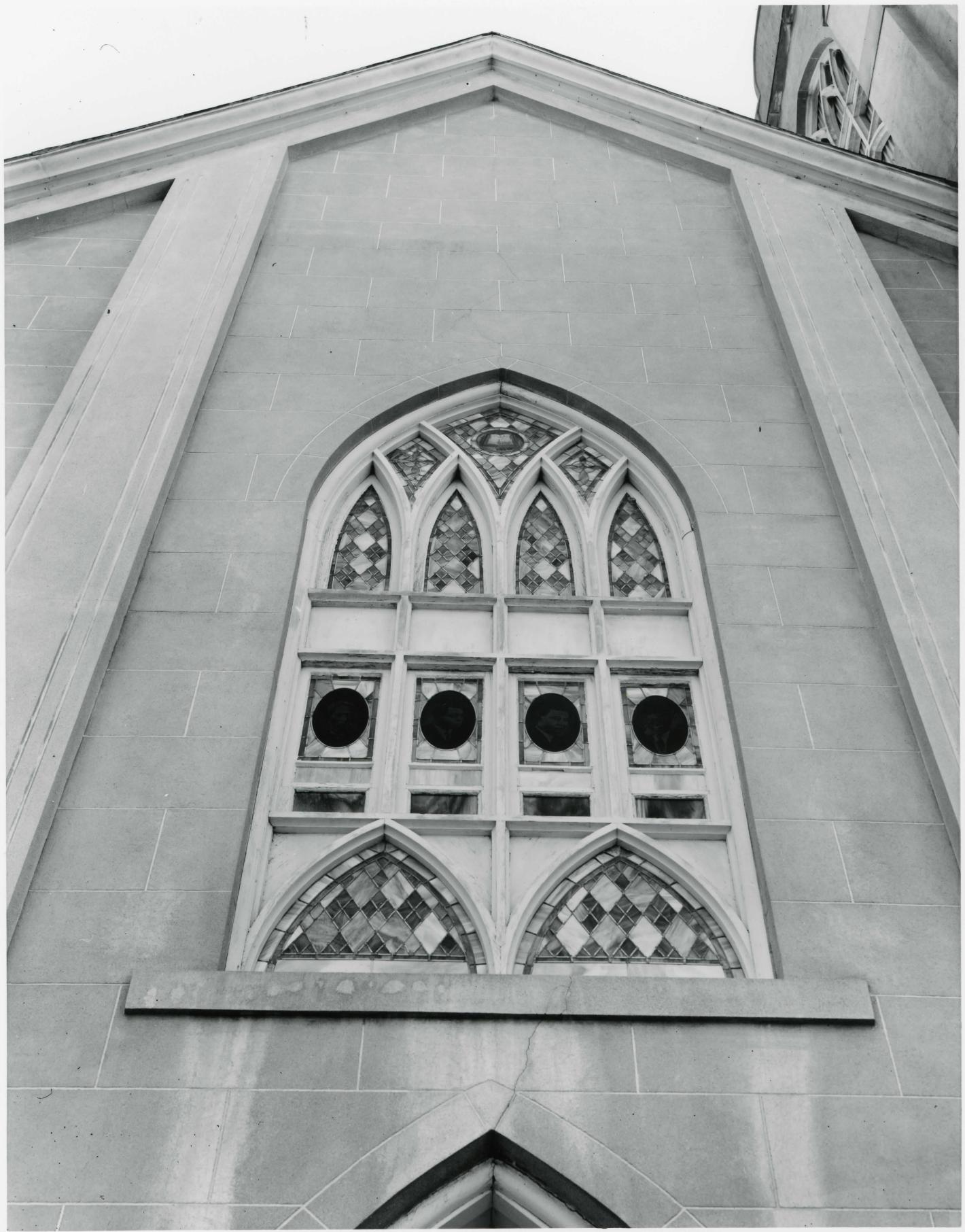
*Harris Co. Texas*

PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

REC 22 1976  
NPS Number \_\_\_\_\_

Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Loc. \_\_\_\_\_



OCT 7 1976

PHOTO #6 of 7

Antioch Missionary Baptist Church  
North Window Detail Showing Images  
of Black Leaders  
Photo By: Mike Yancey, 9-76  
Texas Historical Commission

