

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

For NPS use only

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

received

date entered

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic Ebenezer Methodist Church DA 428

Returned by NR for changes (1985)

and or common The House of God of Nazarene Church

Not on NR. 2w 2 8-21-91

2. Location

street & number 1042 N. W. 3rd Avenue

not for publication

city, town Miami

vicinity of

state Florida 33136

code FL

county Dade

code FL 025

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name House of God of Nazarene

street & number 2000 N. W. 93rd Street

city, town Miami

vicinity of

state Florida 33147

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Dade County Courthouse

street & number 75 W. Flagler Street

city, town Miami

state Florida 33130

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title FMSF-Miami Multiple Resource
Historic Preservation Survey

has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date June, 1985

federal state county local

depository for survey records Bureau of Historic Preservation

city, town Tallahassee

state Florida 32399-0250

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

See Continuation Sheet

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 1 The Ebenezer Methodist Church

DESCRIPTION:

Condition: Fair

The Ebenezer Methodist Church building is a large two-story masonry structure executed in a twentieth century adaptation of the Gothic Revival style of architecture. Construction of the church building was begun in 1947, but according to the cornerstone, the formal dedication of the church did not take place until 25 April 1965.¹

Fronting to the east, the principal elevation of the church is characterized by a tripartite arrangement of lancet arches leading to the sanctuary. A set of masonry steps leads up from the sidewalk and through the arches to the sanctuary entrance, located at the second story of the church. The lower story of the church is subdivided into a small auditorium and meeting rooms. The principal elevation of the church is embellished with two square towers flanking a central gable which echoes the form of the roof. The exterior of the church is clad in stucco, and its broad surface plane is broken by decorative ornamentation which is comprised of cast stone.

The side elevations of the church are six bays. Within each bay is found a lancet window with a metal frame and casement-type sash. The bays of the side elevations are divided by stylized masonry buttresses which serve to emphasize the adaptation of the Gothic Revival architectural style. A photograph of the church under construction shows reveals the structure of the church is comprised of reinforced concrete columns and concrete block walls.²

The interior of the church contains a simple altar located at the western end of the sanctuary and simple wooden pews facing the altar. There is a small area to the rear of the altar for ceremonial and/or choir use. Although the Ebenezer Methodist congregation no longer occupies the building, the House of God of Nazarene Church still uses the building for religious purposes. The exterior appearance of the church has not changed since the day it was constructed.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetSection number 8 Page 2 The Ebenezer Methodist Church

The Ebenezer Methodist Church was founded as the Ebenezer Methodist Episcopal Church in August 1898. The congregation built a house structure to be used as a church at N. W. 9th Street and N. W. 3rd Avenue and later moved it to N. W. 10th Street and N. W. 3rd Avenue.⁵ In 1907, the congregation was one of six active religious organizations serving the Overtown community and boasted a church building with "preaching every Sunday."⁶ The site of the present church building is the congregation's third home. The present building was constructed under the pastorate of Reverend W. O. Bartley.⁷

During the early part of the twentieth century, there was little division between the social, economic and religious activities within the black community. The Ebenezer Methodist Church is a continuous link to the past and the social history of the entire community. During the race riots of the 1980s, the significance of the church was realized when, though buildings on all sides were burned and looted, the Church did not have one bit of damage, not even from a stray stone, or bullet.

The present church building possesses historical associations with an important congregation which served more than the religious and humanitarian needs for Overtown residents; the church building was used as a social hall for a variety of functions which benefited all the Overtown community. The architect of Ebenezer Methodist Church has not been identified.

NOTES

1. "Ebenezer's \$50,000 Structure," Miami Times, 18 January 1947, p. 5-E.
2. Photograph found at the Black Archives, History and Research Foundation of South Florida, Inc., no date.
3. Sanborn Map Company, Insurance Maps of Miami, Dade County, Florida (New York: Sanborn Map Company, 1914).
4. See note 1 above.
5. "Souvenir of the Opening Services, New Ebenezer Methodist Church," June 27, 1948.
6. R. L. Polk, R. L. Polk and Company's Miami City Directory (Jacksonville, Florida: R. L. Polk and Company, 1907).
7. See note 5 above.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetSection number 8 Page 1 The Ebenezer Methodist Church

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE:

Specific Date: 1948

Architect: Unknown

Builder: Scott-Whitaker

The Ebenezer Methodist Church is architecturally significant as it represents a fine example of twentieth century Gothic Revival architectural styling. The Ebenezer Methodist Church building is also significant for its historical associations with one of Overtown's oldest congregations. Although less than 50 years old, the building is exceptionally significant because of the quality of its architectural design, the visual prominence of the church in Overtown in part due to the poverty of the area and the racial riots of the 1980s, and its associations with an important early congregation.

The exterior of Ebenezer Methodist Church embodies the distinctive physical characteristics of the "modern" Gothic Revival style of architecture, a popular design expression for mid-century religious buildings. The appearance of the building, however, is exceptionally significant in that there are few buildings like it in Overtown, the neighborhood it serves. The majority of buildings in Overtown have little, if any, architectural styling, thus imparting major significance to buildings like Ebenezer that do possess a sense of design. The excellence of the building's design and detailed articulation is particularly evident in the composition of the principal elevation. The recessed entrance and the lancet windows on the side elevations represent a noteworthy adaptation to the area's local climate by allowing maximum natural ventilation while services are being held.

