

**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 any 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 South Side Baptist Church

other names/site number South Side Education Building (1953), Site #SB0792

2. Location

street & number 2400 Dodson Avenue not for publication

city or town Fort Smith vicinity

state Arkansas code AR county Sebastian code 131 zip code 72901

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 forth 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.)

Cedric Maccas 11/17/05
Signature of certifying official Date

Arkansas Historic Preservation Program
State or Federal Agency or Tribal government

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

Signature of commenting official/Title Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby certify that this property is:	Signature of the Keeper	Date of Action
<input type="checkbox"/> entered in the National Register <input type="checkbox"/> See continuation sheet.	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> determined eligible for the National Register <input type="checkbox"/> See continuation sheet.	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> determined not eligible for the National Register	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> removed from the National Register	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> other (explain): _____		

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 the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1	0	buildings
		sites
		structures
		objects
1	0	Total

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

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)

MODERN MOVEMENT / Moderne

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Brick

walls Brick

roof Tar/Built-up

other

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

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET (pgs. 1 thru 4)

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.)

- A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B removed from its original location.
- C a birthplace or a grave.
- 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.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance

1948 - 1949, 1952

Significant Dates

1948 - 1949, 1952

Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Unknown

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

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET (1)

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: _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property less than one acre

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

	Zone	Easting	Northing
1	15	372222	3914999
2	_____	_____	_____

	Zone	Easting	Northing
3	_____	_____	_____
4	_____	_____	_____

See continuation sheet.

Verbal Boundary Description (SEE CONTINUATION SHEET.)

Boundary Justification (SEE CONTINUATION SHEET.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Galen Hunter, Architect/Ralph S. Wilcox, National Register & Survey Coordinator

organization Arkansas Historic Preservation Program date 10/04/05

street & number 1500 Tower Building, 323 Center Street telephone 501-324-9787

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 the SHPO or FPO.)

name South Side Baptist Church

street & number 2400 Dodson Avenue telephone 479-782-5041

city or town Fort Smith state AR zip code 72901

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 listings. 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.). A federal agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a valid OMB control number.

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including the 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 Keeper, National Register of Historic Places, 1849 "C" Street NW, Washington, DC 20240.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register Of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section 7 Page 1

NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION - INTRODUCTION

The South Side Baptist Education Building is a two-story buff-orange face brick building in the Moderne architectural style. The 50'x100' structure is rectangular in plan, whose length runs east and west. The original flat roofed structure was constructed in 1948. The cornerstone was laid Oct. 1948 and the church was completed on Jan. 1949 for a total cost of \$57,000. Historically, its original name was South Side Baptist Church, as it included a temporary sanctuary on the ground floor, and classrooms on second floor.

ELABORATION OF DESCRIPTION

The west face of the structure has the entry façade measuring 24ft in length and projecting 4ft. Facing 24th Street, this was the front entry for the original 1949 structure, where the ground floor was utilized as the sanctuary, and the second floor provided classroom space. At the center of the entry façade is a distinctive arch with the appearance of Richardsonian Romanesque style. This "front" entry currently has a pair of aluminum medium-stile glass doors and a transom light of stained glass with muntins in a fanlight pattern. The opening is framed with four concentric corbelled brick bands creating an arch intrados about 4 ft. deep. The archivolt is created by an inner and outer band of headers and middle band of stretchers, providing the decorative elements of brick voussoir; the outer band projects 1" beyond face of the wall. There are no other accents to this Romanesque arch (such as a keystone), save a light fixture having an ornate bronze bracket and a 10" diameter white-glass globe flanking the arch, located at its springing course. Apex to this archivolt is about 11 feet above ground level.

From the corners of the entry façade, about three feet up from the sill, a rowlock course intersects the archivolt. From this course line and beneath the two steel double-hung windows (1½ft.x3ft.) that flank the archway are stacked headers of same width as the window openings. Most all windows in this structure are steel, double-hung type, about 2½ft.x5ft. in size, with sloping brick rowlock sill and steel lintel head. The only other decorative element introduced to the structure's façade, save for symmetry in its fenestration, is a band brick rowlock course that aligns with second floor rowlock sill at the window openings. At the second floor of the entry façade are three window openings. There is a pair of steel double-hung windows, each 2½ft.x5ft. centered directly over and about 2 ft. above apex of the entry's archivolt. Flanking this central pair are two other windows of same material and type but 1½ft.x5ft. in size, and located directly above the smaller ground floor windows flanking the "front" entry arch; these windows have a similar stacked headers of same width as the window openings.