Harris Co., Texas

PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

NPS Number DEC 22 1976

Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Loc. \_\_\_\_\_



p. 3.24/76

OCT 7 1976

PHOTO #7 of 7

Antioch Missionary Baptist Church  
Northwest Oblique

Historic Photo, ca. 1912

Neg. Photo Copy

Texas Historical Commission

Harris Co., Texas

PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

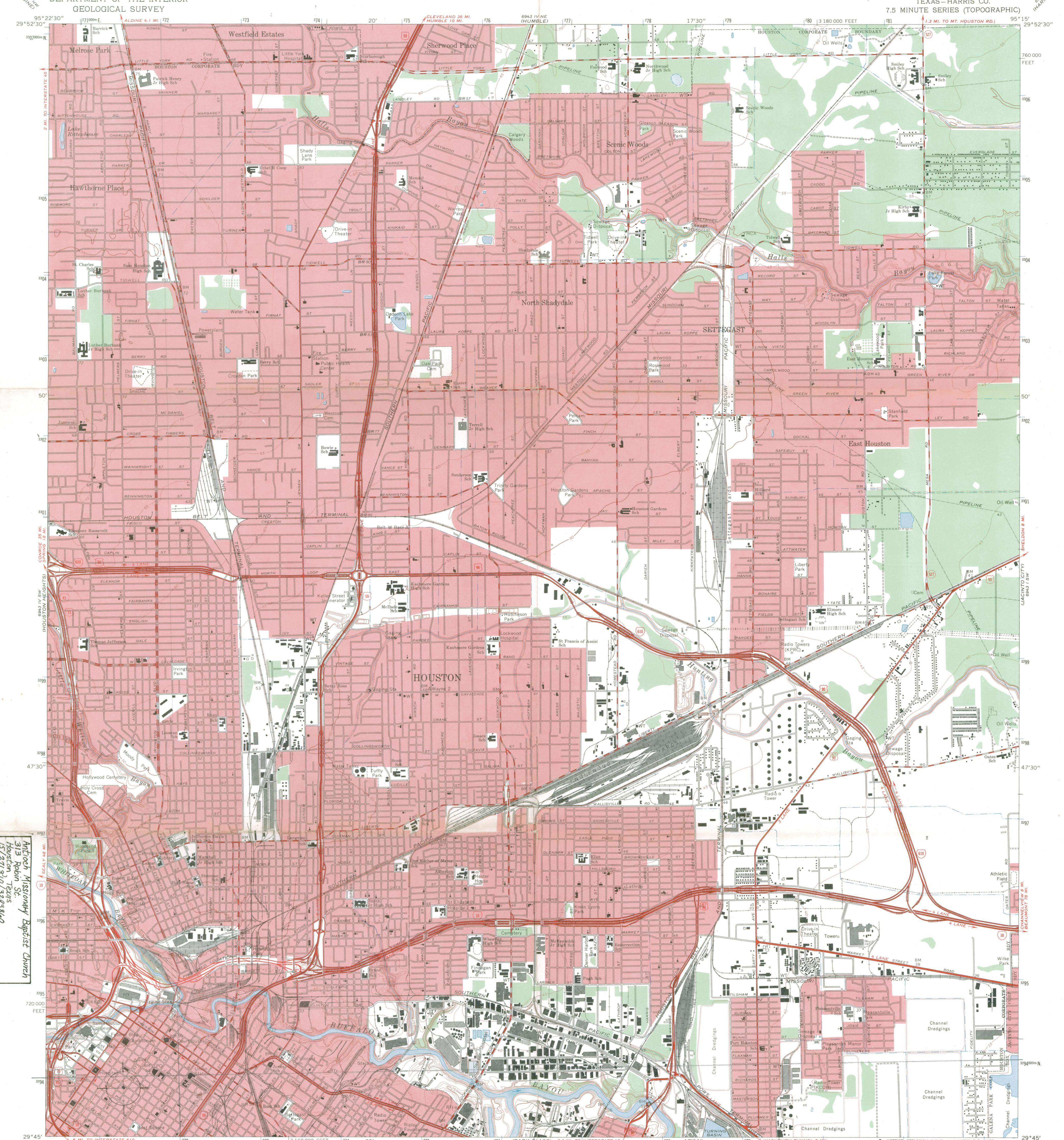
NPS Number

Title: DEC 22 1976

Loc.

UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

SETTEGAST QUADRANGLE  
TEXAS-HARRIS CO.  
7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)



Map, edited, and published by the Geological Survey

Control by USGS, USGS, and USCE

Photogrammetry by photogrammetric methods from aerial photographs taken  
1966. Topography enlarged from 1:31 680-scale AMS map of Settegast  
Quadrangle. Original map by planimetric surveys 1943. Revised 1967

Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum.  
10,000-foot grid based on Texas coordinate system, south central zone  
1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks,  
zone 15, shown in blue

Red tint indicates areas in which only landmark buildings are shown

UTM GRID AND 1967 MAGNETIC NORTH  
DECLINATION AT CENTER OF SHEET

GN  
MN  
1°10' 8"  
20 MILS  
142 MILS

THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS  
FOR SALE BY U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, DENVER, COLORADO 80225, OR WASHINGTON, D.C. 20242  
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

DEC 22 1976

1967

ROAD CLASSIFICATION  
Heavy-duty — Light-duty —  
Medium-duty — Unimproved dirt —  
Interstate Route U.S. Route State Route

SETTEGAST, TEX.  
N2945-W9515/7.5

1967

AMS 6943 IV SE-SERIES V882

RECEIVED  
SEP 24 1976  
NATIONAL  
REGISTER

2995 - 481

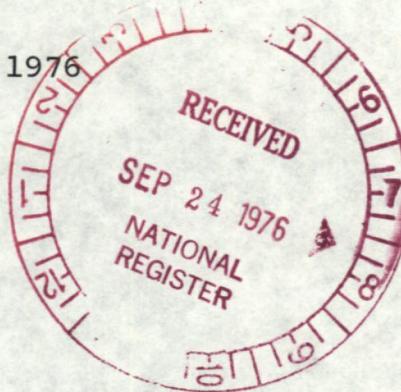


TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

P. O. BOX 12276 CAPITOL STATION AUSTIN, TEXAS 78711  
TRUETT LATIMER  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

September 21, 1976

National Register of Historic Places  
Department of the Interior  
National Park Service  
18th and C Streets, N. W.  
Washington, D. C. 20240



To Whom It May Concern:

Because we felt there was a need to send in the nomination for the Antioch Missionary Baptist Church immediately, we are sending the submission without the photographs at this time. However, the prints of this Houston church should be ready within a few days.

Sincerely,

Marie D. Landon  
Coordinator, National  
Register Submissions

MDL/s  
Enclosure

October 26, 1976



Dr. William Murtagh  
National Register of Historic Places  
Department of the Interior  
National Park Service  
18th and C. Streets, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20240

Dear Dr. Murtagh:

I am writing to urge you and the members of the National Register Committee to approve the listing of Antioch Baptist Church of Houston on the National Register as a historic site.

I am not a member of the church but I am a Black Houstonian. You are probably aware of the significance of this old church to Houston's black community. It is a visible reminder of the persistent faith and instinct for survival that has maintained black people through some trying times.

I have committed myself to become involved in preserving this structure in any way I can.

I urge you again to approve its nomination.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

*Mary-Violet Burns*

Mary-Violet Burns  
3021 Beulah St.  
Houston, Texas 77004

THE NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

DATE REC'D NOV 2 1976

INDIVIDUAL RESPONSE (ATTACHED)

INFORMATIVE MATERIAL SENT

TELEPHONE CALL (ATTACHED)

DATE ACTION TAKEN \_\_\_\_\_

INITIALS \_\_\_\_\_

ENTRIES IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

STATE TEXAS

Date Entered DEC 22 1976

Name

Location

L Antioch Missionary Baptist Church

Houston  
Harris County

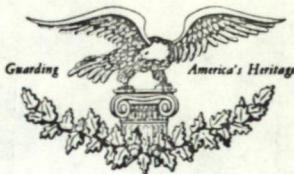
Los Cjuelos

Mirando City vicinity  
Webb County

Also Notified

Hon. John G. Tower  
Hon. Lloyd M. Bentsen  
Hon. Barbara C. Jordan  
Hon. Abraham Kazen, Jr.  
Regional Director, Southwest  
Region

State Historic Preservation Officer  
Mr. Truett Latimer  
Executive Director  
Texas Historical Commission  
P.O. Box 12276, Capitol Station  
Austin, Texas 78711



# National Trust for Historic Preservation

SOUTHWEST/PLAINS FIELD OFFICE 903 COLDWATER BUILDING OKLAHOMA CITY, OKLAHOMA 73102 (405) 232-3179

March 8, 1977

Mrs. Sammie W. Ellis  
Apartment 339  
11260 Chestnut Grove Square  
Reston, Virginia 22070

Dear Mrs. Ellis:

It was a pleasure to receive your interested and informative letter of February 24th. The history of the Antioch Baptist Church in Houston is a long and significant one, a story which encourages and elicits admiration.

