

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

For NPS use only

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date entered

AUG 11 1986

SEP 24 1986

Continuation sheet

Item number all

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Property No. 7

Historic Resources of Stamford

Stamford Historic Structures Survey Identification number, STA-036

Name of property- First Baptist Church

Address of property- E. Oliver and N. Swenson

Owner of property- First Baptist Church

Owner's Address- P.O. Box 24
Stamford, TX 79553

Acreage- Less than one acre

Verbal Boundary Description- (Legal Description) Original Town;
Block 10, Lots 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6

UTM Coordinates- 14/425000/3645540

Description

(altered, good condition)

The 1908 Stamford First Baptist Church is a massive, domed structure built on a Greek Cross form. The buff brick building rises from a dark, brown-brick, rusticated water table. Four large gabled roofs cover the arms of the cross below the domed portion of the building. Two-storied, flat-roofed, squared entrances are found at each corner of the building.

Classical influences are found in the pilaster strips on the secondary facades, the plain metal cornice, and the dentil moldings which appear at various locations on the building. The large stained-glass windows on the north side of the structure are surrounded by a large segmental-arch opening flanked by two brick piers. Ornamental brick work adds textural interest to the building.

Changes to the building included the composition shingles covering the majority of the domed portion and the gabled roofs. Plexiglass now covers all the stained-glass windows. Aluminum framed doors have been added to all the corner entrances, which apparently were once open.

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The 1932 section of the building is a two-story educational building east of the 1908 building. Its buff-brick, dark-brown water table and concrete cornice are intended to relate to the older building. The 1960 addition is relatively harmonious in scale, design, and materials, but it should be considered non-contributing because of its recent age.

Significance: local level, architecture, 1908, 1932, 1960.

The First Baptist Church in Stamford is an important complex of structures with both architectural and historical significance. It is the religious home for one of the town's earliest and largest congregations, and is also a good example of the large-scale, classically influenced church building.

The First Baptist Church was organized in Stamford in early 1900. Temporary facilities were used at first, then a small structure was built in late 1900 or 1901. By 1908 the congregation had grown and prospered enough to initiate a new structure. Ten leading members of the church each pledged \$1,000 for construction, and work began in early 1908. The building was completed in 1909 and stood as one of the city's most elaborate and expensive structures. Twenty-six years later, in 1932, the overcrowded congregation once again decided to expand by constructing a two-story educational wing behind the main chapel, on the east side of the lot. This two-building complex served the needs of the congregation until the late 1950s. In 1960 a new educational wing was added to the south of the old main building, completing the present First Baptist Church complex.

The First Baptist complex has served as the spiritual home for a large part of Stamford's population for generations. It has been the focal point for one of the city's largest religious denominations and is a well-known local landmark.

Not only is this complex important historically, it has a great deal of architectural merit. It is a good example of the Classical influence which is rare in Stamford, particularly in large buildings. Use of this style with its classical features makes the main church building one of the most imposing structures in town. The 1932 educational building, which also has a hint of classical styling, adds to the mass and imposing nature of the complex.

The mildly altered structure, with its long history and landmark status, as well as its architectural merit, undoubtedly ranks as one of Stamford's most important cultural resources.

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Multiple Resource Area
Thematic Group

