

# LANDMARK



# SURVEY

## IDENTIFICATION

Street Address: 632 West Main Street  
Map and Parcel: 29-1  
Census Tract & Block: 1-303  
Present Owner: First Baptist Congregation  
Address: 632 West Main Street  
Present Use: First Baptist Church  
Original Owner: Delevan Baptist Church  
Original Use: Church

## BASE DATA

Historic Name: Delevan Baptist Church (C.M.R.A.)  
Date/Period: 12 October 1883  
Style: Victorian Romanesque  
Height to Cornice:  
Height in Stories: 1  
Present Zoning: M-1  
Land Area (sq.ft.): 12,980  
Assessed Value (land + imp.): \$71,500

## ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION

First Baptist Church is an excellent example of Victorian Romanesque style. The building is rectangular in form, three bays wide by six bays long. A high single-storey facade fronts on Main Street, but because of ground slope, the main floor is raised above a full-storey basement at the sides and rear. Construction is brick, common bond on the facade, American elsewhere. A square, projecting tower of brick forms the central bay on the entrance facade. Above the peak of the roof gable, the tower supports a large octagonal lantern on a square base, both of wood. The lantern is decorated with attenuated corner pilasters and is covered with a domed roof. Matching projecting towerlets stand at the facade corners and rise slightly above the roof eaves. The main structure is covered with a gable roof of red, composition shingle. Eaves are finished with a white-painted, projecting wood cornice above a corbel-arch-supported brick overhang. Projecting piers suggestive of pilasters separate the bays along the side wall of the main floor and serve to buttress the high walls. A corbelled-brick water table separates the basement from main floor. Main floor windows, one each bay, are high, semi-circular headed, double-hung sash with leaded stained glass. Basement windows are large, six-over-nine-light, double-hung sash. Main entry is through paneled, double doors, with segmental-arch lintel, in the base of the tower. A single window, like other main-floor windows is located in the tower above the door. A low, wrought iron fence, with alternating tall and short pikes, and gothic-motif gateposts, surrounds the church yard.

## HISTORICAL DESCRIPTION

Builders and Mechanics Liens (Co. DB82-458 and 83-76) give the date of completion of the Delevan Baptist Church as October 12, 1883 and its cost \$6,098.60 plus \$120.00 for extra ceiling work. John C. Sinclair was the builder. In 1864, 800 black Baptists were dismissed from the old Baptist Church in town, and in August 1868, the black Baptist congregation purchased lot #6 of the Delevan property (Co. DB68-76) for their place of worship. Their church was the old Delevan Hotel, built in the 1820's by General John H. Cocke as a temperance hotel and named after a certain Delevan, an "eminent reformer of Albany, N.Y." The hotel had also been called "Mudwall", from either an adobe or terre pise wall surrounding the property or from the clay-like appearance of its stucco walls. (Plat, DB64-172).

## SIGNIFICANCE

The Delevan Baptist Church, organized in 1864, is the oldest black congregation in Charlottesville. It took its name from the temperance hotel on this site which served as its first meeting place. The present church building is the only example of the Romanesque Revival remaining in Charlottesville.

## CONDITIONS

Good

UTM: 17/720300/4212015

## SOURCES

City and County Records  
Early Charlottesville

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only  
received  
date entered