I gather that the church was finally listed on the National Register of Historic Places. I also gather that there are a contingent of persons connected with the parish who dispute that listing. This is not unusual. However, the practical matters of the listing and the dispute must be handled by those agencies responsible for the National Register program. These are the Texas Historical Commission and the Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation of the National Park Service. The National Trust for Historic Preservation does not have any responsibilities in this program. Some brochures on the National Register program and the National Trust are enclosed.

I am taking the liberty, by copy of this letter, to forward your letter to the appropriate authorities which are mentioned above. I would encourage you to address any further comments on this issue to these agencies directly. Their addresses are:

Mr. Truett Latimer, Executive Director  
Texas Historical Commission  
Post Office Box 12276, Capitol Station  
Austin, Texas 78711

Mr. William J. Murtagh  
Keeper of the National Register  
National Park Service  
Washington, D.C. 20240

RECEIVED  
3/15/77

Mrs. Sammie W. Ellis  
Page 2  
March 8, 1977

Thank you again for your interest and your comments. If the National Trust can be of further assistance, please contact this office again.

Sincerely,

Cynthia Emrick  
Director

CE/th

bcc Truett Latimer, SHPO  
Nancy Negley, NTA  
Virginia Talkington, NTA  
Eugene George, AIA-SPC  
/William Murtagh



SAMMIE W. ELLIS

Apt. 339

11260 Chestnut Grove Square

Reston, Virginia 22070

Phone: (703) 471-7269

February 24, 1977

RECEIVED

FEB 26 1977

ADVISORY SERVICES

National Trust for Historic Preservation  
740-748 Jackson Place N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20006

Dear Sir:

In the year 1866, black in Houston, Texas, organized the Antioch Baptist Church in the white First Baptist Church. After meeting for a year, they moved their services to a bush arbor on the banks of the Buffalo Bayou where they later constructed a one room church. Under the leadership of Rev. Jack Yates, land was purchased in 1874 at 313-15 Robin Street, downtown Houston, and in 1875 they began construction of the oldest institution owned and controlled by black freedmen and slaves in the State of Texas, the Antioch Missionary Baptist Church.

The Rev. Jack Yates and his wife, Harriett Willis Yates had come to Texas as the result of his wife having tried to escape to Canada from Gloster County, Virginia, being caught and sold with her children to a slaveowner in Matagorda County, Texas, at which time his slavemaster in Virginia allowed him to pay his way as a freedman to Texas in order to accompany his family and to keep them together.

From its inception, the Antioch Church emphasized education, excellence, land ownership and development, business, racial pride, respect for heritage and culture. Antioch has aided in the education of numerous blacks both financially and morally. It offered a pulpit from which many black leaders in all walks of life could speak to encourage our youth. As a young teenager, I can recall the late Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., before the Montgomery days as our Youth Day Speaker and later as a great Civil Rights leader. Antioch has been a symbol to Texans and Jack Yates as its first leader instilled a rich legacy which we as black Americans cannot allow to be degraded or destroyed by those who would come from the outside, not native Houstonians, to sell our history for thirty pieces of silver.

Antioch has been the "star" for blacks coming to Texas from the U.S. and abroad. To the very poor, it always opened its arms to encourage them to excell, to give hope that they too could own land and homes. The church saw to it that taxes were paid and deeds properly secured in its early days. To the emerging black intelligencia and so called middle class, it gave them a forum for discourse and organization.

RECEIVED

MAR 7 1977

NYSTROM

3333 Elston Avenue, Chicago, Illinois 60618/(312) 463-1144

Multimedia Learning Systems/Maps/Globes/Models

Division of Coronation Company

National Trust for Historic Preservation  
February 24, 1977

Page 2

The first elementary school for blacks in Houston and possibly in the state of Texas was established by two white missionaries, Miss Jennie L. Peck and Miss Florence Dysart with the aid of Jack Yates and Antioch Baptist Church. This institution offered a place to meet and to plan for the struggle to obtain education and resources for our people. Black high schools and colleges held their commencement exercises here throughout the years because there were no facilities available to them otherwise. Cultural performing groups such as the Fisk Jubilee Singers appeared here to raise funds for black institutions of higher learning. Antioch can boast of having as its products graduates of Spelman Seminary in 1896 and 1904. It can also list successful professionals in all walks of life as members and former members of the Church all over the world.

This rich heritage is further exemplified in the leadership of the late Rev. Earl L. Harrison who served as third pastor of Antioch and later as pastor of historic Shiloh Baptist Church, Washington, D.C. Further the Rev. Thomas J. Goodall, the 4th pastor who later served Bethany Baptist Church, Brooklyn, N.Y. Rev. Barbara Lewis King of the Hillside Church, Atlanta, Georgia, is one of the children of Antioch encouraged in her education by the church.

The State of Texas Historical Commission has, after three years of debate, nominated this institution to the National Trust as a historic site worthy of preservation. On December 22, 1976, this was done. On February 14, 1977, the current pastor, without the consent of members, blacks of Houston and those who respect and revere our "roots" sent the Texas State Historical Commission a telegram demanding that they remove this from the National Trust forthwith. This is unprecedented and unthinkable when at a time in our country and our culture, blacks all over these United States are trying to preserve and to protect our history, "our roots", and our contributions.

Please do not turn a deaf ear on our struggle as blacks all over the U.S. who have been made aware of this significant placement on the National Trust are proud and elated because we are who and what we are because of Antioch, Jack Yates and those strong, struggling forefathers.

We are pleased that the Texas State Historical Commission and the National Trust for Historic Preservation have thusly honored black Americans through Antioch Church and urge your assistance in preserving this institution for future generations.

Respectfully submitted,

*Mrs. Sammie Whiting Ellis*  
Mrs. Sammie Whiting Ellis



TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

P. O. BOX 12276 CAPITOL STATION AUSTIN, TEXAS 78711  
TRUETT LATIMER  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

March 28, 1977

THE NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES	
DATE REC'D	4/13/77
<input type="checkbox"/> INDIVIDUAL RESPONSE (ATTACHED)	
<input type="checkbox"/> INFORMATIVE MATERIAL SENT	
<input type="checkbox"/> TELEPHONE CALL (ATTACHED)	
DATE ACTION TAKEN	FILE W/ NOMINATION
INITIALS	

Mr. Roberson L. King  
4720 Dowling St.  
Houston, TX 77004

Dear Mr. King:

HARRIS, CO.