dnr-11

Name Stamford Multiple Resource Area

State Jones County, TEXAS

Substantive Review

Conn

Accept Patrick Andrews 9/24/86
Attest Bruce J. Noble, Jr. 9/24/86
Date/Signature

Nomination/Type of Review

1. Astin, J.P., House

**Entered in the
National Register**

for Keeper

Melvin Byers 9/24/86

Attest

2. Buena Vista Hotel

Substantive Review

for Keeper

Patrick Andrews 9/24/86

Attest

Bruce J. Noble, Jr. 9/24/86

3. Bunkley, Dr. E.P.,
House and Garage

**Entered in the
National Register**

for Keeper

Melvin Byers 9/24/86

Attest

4. First Baptist Church

Substantive Review

for Keeper

Patrick Andrews 9/24/86

Attest

Bruce J. Noble, Jr. 9/24/86

5. House at 501 North Swenson

**Entered in the
National Register**

for Keeper

Melvin Byers 9/24/86

Attest

6. House at 502 South Orient

Substantive Review

for Keeper

Patrick Andrews 9/24/86

Attest

Bruce J. Noble, Jr. 9/24/86

7. House at 610 Oliver

**Entered in the
National Register**

for Keeper

Melvin Byers 9/24/86

Attest

8. House at 709 East Reynolds

Substantive Review

for Keeper

Patrick Andrews 9/24/86

Attest

Bruce J. Noble, Jr. 9/24/86

9. House at 710 East McHarg

Substantive Review

for Keeper

Eligible Patrick Andrews 9/24/86

Attest

Bruce J. Noble, Jr. 9/24/86

10. House at 719 East Reynolds

Substantive Review

for Keeper

Patrick Andrews 9/24/86

Attest

Bruce J. Noble, Jr. 9/24/86

DOE/OWNER OBJECTION

86002359

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

First Baptist Church (Stamford MRA)
Jones County
TEXAS

Substantive Review

Working No. AUG 11 1986
Fed. Reg. Date 2/3/87
Date Due: 9/4/86 - 9/25/86
Action: ☒ ACCEPT 9-24-86
☐ RETURN
☐ REJECT
Federal Agency: _____

- ☐ resubmission
☐ nomination by person or local government
☐ owner objection
☐ appeal

Substantive Review: ☒ sample ☐ request ☐ appeal ☐ NR decision

Reviewer's comments: *The First Baptist Church is a rare example of classically influenced architecture in Stamford. The church has been added onto in 1932 and 1960. The first addition falls into the period of significance defined in the cover, while the second addition is to be considered non-contributing.*

Recom./Criteria Accept C
Reviewer Bruce J. Noble, Jr.
Discipline Historian
Date 9/24/86
_____ see continuation sheet

Nomination returned for: _____ technical corrections cited below
_____ substantive reasons discussed below

1. Name

2. Location

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
	Public Acquisition	Accessible	

4. Owner of Property

5. Location of Legal Description

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

Has this property been determined eligible? ☐ yes ☐ no

7. Description

Condition

- ☐ excellent
☐ good
☐ fair

- ☐ deteriorated
☐ ruins
☐ unexposed

Check one

- ☐ unaltered
☐ altered

Check one

- ☐ original site
☐ moved date _____

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

- ☐ summary paragraph
☐ completeness
☐ clarity
☐ alterations/integrity
☐ dates
☐ boundary selection

8. Significance

Period Areas of Significance—Check and justify below

Specific dates

Builder/Architect

Statement of Significance (*in one paragraph*)

- ☐ summary paragraph
- ☐ completeness
- ☐ clarity
- ☐ applicable criteria
- ☐ justification of areas checked
- ☐ relating significance to the resource
- ☐ context
- ☐ relationship of integrity to significance
- ☐ justification of exception
- ☐ other

9. Major Bibliographical References

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property _____

Quadrangle name _____

UTM References _____

Verbal boundary description and justification _____

11. Form Prepared By

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

____ national ____ state ____ local

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

title

date

13. Other

- ☐ Maps
- ☐ Photographs
- ☐ Other

Questions concerning this nomination may be directed to _____

Signed _____ Date _____ Phone: _____



4-3A

Historic Resources of Stamford, Texas

Jones County, Texas

Photo 1985 by Don Abbe, neg. with Texas
Historical Commission, Austin

Property No. 7 (Sta-036), First Baptist Church,
E. Oliver and N. Swenson, looking NE

Photo 15 of 41.



Historic Resources of Stamford, Texas

Jones County, Texas

Photo 1985 by Don Abbe, neg. with Texas
Historical Commission, Austin

Property No. 7 (Sta-036), First Baptist Church,
E. Oliver and N. Swenson, looking SE

Photo 16 of 41.

4-5A



Historic Resources of Stamford, Texas

Jones County, Texas

Photo 1985 by Don Abbe, neg. with Texas
Historical Commission, Austin

Property No. 7 (Sta-036), First Baptist Church,
E. Oliver and N. Swenson, looking NE

Photo 17 of 41.

4-2A

Please refer to the map in the
Multiple Property Cover Sheet
for this property

Multiple Property Cover Sheet Reference Number: 64000854