Continuation sheet

Item number

Page 8 of 9

Multiple Resource Area  
Thematic Group

Name Charlottesville Multiple Resource Area  
State Virginia

Nomination/Type of Review

Date/Signature

71. Enderly Servants' Quarters

Substantive Review

Keeper Ret

Attest

72. C & A Ry Co.-Va. Public Service Co.

Substantive Review

Keeper Regent Duhio 1/10/84

Attest

73. Sparks-Garrett House

Substantive Review

Keeper Ret

Attest

74. Pitts-Inge

Substantive Review

Keeper Linda McClelland

Attest

75. Wheeler House

Substantive Review

Keeper Ret

Attest

76. Wheeler-Dyer House

Substantive Review

Keeper Ret

Attest

77. Paxton Place

Substantive Review

Keeper Linda McClelland

Attest

78. Hotel Gleason/Albemarle Hotel, Imperial Cafe

Substantive Review

Keeper accept Patrick Andrews 9/10/83

Attest

79. Holsinger-Thomas Building

Substantive Review

Keeper Ret

Attest

80. Delevan Baptist Church

Substantive Review

Keeper Linda McClelland

Attest

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

Delevan Baptist Church (Charlottesville MRA)  
VIRGINIA

Working No. 9/7/82-2435  
Fed. Reg. Date: 2.1.83  
Date Due: 10/7/82 - 10/22/82  
Action:  ACCEPT 10/21/82  
 RETURN  
 REJECT

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

Federal Agency: \_\_\_\_\_

Substantive Review:  sample  request  appeal  NR decision

Reviewer's comments:

*Good example of style, Rem. Renewal  
Exception under A not  
developed sufficiently*

Recom. / Criteria Accept C  
Reviewer L. M. Clelland  
Discipline Arch. Hist.  
Date 10/21/82  
 see continuation sheet

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

- 1. Name
- 2. Location
- 3. Classification
- 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		Check one	Check one
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> original site
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

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

## 8. Significance

Period \_\_\_\_\_ Area 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

Acres of nominated property \_\_\_\_\_

Quadrangle name \_\_\_\_\_

USFT 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: 202 272-35

Comments for any item may be continued on an attached sheet

*Architectural And Historic  
Survey*



*Graphics*



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

Multiple Property Cover Sheet Reference Number: 64000882

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTATION

PROPERTY Delevan Baptist Church  
NAME:

MULTIPLE Charlottesville MRA  
NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: VIRGINIA, Charlottesville

DATE RECEIVED: 5/30/08 DATE OF PENDING LIST:  
DATE OF 16TH DAY: DATE OF 45TH DAY: 7/13/08  
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 82001802

NOMINATOR: STATE

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

APPEAL: N DATA PROBLEM: N LANDSCAPE: N LESS THAN 50 YEARS: N  
OTHER: N PDIL: N PERIOD: N PROGRAM UNAPPROVED: N  
REQUEST: N SAMPLE: N SLR DRAFT: N NATIONAL: N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

     ACCEPT      RETURN      REJECT                      DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

*additional Documentation Accepted*

REQUEST: N SAMPLE: N SLR DRAFT: N NATIONAL: N  
RECOM./CRITERIA Accept  
REVIEWER Edson Beall DISCIPLINE History  
TELEPHONE                      DATE 7-2-08

DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y/N see attached SLR Y/N

If a nomination is returned to the nominating authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the NPS.

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

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

**Delevan Baptist Church, #104-0376  
Charlottesville, Virginia**

Section 7,8 Page 2

---

**7. Architectural Description (additional information):**

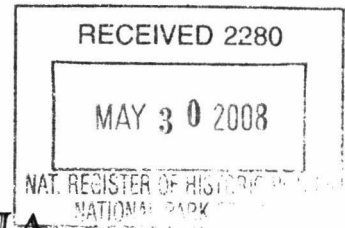
Located at 632 West Main Street, at the corner of 7<sup>th</sup> Street in Charlottesville, the cornerstone for the First Baptist Church (now the Delevan Baptist Church) was laid in 1877 and the building completed in 1883. This rectangular three-bay brick building is an excellent example of the Romanesque Revival style and features a projecting brick square entrance tower topped by an octagonal wooden lantern on a square base. The main entry is at the base of the tower through paneled double-leaf doors with a segmental-arched lintel. Matching projecting brick towers stand at the façade corners and rise slightly above the roof eaves. The gabled roof is clad in asphalt shingles. The six-bay sides of the brick building are articulated into bays by projecting piers that also serve to buttress the high walls, and contain double-hung, round-arched stained-glass windows and a corbelled brick cornice. The rear of the building has a hip-roofed rectangular apse with a taller gable-roofed projecting. A corbelled brick water table separates the basement level from the main floor. The basement level windows contain square-headed six-over-nine double-hung windows.