The Texas Historical Commission nominated the Antioch Missionary Baptist Church to the National Register in accordance with the procedures set forth by the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966. Enclosed is a copy of section 60.12 of that Act, which explains the requirements for notifying owners that a property is being considered for nomination to the National Register. In the case of Antioch Missionary Baptist Church, letters of notification were sent to Rev. Hicks on July 19, 1976, prior to the Review Board, and again on August 23, 1976, after the Review Board recommended that the church be nominated. At the time of notification we received no response.

Also included is a copy of section 60.17, "Removing Properties from the National Register," the provisions of which in our opinion do not warrant the removal of this property from the National Register.

Sincerely,

Truett Latimer,  
Executive Director

TL/mdl

cc: Dr. William Murtagh

by the State Historic Preservation Officer and returned to the Federal agency initiating the nomination along with a letter confirming that the nomination has been reviewed and approved by the State Historic Preservation Officer and the review board, that the appropriate owner or owners have been notified, and that all other State procedures have been fulfilled. Comments received by a State concerning the significance of the property should be included.

(d) Federally owned properties may be nominated by the State as well. In such cases the State Historic Preservation Officer shall notify the appropriate Federal representative in writing and, if possible, an agency official within the State before the nomination is forwarded to the National Park Service.

#### § 60.12 Notification.

(a) As indicated previously in § 60.2 (c), the National Register was designed and has been implemented as a planning tool. Federal agencies that undertake a project having an effect on such a listed property must provide the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation a reasonable opportunity to comment pursuant to 36 CFR Part 800. Having complied with this requirement, the agency may adopt any course of action it may feel appropriate. While the Advisory Council comments must be taken into account and integrated into the decisionmaking process, the program decision rests with the agency implementing the undertaking. No requirements of any kind are imposed upon private initiative.

(b) The State Historic Preservation Officer concept has been developed within the various States at the urging of the Secretary of the Interior both to expand the National Register and to implement the historic preservation grants-in-aid program created by the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, 16 U.S.C. 470 et seq. (1970 ed.). As such, this position has come to serve as a vital link between a State's participation in these programs and the National Park Service, and as a blending of State and Federal programs. This is particularly true of the identification and nomination of properties to the National Register by a State, which is required as a portion of the comprehensive statewide historic and cultural survey and a condition precedent to participation in the grants-in-aid program.

(c) The identification and nomination of historic and cultural resources, as a function that has been assumed by the various States, is essentially a State action. The nomination of a property is a proposal to the National Park Service and does not constitute listing. However, nominations received from the various States are, in the vast majority of situations, accepted by the National Park Service. Listing on the National Register is a Department of the Interior decision. As a part of the nomination process, each State is required to notify property owners in writing at least once of the State's intent to nominate a

property and to allow a reasonable opportunity for the presentation of written comments concerning the property's significance prior to review board consideration. The various States are also strongly encouraged to notify appropriate county or municipal authorities and to allow them a reasonable opportunity to present written comment concerning that property's significance prior to review board consideration.

(d) In the event of a nomination of a historic district of multiple ownerships where notice to individual property owners is not practicable, each State is required to notify appropriate county or municipal authorities; to provide other means of general notice concerning the State's intent to nominate the district; and, to allow a reasonable opportunity for the presentation of written comments concerning the district's significance prior to review board consideration.

(e) State Historic Preservation Officers are required to inform property owners or appropriate local authorities, as appropriate, when properties are added to the National Register.

(f) In consultation with the State's Attorney, each State should adopt general notification procedures consistent with the considerations of this section and provide the National Register with a copy of these procedures when completed, and thereafter in the annual State historic preservation plan or whenever changes are made.

#### § 60.13 Publication in the Federal Register.

(a) When a nomination is received, the National Park Service shall publish notice in the FEDERAL REGISTER that the property is being considered for listing and shall receive additional written comments concerning the significance of the property under National Register criteria for evaluation whenever possible.

(b) The National Register will notify the State Historic Preservation Officer of the listing of the property. The National Register will also place notice of listing in the FEDERAL REGISTER on a regular basis and in a cumulative edition which will appear once a year, usually in February.

#### § 60.14 Other State and local programs.

State and local authorities that utilize the National Register nomination as the base for more restrictive provisions, such as halt-in-demolition provisions, must be aware that such uses of the information provided to the National Register are purely matters of State and local initiative and subject to the scope of a State's police powers. Such State and local provisions must be clearly separated from the role of the National Register as a planning tool and as the basis for participation in the historic preservation grants-in-aid program.

#### § 60.15 Processing of nominations.

Nominations of properties to the National Register follow the process set forth below.

(a) Nominations by the State Historic Preservation Officer.

(1) Nomination forms (10-300) are prepared under the supervision of the State Historic Preservation Officer.

(2) Notice is provided of the intent to nominate the property and written comments are solicited. With regard to property under Federal jurisdiction or control, completed nomination forms should be submitted to the Federal representative for review and comment regarding the significance of the property. After receiving the comments of the Federal representative, or if there has been no response within 45 days, the State Historic Preservation Officer may approve the nomination and forward it to the Keeper, National Register, National Park Service, Washington, D.C. 20240. The comments of the Federal representative are appended to the nomination; or, if there are no comments, an explanation is attached.

(3) Completed nomination forms or the documentation proposed for submission on the nominations forms are submitted to the State review board for approval prior to submission to the National Register.

(4) Nomination forms approved by the State review board are reviewed by the State Historic Preservation Officer and, if approved, signed with the affirmation that all appropriate procedures have been followed.

(5) The State Historic Preservation Officer submits the completed nomination and comments received by a State concerning the significance of the property to the Keeper, National Register, National Park Service, Washington, D.C. 20240.

(6) Notice will be provided in the FEDERAL REGISTER that the nominated property is being considered for listing in the National Register of Historic Places and comments will be received whenever possible concerning the significance of the property. Copies of these written comments will be supplied to the State Historic Preservation Officer.

(7) Nominations are reviewed by the Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation to determine technical and professional sufficiency and conformance to the National Register criteria for evaluation and comments are considered.

(8) Nominations found to be technically and professionally sufficient and in conformance with the National Register criteria for evaluation will be approved by the Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation, and entered in the National Register. Nominations found technically or professionally inadequate will be returned for correction and resubmission. When a property does not appear to meet the National Register criteria for evaluation, the nomination will be returned with an explanatory letter.

(b) *Nominations by a Federal agency.*

(1) Nomination forms (10-306) are prepared under the supervision of the Federal Representative designated by the head of a Federal agency to fulfill agency responsibilities under Executive Order 11593.

(2) Completed nominations are submitted to the appropriate State Historic Preservation Officer for review and comment regarding the significance of the property and its eligibility for the National Register.