Flanking the 24ft. long entry façade are west facing brick walls, each 13ft. long. Their fenestration is symmetrical, each including three windows, each about 1½ft.x3ft. in size, steel double-hung with brick rowlock sill. Near the internal corner from where the entry façade projects there is one window each floor. Near the external corners of each 13ft. portion of the west façade is a third window, located mid-level between the two floors. Polished cut-stone coping is provided along the parapet to all the brick walls in the west façade.

At the southwest corner of the structure, the parapet terminates. The south façade has but a copper gutter along top of the 2-story face-brick wall. Fenestration includes a regular, symmetrical pattern of typical 2½ft.x5ft. steel, double-hung windows with sloping rowlock sills and steel-lintel heads. There is a belt of rowlock course brick that aligns with the rowlock sill of window openings serving both first and second floors. Window openings of the second floor are centered above those on ground floor, except for one window near the southwest corner.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register Of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section 7 Page 2

The Modern architecture style is read here in the minimal amount of decorative treatments, along with the emphasis on functionalism and up-to-date methods of construction (1949) create. The roof of the original structure, although being essentially flat, tar/built up construction, is sloped to drain to the south. From the southeast corner to the 1949 structure a parapet wall with cut-stone coping tops the 50 feet length of the east façade. There remains similar fenestration of 2½ft.x5ft. steel double-hung windows, found on the south façade's fenestration, which serve the second floor. Windows openings of the first floor have been infilled with matching brick during later additions to the original 1949 structure.

Near the northwest corner there adjoins the one story addition constructed in 1969. This 93ft.x110ft. red brick addition reflects elements found on the sanctuary addition constructed in 1952: namely the semicircular arch at head to each stained glass tall window. The north façade of the 1949 structure is obscured by the two-story sanctuary addition of 1952. From where the one story addition adjoins the 1949 structure, a 10ft. length of south-facing wall has only a flush, painted steel door near the internal corner at its east end. At top of the typical red brick wall of this 1969 addition is a soldier course, and the soffit begins at that point. From this internal corner, the addition returns southward some 44ft. to where its fascia aligns with the south wall of the original structure; there is no fenestration to this west façade. The cement plaster soffit of the 1969 addition has about 3ft. projection from the south wall and 1ft. projection from west wall. Its 2½ft. high fascia has a regular pattern created by intaglio (1" depth) that reflects the arched window openings found on the east and west façades of the sanctuary addition; a 1ft. wide intaglio has a semicircular arch, and this 2ft. high pattern repeats about 1'-4"o.c., giving the visual impression of a dentil frieze. The cement plaster fascia has a white finish and is capped by a bronze finished metal gravel guard and drip.

The one-story south façade is 70ft. long, and has one window: the sill is at floor line, it features a brick molding at the jamb by use of headers with ½" projection and at the head by use of brick voussoir, creating a semicircular arch. There is an alcove in the façade providing entry to a north-south corridor of this addition. The plaster soffit projects about 3ft. and its fascia has the intaglio pattern as previously described. From the southeast corner the addition, the east façade, 106ft. long, is similar to the south façade, including its fenestration, soffit and fascia treatments. There are three window openings in the 60ft. south portion. Then there is an entry porch/alcove with a 12"x20" brick column that supports the roof as it projects out some 10ft. from the east wall; on the north side of the entry porch, the 39ft. long portion of the east façade continues on to the northeast corner of the addition; there is no fenestration to this portion, but the plaster soffit and fascia wraps the structure with the same intaglio pattern as noted on the south façade.

The one-story 93ft. long north façade which faces Dodson Avenue reveals a concrete ledge table, projecting about 8" and beneath this the concrete foundation with an inclined face. The fenestration is similar to those of the east and south façade, with four typical 3ft. wide window openings with the brick molding of headers at the jambs, sill at floor line and a semicircular arch head of brick voussoir. The northwest corner of this façade is about 18ft. from the east façade of the 1952 sanctuary addition. From here a 50ft. long one-story west wall turns towards the north wall of the 1949 structure, but then returns 18ft. towards the east façade of the sanctuary addition, where the decorative white plaster fascia abuts the 2-story buff-orange brick wall.

From this point the two-story 1952 addition's east wall travels about 80ft. north back towards Dodson Avenue. The fenestration of this east façade includes six tall window openings, each with a semi-circular archivolt created by an inner course of rowlock brick and outer course of header brick that projects 1" beyond face of the brick wall; the apex of these arches are about 15ft. above the floor line. Five of these window openings

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

**National Register Of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section 7 Page 3

have a full height stained glass windows divided by five horizontal metal muntins, with the top fixed light being semi-circular. The window opening close to the sanctuary north façade has but two fixed lights (including the top semi-circular) of stained glass; below this is a recessed brick infill. Brick headers outline each window opening, and allow the metal windows be set back from the brick surface. The top of the east façade is distinguished by a bronze colored metal gutter/fascia treatment, and 3 metal downspouts divide the window openings in pairs.