**8. Significance Statement (additional information):**

Originally listed as part of the Charlottesville Multiple Resource Area nomination, the Delevan Baptist Church was placed in the Virginia Landmarks Register on October 20, 1981 and in the National Register of Historic Places on October 21, 1982.

First Baptist Church, now known as the Delevan Baptist Church, is directly related to the African-American community that was growing in the eastern portion of the proposed Fifeville-Castle Hill Historic District by the 1870s and is a significant contributing resource and visual landmark within this area. Black Baptists who had formerly worshipped at Charlottesville's white First Baptist Church purchased the property on which the Delevan Hospital stood (formerly known as "Mudwall") in 1868 and began construction in 1877 of what would be called the First Colored Baptist Church, completed ca. 1883. Although several other Baptist congregations split off from the "first" church, this building made a bold statement for the African-American community in downtown Charlottesville. It stands today as the only institutional building within the proposed district's boundaries and would have been convenient to the growing number of African-Americans in the Fifeville and Castle Hill neighborhoods.





# COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

L. Preston Bryant, Jr.  
Secretary of Natural Resources

**Department of Historic Resources**  
2801 Kensington Avenue, Richmond, Virginia 23221

Kathleen S. Kilpatrick  
Director

Tel: (804) 367-2323  
Fax: (804) 367-2391  
TDD: (804) 367-2386  
www.dhr.virginia.gov

May 29, 2008

**Mr. Paul Loether**  
Chief, National Register of Historic Places and National Historic Landmarks Programs  
National Park Service 2280  
National Register of Historic Places  
1201 "I" (Eye) Street, N.W.  
Washington D.C. 20005

**RE: Continuation Pages for the Following:**

**Fauquier County resources: Dakota, The Oaks, and North Wales**

**City of Charlottesville resources: Benjamin Tonsler House and Delevan Baptist Church**

**Albemarle County resources: Redlands, Morven, Christ Church Glendower, Monticola, Estouteville, Plain Dealing, Esmont, Edgemont, Mountain Grove, Westcote, Clifton, Cocke's Mill, Walker House, Guthrie Hall, Sunnyfields, High Meadows, The Rectory, Pine Knot, and Blenheim**

Dear Mr. Loether:

The enclosed continuation pages are to be added to the ends of all the above referenced individual resources previously listed in the National Register of Historic Places. In the last few years, there have been three historic districts surveyed which have included these resources in their inventories. Therefore, I am providing extra documentation to go along with the currently listed nomination material as it has been documented under the each resource within the inventories if the larger districts. None of this information changes, in any way, the current listing, but is strictly additional documentation for your files.

Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me. My direct phone line is 804-367-2323 at extension 102.

Sincerely,

**Jean McRae, Historic Preservationist**  
**National and State Register Program Coordinator**

**Enclosures**

Administrative Services  
10 Courthouse Avenue  
Petersburg, VA 23803  
Tel: (804) 863-1624  
Fax: (804) 862-6196

Capital Region Office  
2801 Kensington Ave.  
Richmond, VA 23221  
Tel: (804) 367-2323  
Fax: (804) 367-2391

Tidewater Region Office  
14415 Old Courthouse Way, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor  
Newport News, VA 23608  
Tel: (757) 886-2807  
Fax: (757) 886-2808

Roanoke Region Office  
1030 Penmar Ave., SE  
Roanoke, VA 24013  
Tel: (540) 857-7585  
Fax: (540) 857-7588

Northern Region Office  
5357 Main Street  
PO Box 519  
Stephens City, VA 22655  
Tel: (540) 868-7031  
Fax: (540) 868-7033