(3) After receiving the comments of the State Historic Preservation Officer, or if there has been no response within 45 days, the Federal Representative may approve the nomination and forward it to the Keeper, National Register, National Park Service, Washington, D.C. 20240. The comments of the State Historic Preservation Officer are appended to the nomination, or, if there are no comments, an explanation is attached. Concurrent nominations cannot be submitted, however, until the nomination has been approved by the State in accord with § 60.11, *supra*. Comments received by the State concerning concurrent nominations must be submitted with the nomination.

(4) Notice will be provided in the **FEDERAL REGISTER** that the nominated property is being considered for listing in the National Register of Historic Places and comments will be received whenever possible concerning the significance of the property. Copies of these written comments will be supplied to the Federal representative and to the State Historic Preservation Officer.

(5) Nominations are reviewed by the Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation to determine technical and professional sufficiency and conformance to the National Register criteria for evaluation and comments are considered.

(6) Nominations found to be technically and professionally sufficient and in conformance with the National Register criteria for evaluation will be approved by the Director, Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation, and entered in the National Register. Nominations found technically or professionally inadequate will be returned for correction and resubmission. When a property does not appear to meet the National Register criteria for evaluation, the nomination will be returned with an explanatory letter.

#### § 60.16 Changes and revisions to properties listed in the National Register.

(a) *Boundary changes.* (1) A boundary alteration should be handled as a new property nomination supplanting the old nomination form. All forms, criteria, and procedures used in nominating a property to the National Register must be used at both the State and Federal levels. A professionally justified recommendation by the State Historic Preservation Officer or Federal Representative must be presented to the National Park Service. During this process, the property is not taken off the National Register. If the National Park Service finds the recommendation in accordance with the National Register criteria for evaluation, the change will be accepted. If the boundary change is not accepted, the old boundaries will remain.

(2) Two justifications exist for altering a boundary: Professional error

in the initial nomination or loss of historic integrity. In some cases, accretion of additional significance may also be reason for altering property boundaries. No enlargement of a boundary should be recommended unless the additional area possesses previously unrecognized significance in American history, architecture, archeology, or culture. No diminution of a boundary should be recommended unless the properties being removed have lost the characteristics that endowed them with such significance and qualified them for the initial nomination. Any proposal to alter a boundary has to be documented in detail in order to avoid the necessity of an onsite inspection by National Park Service personnel. Specifically, the structures or other historic resources falling between the existing boundary and the other proposed boundary should be photographed.

(3) Attention should be given to the "Criteria for Effect," promulgated by the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation in "Procedures for the Protection of Historic and Cultural Properties" (36 CFR Part 800), for use in the application of section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act. According to these criteria a project need not fall within the boundaries of a National Register property for an effect to exist.

(b) *Relocating properties listed in the National Register.* (1) Properties listed in the National Register should be moved only when there is no feasible alternative for preservation. When a property is moved, every effort should be made to reestablish its historic orientation, immediate setting, and general environment.

(2) If it is proposed that a structure listed in the National Register be moved and the State or Federal agency wishes the property to remain in the National Register during and after the move, the State or Federal agency must submit documentation prior to the move which should discuss:

(i) The reasons for the move;  
(ii) The effect on the property's historical integrity; and

(iii) The new setting and general environment of the proposed site, including evidence that the proposed site does not possess historical significance that would be adversely affected by the intrusion of the structure.

In addition, photographs showing the proposed location must be sent along with the documentation. Any such proposal submitted by a State must be approved by the State review board and will continue to follow normal review procedures.

(3) If the National Park Service approves the proposal, the property will remain on the National Register during and after the move unless the integrity of the property is, in some unforeseen manner, destroyed. If the National Park Service does not approve the proposal, the property will be automatically deleted from the National Register when moved. If the State or Federal agency has proof that previously unrecognized significance exists, or has accrued, the

State or Federal agency may resubmit a nomination for the property as outlined below.

(4) In the event that a structure is moved, deletion from the National Register will be automatic unless the above procedures are followed prior to the move. If the property has already been moved, it is the State or Federal agency's responsibility to notify the National Register. Assuming that the State or Federal agency wishes to have the structure re-entered in the National Register, it must be nominated again on new forms which should discuss:

(i) The reasons for the move;  
(ii) The effect on the property's historical integrity, and

(iii) The new setting and general environment, including evidence that the new site does not possess historical significance that would be adversely affected by the intrusion of the site.

In addition, new photographs showing the structure at its new location must be sent along with the revised nomination. Any such nomination submitted by a State must be approved by the State review board.

(5) Properties moved in a manner consistent with the comments of the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, in accord with its procedures (36 CFR Part 800), are granted an exception to § 60.16 (b). Moving of properties in accord with the Advisory Council's procedures should be dealt with individually in each memorandum of agreement.

#### § 60.17 Removing properties from the National Register.

(a) Properties nominated by the States or Federal agencies will be removed from the National Register only when they have ceased to meet the criteria for the National Register: when the qualities which caused them originally to be nominated have been lost or destroyed; upon proof that an error in professional judgment has been made; or, for failure to follow the procedures set forth herein. Information concerning the loss of integrity, error in judgement, or procedural error should be submitted through the appropriate State Historic Preservation Officer or Federal representative to the Keeper, National Register, National Park Service, Washington, D.C. 20240.

Dated: January 5, 1976.

GARY EVERHARDT,  
Director, National Park Service.  
[FIR Doc.76-785 Filed 1-8-76; 8:45 am]

Jandl  
4/5/77  
Cole  
415

H34-880

APR 5 1977

Mr. Robert W. Hainsworth  
2532 Binz Street  
Houston, Texas 77004

Dear Mr. Hainsworth:

Thank you for your very kind letter concerning the listing of the Antioch Baptist Church, Houston, Texas, in the National Register of Historic Places.

Enclosed is a leaflet describing the National Register and other preservation programs of the National Park Service. As you will see, there is a National Park Service matching grants-in-aid program for preservation and development, available to properties that are listed in the National Register. The leaflet should answer many questions you have about our program and its purpose, but if you have additional questions, please do not hesitate to write this office or the Texas State Historic Preservation Officer, Mr. Truett Latimer, Executive Director, Texas Historical Commission, P.O. Box 12276, Capitol Station, Austin, Texas 78711.

We appreciate your interest in, and support of, the National Register.

