

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form**

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Parkdale Baptist Church, AS0051
other names/site number First Baptist Missionary Church of Parkdale

2. Location

street & number 137 Bride Street not for publication
city or town Parkdale vicinity
state Arkansas code AR county Ashley code 003 zip code 71661

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination
request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic
Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set for in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets
does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant
 nationally statewide locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title Date
Arkansas Historic Preservation Program
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. (See Continuation sheet for additional
comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is: Signature of the Keeper _____ Date of Action _____
 entered in the National Register.
 See continuation sheet
 determined eligible for the
National Register. _____
 See continuation sheet
 Determined not eligible for the
National Register. _____
 Removed from the National
Register. _____
 Other, (explain :) _____

Parkdale Baptist Church
Name of Property

Ashley County, Arkansas
County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

Category of Property
(Check only one box)

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Number of Resources within Property
(Do not include previously listed resources in count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1		buildings
		sites
		structures
		objects
1		Total

Name of related multiple property listing
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

N/A

Number of Contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

N/A

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

RELIGION/Religious facility

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

RELIGION/Religious facility

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

LATE 19th AND 20th CENTURY REVIVALS/
American Gothic Revival

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation BRICK
walls WEATHERBOARD/ASBESTOS

roof ASPHALT
other

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property
For National Register listing.)

- A** Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of Our history.
- B** Property is associated with the lives of persons Significant in our past.
- C** Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack Individual distinction.
- D** Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, Information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- A** owned by a religious institution or used for Religious purposes.
- B. removed** from its original location.
- C.** birthplace or grave of a historical figure of outstanding importance.
- D** a cemetery.
- E** a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F** a commemorative property
- G** less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Levels of Significance (local, state, national)

Local

Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions)

Architecture

Period of Significance

1910

Significant Dates

1910

Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked)

Cultural Affiliation (Complete if Criterion D is marked)

Architect/Builder

N/A

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- Previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
 - Other State Agency
 - Federal Agency
 - Local Government
 - University
 - Other
- Name of repository: Parkdale Baptist Church

Parkdale Baptist Church
Name of Property

Ashley County, Arkansas
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of Property One

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	<u>15</u> Zone	<u>635348</u> Easting	<u>3665645</u> Northing	3	<u> </u> Zone	<u> </u> Easting	<u> </u> Northing
2	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	4	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Joanna Hall, National Register Historian
organization Arkansas Historic Preservation Program date
street & number 1500 Tower Building 323 Center St telephone (501) 312-1357
city or town Little Rock state AR zip code 72201

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location

A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

Additional items

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items.)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

name Parkdale Baptist Church
street & number 137 Bride Street telephone 870-473-2426
city or town Parkdale state AR zip code 71661

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listing. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 *et seq.*)

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P. O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reduction Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20303.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 1

SUMMARY

Parkdale Baptist Church is a two-story, frame, Gothic Revival church with a modified cruciform plan located in Parkdale, Ashley County, Arkansas. Front entries flank the central bay and towers on the front corners of the building. The exterior walls are clad in asbestos shingles, the roof in composition shingles, and the foundation is brick piers. The front gable contains a central bay of two sets of four windows capped by a pointed arch with wood tracery and flanked by a pair of windows on either side. The church fronts Bride Street, one block north of Arkansas State Highway Eight, the main thoroughfare in Parkdale, and two blocks east of Main Street. The church was built in 1910 and is best described in the style of Domestic or American Gothic Revival. Although it does not have the ornamental trim of pure Gothic Revival design, it has many features that are Gothic Revival. The pointed arched trim of the major windows, the twin tower structures, and the gables with the symmetrical arched windows of patterned glass all relate to the Gothic Revival style. The small veranda type entrances under each tower are a feature of this style as well.

ELABORATION

Parkdale Baptist Church rests on a brick pier foundation covered by wood lattice added in 2004. The original weatherboard cladding was replaced with asbestos siding in 1952. The front, south façade features a large gable end flanked by two corner towers recessed from the front and capped with double pitched roofs and finials. The front gable end has three bays of two-story windows. The central bay is composed of four windows below and four above separated by a panel with wood molding. The central bay is capped with a pointed Gothic arch with wood tracery and wood panels. To either side of the central bay are bays with two windows, one above the other, also separated by a panel. The flanking towers feature front entrances at ground level that are both covered with metal awnings. Vents in the tower continue the Gothic arch motif with a rectangular louvered vent below a Gothic arch vent with wood tracery and louvers. Two sets of paired brackets support the eaves with louvers between each bracket and pair. The tower roofs begin with a moderate pitch and then kicks up to a steeply pitch pyramidal roof topped by finials.