The north façade of the sanctuary addition rises directly from the sidewalk along Dodson Avenue. There is a parapeted gable end of brick, flanked by two projecting tower façades, each about 12ft. long, serving as a gable shoulder. Each tower mass sets back about 3ft from the east and west walls of the sanctuary while, at the same time projecting about 12ft. from the northeast and northwest corners, respectively, of the same walls. Centered with the gable end at ground level is another Romanesque style arch, whose archivolt is very similar to the "front" entry of the original 1949 structure (facing 24th Street). This is an archway that leads to an alcove with entries to the sanctuary interior; the Romanesque style arch is about 10ft. wide and 12 ft. high and is flanked by lantern light fixtures, located at the springing line. The brick wall at the back of this entry alcove features a soldier course at floor line. Also, centered with the archway, in this alcove wall is a window opening about 9ft. wide, having a semi-circular arch of brick voussoir, whose apex is about 5ft. above the soldier course. This window has metal muntins in bronze finish that divide it into six fixed lights of stained glass. Directly above this archway are a triple-set of metal double-hung windows at second floor level. Flanking this, near the tower façade is a 1½ft.x3ft. double-hung metal window at second floor. Directly beneath this is a window opening of corresponding width, but 5ft. high, with a splayed sill of cast-stone and head that aligns with the apex of the archway.

The tower façades are symmetrical about the archway, and each 12ft. long north facing wall is subdivided by two pilaster masses, about 3ft. wide and projecting about 4". Between the pilaster masses, about midway up is a 2ft.x3ft. metal, double-hung window with a cast-stone sill; directly below this, is a cast-stone accent that corresponds and aligns with the splayed sill of those windows at first floor, flanking the entry arch. There is no fenestration on the east or west faces of the tower mass of the north façade. Cast-stone coping tops the tower masses, following the profile generated by the two pilaster masses on each tower façade. From the northwest corner of the west tower mass, the wall travels 12ft. south, then 3ft. west to the north corner of west façade of the sanctuary addition. This 80ft. long façade has the same fenestration as the east façade of the sanctuary, with 6 window openings have 5 full height stained glass windows with 6 horizontal metal muntins. The west façade mirrors most nearly those architectural elements noted for the east façade, as described previously.

There is a 3ft. projection at the south end of this sanctuary's west wall, whereupon a 10ft. long two-story west wall abuts with the original 1949 structure. At the second floor level is a coupled double-hung metal window, having a cast-stone sill and steel lintels at window head. Directly below this window opening, at the ground floor, is a pair of painted steel doors (bronze finish), with a brick rowlock course at the head of this secondary sanctuary entry. Flanking this entry, about 8" either side, in line with the rowlock course are decorative metal brackets in bronze finish that support matching white globe lights fixtures as found at the "front entry" of the original structure. The top of this west wall has the bronze-colored metal gutter/fascia that continues from the sanctuary west façade, and is about 1ft. above the cut-stone coping of the 1949 structure.

Two additions currently complete the campus of Southside Baptist. On the fifth anniversary of the original building, the first addition was begun in Feb. 1952, to include the sanctuary structure, seating 850, daycare and church offices. The 60ft.x90ft. structure includes eleven tall stained-glass windows, each having semi-

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

**National Register Of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section 7 Page 4

circular arches, as well as an Romanesque archway facing Dodson Avenue, leading to an alcove entry; there are two buttress forms which flank the archway in the north façade. Materials and architectural style of this addition, completed on May 1953, were both similar to original 1948 structure. The second addition was begun Apr. 1969, comprised of one story red brick, 93ft.x106ft. in plan, featuring semi-circular arched windows, and 3ft. roof overhang having a white plaster soffit and fascia with an arch-motif. This addition was completed on Feb. 1970, and accommodates updated nursery, office and dining areas.

The original 1948 structure, now know as South Side Baptist Education Building remains in excellent condition.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register Of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section 8 Page 1

SUMMARY

South Side Baptist Church began as a group of 125 Baptists who met May 18, 1948 in the Circuit court room of the Sebastian County Court House for prayer and decided to organize a church. Reflecting the great expansion of Ft. Smith during that era, this group's undertaking provided a good example, in this city's cultural development that met religious needs of its citizens, of a facility in Moderne architectural style. The church is being nominated to the National Register of Historic Places with **local significance** under **Criterion C** as a good example of the Moderne style in its neighborhood of Fort Smith. It is also being nominated under **Criteria Consideration A: Religious Properties**.