Sincerely yours,

Charles A. Herrington (Sgd.) for

William J. Murtagh  
Keeper of the National Register

Enclosure

cc: Mr. Truett Latimer, SHPO, Texas w/cy inc  
FNP:HWJandl:cam:4/2/77  
bcc: Regional Director, Southwest Region w/cy inc  
Director's Reading File  
880

BASIC FILE REMAINED IN 880

2532 BINZ STREET  
HOUSTON, TEXAS 77004  
FEBRUARY 19, 1977

DR. WILLIAM MURTAUGH  
KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER  
DEPARTMENT OF INTERIOR  
NATIONAL REGISTER SERVICE  
18TH & C STREETS N.W.  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20240

DEAR DR. MURTAUGH:

I am a member of Antioch Baptist Church, 311-313-315 Robin Street, Houston, Texas, and I have been a member of this Church for about 55 years.

I am at present a patient in a Hospital in Houston, Texas, having been here for 11 days today. And that is the reason why I am writing this letter in long-hand and not typing it.

While here in the hospital, earlier this week there was read to me

articles from the Houston Post and from the Houston Chronicle which, as I understood the articles stated, that Antioch Baptist Church had been placed on the National Register of Historic Places.

As a member of Antioch Baptist Church, I am very happy and I rejoice that our Church has been so honored by your Organization. And I thank God for it.

If there is anything that I can do to assist you in any way in the furthering of this project of yours, with respect to Antioch Baptist Church, being preserved as a National Historic Place, please let me know, and I will be glad to assist and to cooperate with you.

I feel that there are many, many members of Antioch Baptist Church who feel the same as I do in this matter.

I would like to know

more about your organization,  
its purpose and how it works.

I would also like to  
know if there is a way that  
I may be able to render any  
help to you and to your  
organization in the carrying out  
and in the fulfillment of your  
project in so far as Antioch  
Baptist Church is concerned in  
the preserving of it as an Historical  
Place, and at the same time  
continuing its use as a Church  
for Christian Worship and for  
Christian Service. May the  
Lord Bless You.

Respectfully yours,

Robert W. Hainsworth.

Copy:

Mr. TRUETT HATIMER,  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR,  
The TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION,  
P. O. BOX 12276,  
AUSTIN, TEXAS 78711.



RECEIVED  
2/24/77

67

# File w/ Antioch Missionary Baptist Church, TX

WASO-166  
(August 1971)

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

## TELEPHONE REPORT

DATE  
4/20/77  
TIME OF CALL  
2 PM

1. CALL  TO:  FROM (Name)

2. ADDRESS (Tel. No. if needed)

SAMMIE W. ELLIS  
Apt. 339  
11260 Chestnut Grove Square  
Reston, Virginia 22070  
Phone: (703) 471-7269

NYSTROM

Multimedia Learning Systems/Maps/Globes/Models

3333 Elston Avenue, Chicago, Illinois 60618/(312) 463-1144

Ms. Ellis visited the office 4/20/77  
to discuss the Antioch Church in  
Houston, TX. She supports listing  
and is quite knowledgeable about the  
bldg's history.

NAME OF PERSON PLACING/RECEIVING CALL

TITLE

OFFICE

*Janelle*

Jawill  
4/4/77  
Herrington  
4.15.77

H34-880

APR 25 1977

Mr. Roberson L. King  
Law Offices  
4720 Dowling Street  
Houston, Texas 77004

Dear Mr. King:

Thank you for your letter concerning the listing of the Antioch Baptist Church, Houston, Texas, in the National Register of Historic Places.

According to the National Register procedures (36 CFR Part 60.17), properties may be removed from the National Register only when they have ceased to meet the criteria for the National Register: when the qualities which caused them originally to be nominated have been lost or destroyed; upon proof that an error in professional judgment has been made; or, for failure to follow the procedures of the National Register. None of these situations seem to be the case with the Antioch Baptist Church.

It is the responsibility of the Secretary of the Interior under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, and Executive Order 11593, to identify properties significant in American history, architecture, archeology, and culture. Such identification does not require the permission of the owner although the procedures allow several opportunities for the submission of comments concerning the significance of the property during the nomination process.

It is our judgment, therefore, that the conditions for removal outlined in 60.17 are not fulfilled and that the property cannot be removed from the National Register at this time.

Sincerely yours,

(Sgd.) William J. Murtagh  
William J. Murtagh  
Keeper of the National Register

cc: Mr. Truett Latimer  
Executive Director

Texas Historical Commission

P.O. Box 12276, Capitol Station  
Austin, Texas 78711 w/cy inc

bcc: Regional Director, Southwest Region w/cy inc  
001 Reading File  
880 - w/cy inc

FNP:K Cole:lw 4/11/77

BASIC FILE RETAINED IN 880

12.22.76

TELEPHONE (713) 526-5505

LAW OFFICES  
ROBERSON L. KING

4720 DOWLING STREET  
HOUSTON, TEXAS 77004

March 21, 1977

The Keeper  
National Park Service  
Washington, D. C. 20240

Texas Historical Commission  
P. O. Box 12276  
Capitol Station  
Austin, Texas 78711

ATTENTION: MR. TRUETT LATIMER, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Gentlemen:

I am General Counsel for the Antioch Missionary Baptist Church of Christ, Incorporated and in this capacity, and in compliance with the provisions National Register, § 60.17 Removing Properties from the National Registers, hereby make formal request for removal of the Antioch Baptist Church from the National Register.

As has been pointed out earlier in a mailgram addressed to Mr. Truett Latimer, dated February 10, 1977 from Pastor H. Beecher Hicks, Jr., such action in placing the church on the register was unauthorized by the church and, therefore, constitutes a unilateral, unwarranted interference into the affairs of the church by the commission. The church is a corporate body organized and existing pursuant to the laws of the State of Texas. As legal entity it acts through and only through its congregation and/or Board of Trustees. No other person, individual, or agency has any authority to deal with, alter or in any manner affect the private property rights of the religious corporate body except upon the authority heretofore delineated.

The act of the Commission in nominating and the further act of listing Antioch Baptist Church on the national register is, therefore, not only an error in judgment but such a serious impairment of private property rights as would constitute such a restraint upon alienation as to raise constitutional concerns.

I, therefore, urgently request the removal of the name of the Antioch Baptist Church from the National Register forthwith. Your immediate reply and compliance is expected.

Very truly yours,

*Roberson L. King*  
Roberson L. King

RLK:bgw

cc: Rev. H. Beecher Hicks, Pastor  
Attorney W. H. Berry, Chairman  
Board of Trustees

## THE NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

MAR 29 1977

DATE REC'D \_\_\_\_\_

 INDIVIDUAL RESPONSE (ATTACHED) INFORMATIVE MATERIAL SENT TELEPHONE CALL (ATTACHED)

DATE ACTION TAKEN \_\_\_\_\_

INITIALS \_\_\_\_\_

3446 Southmore Blvd.  
Houston, Texas 77004  
March 7, 1977

Mrs. Marie Landon  
Sec. Texas Historical Commission  
Dear Mrs. Landon;

Let me apologize for the cordeness & rudness  
of our pastor and his trustees for the angry  
phone call, and the shocking telegram. I have been  
so amazed and downhearted, until I've just now  
felt up to writing.