Continuing around the east and west sides, the front gable has one pair of windows in the same stacked configuration as the front windows, separated by a wood panel. The towers contain a window at ground level on the sides with a two-over-two pane configuration. The same vent configuration on the front of the towers is replicated on the side. A cross-gable intersects the central gable at the midpoint. The side gables have one bay of four windows with a one-over-one pane configuration capped by a tri-partite, pointed, Gothic-arch window with wood tracery and molding. The rear bay is recessed from the side façade and features one window with a two-over-two pane configuration.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 2

The rear, north façade is covered in a shed roof bisected by a gable. Across the back from left to right are four bays. At the left corner, a single window with a two-over-two pane configuration is paired with a rear entry. At the right corner, two single windows with two-over-two pane configurations. The windows and door on the rear façade have simple wood molding surrounds. The rear gable features two attic vents, a louvered rectangular vent below a smaller, triangular louvered vent.

The interior remains largely unchanged from the original configuration. The original bead board walls and ceiling were covered in 1952 with vertical board on the walls and acoustical tile on the ceiling. At the front of the sanctuary, the pulpit sits in a recessed nook framed by a large round arch. The original pews are extant and are arranged in a semi-circular configuration with two side aisles making three bays of pews. Some changes to the configuration at front of the church (rear of the sanctuary) have occurred over the years. An upstairs balcony was converted into a second story classroom in 1925.

INTEGRITY

The building maintains its original plan and shape. However, there have been a few alterations. The weatherboard cladding was replaced with asbestos siding in 1952. A wood lattice was added to cover the brick pier foundation in 2004.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places

Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 1

SUMMARY

Parkdale Baptist Church is being nominated to the National Register of Historic Places with **local significance** under **criterion C** for its American or Late Gothic Revival architecture. The church is a unique structure for Southeast Arkansas and the only example of the architectural style in the City of Parkdale. The twin towers, the arched upper windows, and two stories of patterned glass windows make an impressive frontal view of the church. The same arched windows and larger patterned glass windows are located on the east and west elevations. The interior is significant in that the auditorium floor of virgin pine is built on a graduated elevation and the original curved pews are in use. The church is also being nominated under **Criteria Consideration A: Religious Properties**.

ELABORATION

The original settlement of Poplar Bluff was established in the early 1850s as a steamboat landing along the east bank of Bayou Bartholomew. The settlement was so named in reference to the many poplar trees that grew along the banks of the bayou. The census of 1850 revealed a population of 84 white people and 80 slaves. In comparison, by 1860 De Bastrop Township, in which Poplar Bluff was the primary village, had a population of 386 white people with about an equal number of slaves. In 1857 John Tillman Hughes erected a mercantile store at the Poplar Bluff settlement. A post office was established in 1860 with Mr. Hughes as the postmaster. Poplar Bluff incorporated in January 1889, becoming the second incorporated town in Ashley County. R. M. Roberts was mayor, Frank Barnes was marshal, and the population was around 200. Mercantile firms at this time were J. W. Morris, Radford and Blanks, Harris and George. A cotton gin and gristmill were in operation with from 3,000 to 4,000 bales of cotton being produced annually. Cotton and other agricultural goods were transported to market by flatboats and later by steamboats on Bayou Bartholomew. The logging industry used the bayou as well to float down logs when the water was high.

When the St. Louis, Iron Mountain and Southern Railroad came through in 1892-1893, the merchants abandoned their bayou location and moved a few blocks east to the railroad. The name of the settlement was soon changed to Parkdale to prevent the confusion of freight shipments to Poplar Bluff, Missouri. New buildings lined the west side of the railroad track. Parkdale Bank was open by 1905, L. W. Perdue and M. C. Hawkins, M.D., opened pharmacies and druggist's sundries by the first decade of the 1900s. T.L. Nichols and J.J. Daniel were in the mercantile business by 1907, and by 1909 Finch Brothers Pharmacy was in operation. Caldwell and Bell opened an auction house for general merchandise by 1912. M. R. White published a newspaper, *The Parkdale News*, for a few years beginning in 1900.