ELABORATION

A total cost of \$57,000 was expended on a 50'x100' 2-story brick structure, whose Romanesque-arched entry faced 24th Street. By January 1949 first services were held in the temporary sanctuary area on ground floor of this Moderne style building, with 441 members. Rev. Victor H. Coffman was this congregation's first pastor who led them to this important moment. The second floor held their classroom area during that time. Native brick materials were utilized in walls and flat roof was tar/built-up construction. Minimal exterior detailing was used, with the fenestration consisting of double hung windows in a regular pattern, each having sloped rowlock sill. There was no distinctive treatment at the roof edge, and only the brick Romanesque-arched entry facing 24th St. provided decorative interest on this west façade. Here the building projects out 4ft.x24ft. and a symmetrical pattern of double hung windows surround this entry-arch.

Following the 5th anniversary of the original building, the continuation in construction began in Feb. 1952 for its sanctuary addition, having 60ft.x90ft. floor plan that seated 850. This building reflected the original structure, having same native brick materials, flat roof construction. Along east and west walls were 11 stained-glass tall windows that had semi-circular arches in brick voussoir. In the center of the east façade, flanked by buttressed forms, a Romanesque-arched entry faces Dodson Avenue. First services were held in the new sanctuary addition on May 24, 1953. The original structure now served and became know as South Side Baptist Education building.

A subsequent addition began later, on Apr. 1969, built as a one-story brick, 93ft.x106ft. flat-roofed structure. Like the sanctuary building of 1952, this addition features semi-circular brick voussoir arched windows; additionally the roof overhang includes a plaster soffit and fascia with an arch-motif. Architect for this structure was the Ft. Smith firm known as Mott, Mobley, Horstman & Staton. This second addition was completed on Feb. 1970, to accommodate updated nursery, office and dining areas.

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

South Side Baptist Church has grown in such a manner as to reflect the continued changes in history of cultural development in this "hub of the Southwest," Ft. Smith, Arkansas. The architectural features of the South Side Baptist Education Building are minimal in detail, reflecting the Moderne architectural style emerging in Ft. Smith. The exterior appearance has remained unchanged, except for attachment of sanctuary building of 1953, and the structure remains in excellent condition. The church is being nominated to the National Register of Historic Places with **local significance** under **Criterion C** as a good example of the Moderne style in its neighborhood of Fort Smith. It is also being nominated under **Criteria Consideration A: Religious Properties**.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register Of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section 9 Page 1

Major Bibliographical References

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Arkansas Historic Preservation Program.

South Side Baptist Church
Name of Property

Sebastian County, Arkansas
County and State

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

**National Register Of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

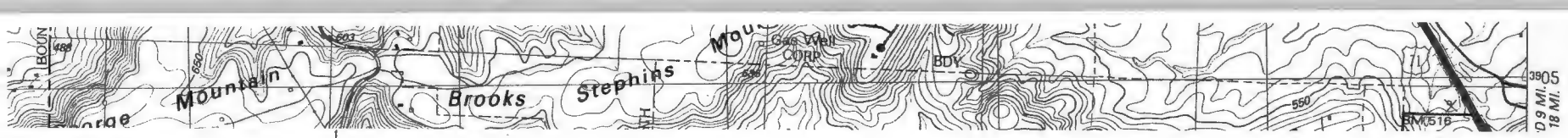
Section 10 Page 1

Verbal Boundary Description:

The west thirty feet (30') of Lot One (1) in Block One (1), St. Edwards Place of the City of Fort Smith, Arkansas, as shown by the recorded plat thereof.

Boundary Justification:

These are the original boundaries as deeded to the South Side Baptist Church .



3905
0.9 MI.
18 MI.

SOUTH FORT SMITH QUADRANGLE
ARKANSAS-OKLAHOMA
7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)
 SW/4 VAN BUREN 15' QUADRANGLE

7154 IV NE
(VAN BUREN)

V NW
SMITH) R 27 E R 32 W FAYETTEVILLE 58 MI. VAN BUREN 5 MI. 371 25' 3 070 000 FEET (OKLA., NORTH) 1 MI. TO JUNC. U. S. 64 & 71 3 080 000 FEET (OKLA., SOUTH) 94° 22' 30"

135° 22' 30"
 SOUTH SIDE BAPTIST CHURCH
 FORT SMITH, SEBASTIAN COUNTY, AR
 UTM:
 15/372222/3914999
 760 000 FEET
 (OKLA., SOUTH)



MASSARD 2 MI.

150 000 FEET
(OKLA., NORTH)

3913

9 MI. TO INTERSTATE 40
 RUSSELLVILLE 65 MI.