I only hope that there will be no way for them  
to remove this Name from the National Register.  
Even in this day and age the everg need of  
my people is for education. Sad but true the very  
people who should be enlightening them are the ones who  
keep their minds forever shackled and shrouded in  
ignorance.

People of all races and in all walks of life in  
our city are very proud that this historic church  
had received such a distinctively signal honor.

Thanks so much for everything. Please keep me informed  
of how things develop.

Yours respectfully,

Mrs. Martha C. Whiting

✓Copy for Dr. Murtagh

RECEIVED  
MAR 9 1977  
TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

THE NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

DATE REC'D MAR 29 1977

INDIVIDUAL RESPONSE (ATTACHED)

INFO. IN FIVE MATERIAL SENT

TELEPHONE CALL (ATTACHED)

DATE ACTION TAKEN \_\_\_\_\_

INITIALS \_\_\_\_\_

Mjhutz  
6-14-77  
Janie  
6/14/77

H34-880

JUN 17 1977

Mr. Roberson L. King  
4720 Dowling Street  
Houston, Texas 77004

Dear Mr. King:

We are in receipt of your May 4, 1977, letter questioning the legality of the National Register procedures for nominating a property to the National Register of Historic Places. We regret your opposition to the listing of the Antioch Missionary Baptist Church in the National Register, but we are sure that you will agree that this Gothic Revival church, built by black contractor Richard Allen, plays a significant role in Houston's black history as the city's oldest black Baptist church and deserves special recognition.

Regulations prescribing the procedures for the listing of properties in the National Register were promulgated on August 29, 1975, by the Secretary of the Interior pursuant to the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966. Both the act and its implementing regulations have been subject to legal and judicial review and have been consistently upheld. The regulations were adopted only after ample opportunity for public review and comment.

It is important to note that the procedures followed in listing the church did not involve what your letter describes as "unilateral action." Sections 60.12 and 60.13 of 36 CFR provide that a property owner must be informed before his property is listed in the National Register and must be afforded an opportunity to comment upon the proposed listing. Such comments are, of course, considered in determining the appropriateness of the listing of the property in the National Register. We have been advised by the Texas State historic preservation office that Reverend Hicks was sent two letters of notification prior to nomination and that no response was received. Notice was placed in the "Federal Register" by the National Park Service that the property was being considered for listing in the National Register. This notice provided property owners and other interested parties with additional opportunity to comment on the significance of the property under the National Register criteria for evaluation (36 CFR 60.6). Additional notification was sent to Reverend Hicks after the property's listing with information on the preservation provisions of the Tax Reform Act of 1976. This provided another period during which time this office would again consider comments concerning the property's significance. We did receive a number of letters supporting the property's nomination and listing.

Finally, your March 21, 1977, letter appears to be concerned with restrictions that you feel National Register listing might impose on the property owner. National Register listing is recognition that a property possesses cultural and historic values and is considered worthy of preservation. Properties listed in the National Register must be considered by Federal agencies during the planning of any of their undertakings which may affect the property, can qualify for certain matching grants-in-aid, and may be subject to the preservation provisions of the Tax Reform Act of 1976 which encourage rehabilitation of certified historic structures and discourage their demolition. In general, a certified historic structure must be eligible for depreciation under section 167 of the Internal Revenue Code and must be either listed separately in the National Register, or be in a historic district either listed in the National Register, or designated pursuant to a State or local statute. We are enclosing additional information on the Tax Reform Act and the National Register program which will clarify these points.

We hope that this information will be helpful.

Sincerely yours,

Charles A. Herrington (Sgd.)

for

William J. Murtagh  
Keeper of the National Register

Enclosures

cc: Mr. Truett Latimer  
Executive Director, Texas  
Historical Commission  
P.O. Box 12276, Capitol Station  
Austin, Texas 78711

bcc: Regional Director-Southwest Region

001 reading file  
880

FNP: W-Jandl:jn:6-14-77 *✓* BASIC FILE RETAINED IN 880  
MJWUTZ

LAW OFFICES  
ROBERSON L. KING

4720 DOWLING STREET  
HOUSTON, TEXAS 77004

May 4, 1977

Mr. Truett Latimer  
Executive Director  
Texas Historical Commission  
P. O. Box 12276, Capitol Station  
Austin, Texas 78711

Mr. William J. Murtagh  
Keeper of the National Register  
United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service  
Washington, D. C. 20240

Gentlemen:

I am in receipt of letters from Truett Latimer and William J. Murtagh which in effect state that in your collective opinions matters stated in my earlier letter do not constitute adequate grounds for removal from the register of the Antioch Missionary Baptist Church of Christ, Incorporated.

I find it difficult to understand the legality by which governmental agency can affect private property rights by unilateral action. Such does constitute a grave error in judgment.

The Board of Trustees and Pastor will be so notified of your interpretation of the law and my advice to them will be to seek judicial review of your action by way of declaratory and injunctive relief.

Very truly yours,

*Roberson L. King*  
Roberson L. King

RLK:bgw

cc: Rev. H. Beecher Hicks  
cc: Mr. Weldon Berry

THE NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES	
DATE REC'D	5-17-77
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> INDIVIDUAL RESPONSE (ATTACHED)	
<input type="checkbox"/> INFORMATIVE MATERIAL SENT	
<input type="checkbox"/> TELEPHONE CALL (ATTACHED)	
DATE ACTION TAKEN _____	
INITIALS	KAB

## TELEPHONE REPORT

Harris  
County

DATE

Sept. 14 '77

TIME OF CALL

12:20

AM  
PM1. CALL  TO:  FROM (Name)

Mrs. Sammy Ellis

2. ADDRESS (Tel. No. if needed)

11260 Chestnut Grove Sq.  
Reston Va 22070

3. SUBJECT, PROJECT NO., ETC.

703-471-7269

Antioch Missionary Baptist Church, Houston Texas.

## 4. DETAILS OF DISCUSSION

Concerned about project which may cause structural damage to church, entered in Register Dec. 76.

[called] Marie London, TX SHPO <sup>Office</sup> and Mary Ann Piacentini, Houston City Planning. Got the following information:

Church, important to black history in Houston, is in the middle of the downtown area, highly developed. One faction in the church wants to sell the building for development. Some digging has been underway, apparently a sewer line, but is part of a private development, Allen Center. Ms. Piacentini says the work does not appear to be endangering the church structure.