The history of the Parkdale Baptist Church began in 1857 when a Missionary Baptist Church was organized. A two-story building, erected in the 1850s, where the Parkdale Cemetery is now located, most likely served this congregation as well as the Methodists. In the 1870s the Baptists built another two-story frame structure at the cemetery. The second story was used as a lodge hall, and the first story was used for the church and a school. The congregation made several unsuccessful attempts to revive that church in 1907, and decided to sell the old building and use the proceeds on a new building. Dr. Benjamin F. Holiday bought the church building for one hundred dollars and Mr. Frank Barnes paid twenty dollars for scrap lumber. There was a

Parkdale Baptist Church

Name of Property

Ashley County, Arkansas

County and State

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 2

church parsonage located near where the Dr. Mark C. Hawkins home was soon to be built. It was sold to Mr. J. N. Morris for twenty five dollars.

The Methodist Episcopal Church moved from the cemetery in the late 1800s to a new log church on the northeast bank of the bayou near where N. P. Atkins later lived. A third Methodist church was built in 1904 on land and with lumber donated by Mr. and Mrs. John W. Morris. It was at this church, on November 18, 1908, that the present Parkdale Baptist Church was organized. The founding members felt led by the Lord to establish a Missionary Baptist Church to be affiliated with the Southern Baptist Convention. Founding members were Mr. and Mrs. J. S. Barnes, Mr. and Mrs. J. H. Bell, Mr. and Mrs. J. A. Cockrell, Mr. N. T. Foster, Mr. and Mrs. T. L. Nichols, Miss Inez Nichols, Mr. and Mrs. W. A. Pierce, Mr. Noble Daniel, and Mrs. F. A. Barnes. The Parkdale Public School was secured as a meeting place with 56 members enrolled. Reverend M. N. Deloach from Crossett, and Dr. A. J. Fawcett of Hamburg were the first presiding ministers. T. L. Nichols and J.R. Bell were elected as deacons, J. A. Crockrell as clerk, and R. H. Nichols as treasurer. T. L. Nichols was elected as Sunday school superintendent and served until 1929. The following have served as superintendents since that time: G. L. Rorex, John T. Ralph, H. S. Hill, H. D. Dingler, Leroy Gardner, James Lee Austin, Gene Johnson, Edward Akin, and C. C. Everett.

In March of 1909, the church called Reverend R. N. McGehee as pastor. Since there are no records of the church business during the months of March to October of 1909, it is unclear if Reverend McGehee accepted the position. In October 1909, the first revival was held and conducted by Dr. A. J. Fawcett and Reverend J. B. Alexander, a state missionary from Little Rock. During this revival meeting, there were ten additions to the church membership, a collection of two hundred thirty two dollars for state missions, and one thousand one hundred dollars raised for the purpose of starting a church building.

A recorded deed dated December 18, 1908, reveals that Norwood and Mattie George donated one acre of land to the Trustees of the Parkdale Baptist Church, and their descendents, for the purpose of erecting a church building and pastorium. Early in 1910, construction of the five thousand dollar church building began with great faith in the Lord and about one thousand five hundred dollars in cash pledges contributed by local residents and business firms of Little Rock, and Pine Bluff, Arkansas, Monroe, Louisiana, Memphis, Tennessee, and St. Louis, Missouri.

Each year a collection was taken to lessen the debt. In 1921, the church received a gift of five hundred dollars from the Home Mission Board to liquidate the debt.

On September 11, 1910, a few weeks before the first service was held in the new church building, the first delegates were appointed to the Bartholomew Association. The meeting was held at the Evergreen Baptist Church in Snyder, Arkansas. P. G. Coleman, N. T. Foster, and T. L. Nichols were the appointed delegates. J. A. Crockrell and W. A. Pierce were the appointed alternates.

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 3

The first service was held in the new building of the Parkdale Baptist Church on September 25, 1910. The service was led by Reverend J. B. Wise. He and Mrs. Mabel Kindness united with the church at this service. Reverend Wise was the minister of the church until September, 1912. Subsequent pastors are as follows:

Rev. T. M. McGehee (1912-1914), Rev. Otto Mathis (1914-1918), Rev. N. C. Denson (1918-1920), Rev. F. N. Carter (1920-1921), Rev. L. T. Guthrie (1921-1922), Rev. A. A. Weeks (1922-1925), Rev. W. O. Taylor (1925-1929), Rev. J.A. McKinney, Rev. A. D. Langston, Rev. Gearing, Rev. New, (1929-1937), Rev. Wade Hopkins (1937-1939), Rev. Keith Babb (1939-1941), Rev. Clanton (1941-1947), Rev. Claude D. Hughes (1947-1951), Rev. Heartsall Attwood (1951-1952), Rev. Howard Rash (1952-1955), Rev. Melvin Greer (1955-1958), Rev. Phillip May (1958-1959), Rev. Jack Barnes (1959-1960), Rev. Harry Noble, Jr. (1961-1962), Rev. Fred K. Sharp (1962-1962), Rev. Harry Noble, Jr. (1963-1964), Rev. Pickens Barker (1964), Rev. Harry Noble, Jr. (1964-1966), Rev. C. A. Johnson (1966-1969), Rev. Bill Elton (1969-1970), Rev. Gaylon Holt (1970-1975), Rev. Melvin Rice (1975-1978), Rev. Claude D. Hughes (1978-1988), Rev. Kenney Worthington (1988-1994), Rev. Larry Donaldson (1994-1995), Rev. Harry Noble, Jr. (1995-2001), Rev. Robert Bridges (2003-present).

The following were ordained as deacons: J.H. Nobles and W. F. Morris (1917), E. H. McMurray and G. L. Rorex (1926), John T. Ralph, Leroy Gardner, Frank Ryburn, D.D. Kervin, Morris Brame, (1931-1977), Lee Austin, James L. Austin, Arnold Vail, and Edward Akin, (1977).

On June 22, 1922, the first Baptist Young Peoples Union (B.Y.P.U.) was organized with fourteen members and grew to an enrollment of thirty five. The church building was remodeled in 1925 with the upstairs balcony being converted to second story classrooms. The folding doors between the columns in the back of the church, which separated the auditorium from the ladies classroom, were removed and the present class room was constructed. The choir platform was moved from the right side of the rostrum and placed behind the pulpit stand.

In 1947 a parsonage was built at a cost of four thousand five hundred dollars. When the building was started, three thousand had been donated. Before it was finished, an additional seven hundred dollars was donated by the people of Parkdale. Mr. Fred Blanks offered to let the church have the remainder of the cost without interest, to be paid at the convenience of the church members. It was paid in a short time

In 1951, the Women's Missionary Society bought the Hammond Organ. It was to be paid for by monthly installments over a period of three years. However, a special donation made it possible to pay it off in two years. In 1952, the beaded board ceiling and walls were covered with ceiling tiles and wallboard. The baptistery was remodeled and the baptistery painting was given by Misses Willie Mae and Mollie Nobles in memory of their mother and father, Mr. and Mrs. J. S. Nobles. The original exterior lapped siding walls were covered with asbestos shingles in 1952, as well.

In the early 1960s, a portion of the ladies class room was taken for the purpose of building a bathroom.

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 4

A new asphalt shingle roof was applied in the 1990s and the east steeple tower was straightened in 2002.

In 2004, all air ducts were removed from underneath the church in conjunction with upgrading and installing a new central air and heating system. Lattice underpinning was installed and the exterior of the church was painted in the same time period.

Though smaller in number than in past years, the Parkdale Baptist Church still remains a beacon of spiritual guidance for the community. Through diminishing membership and economic hardships, the church has never closed its doors. The history of Parkdale Baptist Church can never be complete because there is not space to name all the men and women who have served the church so faithfully through the years. This church enjoys a rich heritage and a positive attitude for greater things yet to come.

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Parkdale Baptist Church is being nominated to the National Register of Historic Places with **local significance** under **Criterion C** for its American or Late Gothic Revival architecture. The church is a unique structure for Southeast Arkansas and the only example of this architectural style in Parkdale. Additionally, the church is being nominated under **Criteria Consideration A: Religious Properties**.

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 9 Page 1

BIBLIOGRAPHY

DeArmond-Huskey, Rebecca. *Bartholomew's Song: A Bayou History*. Bowie, Maryland: Heritage Books Inc. 2001.

Etheridge, Y. W. *History of Ashley County, Arkansas*. Van Buren, Arkansas: The Press Argus, 1959.

Information from a previous written history of Parkdale Baptist Church compiled by Mrs. Cefronia (Coleman) Brame, Mrs. Howard Nobles, and Miss Willie Mae Nobles.

Reflections of Ashley County: Compiled by Robert A. Carpenter, Sr. and Mary Imogene Carpenter, 1987.

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 10 Page 1

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Lot 2 in Block 10, East ½ of the North ¼ of Section 19, Township 18 South, Range 4 West. One Acre.

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

The boundary contains all of the land historically associated with the Parkdale Baptist Church.