I told Mrs. Ellis that unfortunately NR listing had

no protective value when no federal funding, etc.  
was involved. I told her we would send the  
"Effect of listing" fact sheet and the statement  
about plagues (church wants to put plaque in  
bldg).

# NR Data Sheet

DATE: 11/4/76  
 Reviewer INITIALS: B6  
 NR  
 DOE DEC 22 1976  
 KP

NAME AS IT APPEARS IN FEDERAL REGISTER:  ① Antioch Missionary Baptist Church

OTHER NAMES:  Antioch Baptist Church - SEC.

LOCATION:

STREET & NUMBER  313 Robin St.

CITY, TOWN  Houston

STATE  Texas 048 VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

COUNTY  Harris code 201

OWNER OF PROPERTY: (Circle)  PRIVATE STATE LOCAL GOV'T MUNICIPAL COUNTY OTHER

ADMINISTRATOR (underline) FEDERAL (AGENCY NAME):

NPS REGION: (CIRCLE) N. ATLANTIC MID ATLANTIC SOUTHEAST MIDWEST

SOUTHWEST ROCKY MOUNTAIN WEST PACIFIC NORTHWEST

FEATURES:

INTERIOR	EXTERIOR	ENVIRONS
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Substantially intact-1	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Substantially intact-2	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Substantially intact-3
<input type="checkbox"/> unknown - 4	<input type="checkbox"/> unknown - 5	<input type="checkbox"/> unknown - 6
<input type="checkbox"/> not applicable - 7	<input type="checkbox"/> not applicable - 8	<input type="checkbox"/> Not applicable-9

Interior, exterior, environs not intact-0

CONDITION -	<input checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED
	<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED	<input type="checkbox"/> Reconstructed	<input type="checkbox"/> Unknown
		<input type="checkbox"/> Unexcavated	<input type="checkbox"/> Excavated	

ACCESS -  Yes-restricted Yes-unrestricted No access Unknown

historic district? YES  NO

WITHIN NATIONAL REGISTER HISTORIC DISTRICT? YES  NO

IF YES, NAME:

WITHIN NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK? YES  NO

IF YES, NAME:

ADAPTIVE USE: YES  NO Saved? YES NO

FUNCTION(S): (use vocabulary words)

then- church

now- church

SIGNIFICANCE:

ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC  
 ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC  
 AGRICULTURE  
 ARCHITECTURE  
 ART  
 COMMERCE  
 COMMUNICATIONS

CONSERVATION  
 ECONOMICS  
 EDUCATION  
 ENGINEERING  
 EXPLORATION  
 INDUSTRY  
 INVENTION

21  LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE  RELIGION  
 LAW/Gov't/politics  SCIENCE  
 LITERATURE  
 MILITARY  
 MUSIC  
 PHILOSOPHY  
 POLITICS/GOVERNMENT  
 SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN  
 TRANSPORTATION  
 OTHER (SPECIFY)

entertainment  
 health  
 recreation  
 settlement  
 socio/cultural  
 urban & commun  
 planning

Claims

"first" YES NO

oldest Black Baptist  
 "oldest" YES NO church in Houston  
 "only" YES NO

ARCHITECTURAL STYLE: Gothic Revival

architect/m.builder: Robert Jones - 1895

landscape/garden designer:

interior decorator:

engineer:

artist/artisan:

builder/contractor: Richard Allen - 1875  
SECTION

ETHNIC GROUP: Black

NAMES:

(label role  
&  
appropriate date)

personal

Richard Allen - builder; contractor+bridge builder, local politician, state legislator (1870-71) in first session in which Blacks served, presidential elector John Henry Yates - first full time pastor, 1868-1891; one of initial contributors toward establishment of Bishop College, one of founders of Houston Baptist Academy (later Houston College) which operated from 1885 through the 1920's. Frederick Lights - 2nd full time pastor, 1894-1931; leader in local, state, & nat'l religious, educational, & civic affairs; President of Foreign Mission Convention of Texas, General Board of Trustees of Missionary & Educational Convention, Ministers' Alliance of Houston, and The Oregon Bank; Chairman of Board of Trustees of the Houston Baptist Academy; helped found Black newspaper The Western Star.

events

institutional

DATES:

DATE OF CONSTRUCTION (Specific date or 1/4 of century): 1875-79, 1890's

DATE(S) OF "MAJOR" ALTERATIONS: 1895, 1930's

HISTORICALLY SIGNIFICANT DATE(S): 1866 - present

1879

1875, Richard Allen, builder; 1890, Robert Jones, builder

SOURCE:

(OF NOMINATION)

PRIVATE

STATE

LOCAL GOV'T

MUNICIPAL

COUNTY

OTHER

FEDERAL AGENCY:

ACREAGE:

(to nearest tenth of an acre)

.1-.9

COMMENTS: (include architectural information here)

Brick, plastered and scored to resemble stone; 2 stories, T-shaped, cross-gabled roof; front entrance and bell tower with curvilinear gable parapet, stylized buttresses, and pointed-arched openings; original 1-story brick church enlarged, 1890's; original steeple blown off and replaced by tower, 1915; structure remodeled by window additions, exterior and vestibule 1930's, construction of gabled vestibule, and plastering of exterior. Gothic Revival.

SIGNIFICANCE: (maximum two sentences)

One of the oldest buildings in Houston's downtown area and the city's oldest Black Baptist Church; the Antioch Missionary Baptist Church was the 2nd church built for the city's first Black Baptist congregation (founded, 1866) and was once the center of a cohesive Black settlement. Among the city's influential Blacks associated with the church are Richard Allen, the builder of the 1875 1-story edifice, and a member of the first Texas legislature in which Blacks served (John Henry Yates, the first full-time pastor and a leader in the development of Black education in Houston; and Frederick Lights, the 2nd full-time pastor who was a leader in local, state, & national religious, educational, & civic affairs).

✓  
Brick, plastered and scored to resemble stone; 2 stories, T-shaped, cross-gable roof; front entrance and bell tower with curvilinear gable parapet, stylized buttresses, and pointed-arched openings; original 1-story brick church enlarged, 1890's; original steeple replaced by tower, 1915; ~~remodeled~~ by ~~windows~~ and vestibule additions, and exterior plastering, 1930's.

Gothic Revival. One of oldest buildings in downtown area; ~~second~~ 2nd church built for city's first (1866) Black congregation; Influential Blacks associated with the church included Richard Allen, a member of the first TX legislature in which Blacks served, and pastors John Henry Gates, a leader in the development of Black education in Houston; and Frederick Lights a leader in local, state, and national religious, educational, and civic affairs.