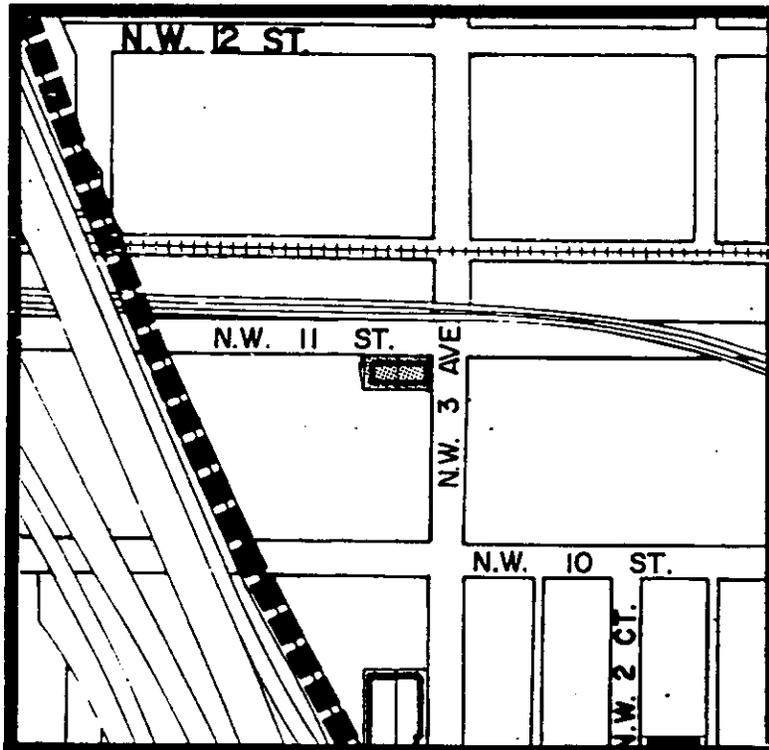
Ebenezer Methodist Church was originally built to house one of the oldest congregations of Overtown, known as "Colored Town" throughout the early years of the twentieth century. The present church building was built to replace an older frame church building constructed during the early years of the twentieth century.³ Construction of the present building began in 1947, with the original construction contract being awarded to the firm of Scott-Whitaker in the amount of \$50,000. As in the case of all the church's in the Overtown area, the cost of building a new church far exceeded the fund raising abilities of the congregation. Although the need for a new church had been realized since the mid-1930s, it was not until after World War II that they were finally able to compile enough funds to begin construction.

EBENEZER METHODIST CHURCH

1042 N.W. 3 AVENUE



location



site plan

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

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date entered

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

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historic Ebenezer Methodist Church DA428

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and or common The House of God of Nazarene Church

Not on NR. 2w2 8-21-91

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street & number 1042 N. W. 3rd Avenue

not for publication

city, town Miami vicinity of

state Florida 33136 code FL county Dade code FL 025

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date June, 1985 federal state county local

depository for survey records Bureau of Historic Preservation

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Reviewer's Comments

The cover nomination and the individual forms for the properties within the Miami Multiple Resource Area clearly illustrate the importance of the historic resources still remaining in the core of Miami's downtown. The residential buildings and the commercial buildings are all well documented, and the forms explain clearly the significance of these properties in the city's commercial and residential growth periods. Many institutional buildings, primarily religious institutions, also have been nominated. The properties in this category constructed during the boom times of the 1920s reflect the growth of the city during that time. This context is documented briefly in the cover form. The National Register has therefore accepted several of these properties under the area of significance "Religion" or "Community Development."

The significance of several of these institutional properties, however, is not demonstrated in the documentation. Five of the nominations included within the Miami Multiple Resource Area nomination, four churches and one school, are therefore being returned for further analysis. In two cases, the Greater Bethel AME Church and the St. John's Baptist Church, the significance of the buildings in community developmental history is not established. What specific role did these churches play in the social, religious, and institutional history of Miami? In two other cases, the Ebenezer Methodist Church and the First Presbyterian Church, the significance of the architectural design and the role of this particular building in religious history and the community's developmental history is not documented either, especially since these properties are significantly less than fifty years of age. The importance of Ebenezer Methodist in the riots of the 1980s must be stated in historical terms, using historical research methods, and may have to wait to be recognized with the perspective of scholarly review. Finally, the history of education in the city and the role of the Miramar Public School in this historical pattern needs to be documented in that specific nomination--this is particularly key because education as an area of significance was not covered in the cover nomination.

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

See Continuation Sheet

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 type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900–1948	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other (specify) Comm. Development

Specific dates 1948

Builder/Architect Scott Whitaker

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

See Continuation Sheet

9. Major Bibliographical References

Please see Bibliography for Cover Nomination

10. Geographical Data

Acreege of nominated property less than 1 acre

Quadrangle name Miami

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References

A

1	7	5	8	0	0	2	0	2	8	5	4	6	8	0
Zone			Easting				Northing							

B

Zone			Easting				Northing							

C

Zone			Easting				Northing							

D

Zone			Easting				Northing							

E

Zone			Easting				Northing							

F

Zone			Easting				Northing							

G

Zone			Easting				Northing							

H

Zone			Easting				Northing							

Verbal boundary description and justification

Miami, The north 50 feet of Lots 1 and 2 of Block 14 of the plat of MIAMI NORTH (PB B-41). Boundary follows historic and legal boundary.

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state N/A code county code

state code county code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Sarah Eaton / Vicki L. Welcher, Historic Sites Specialist

organization Bureau of Historic Preservation

date October, 1988

street & number 500 South Bronough Street

telephone (904) 487-2333

city or town Tallahassee

state Florida 32399-0250

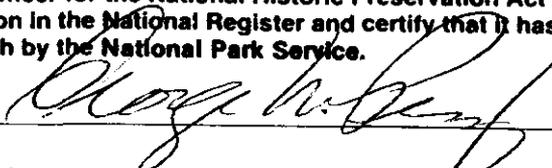
12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national state local

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 State Historic Preservation Officer

date October 17, 1988

For NPS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

date

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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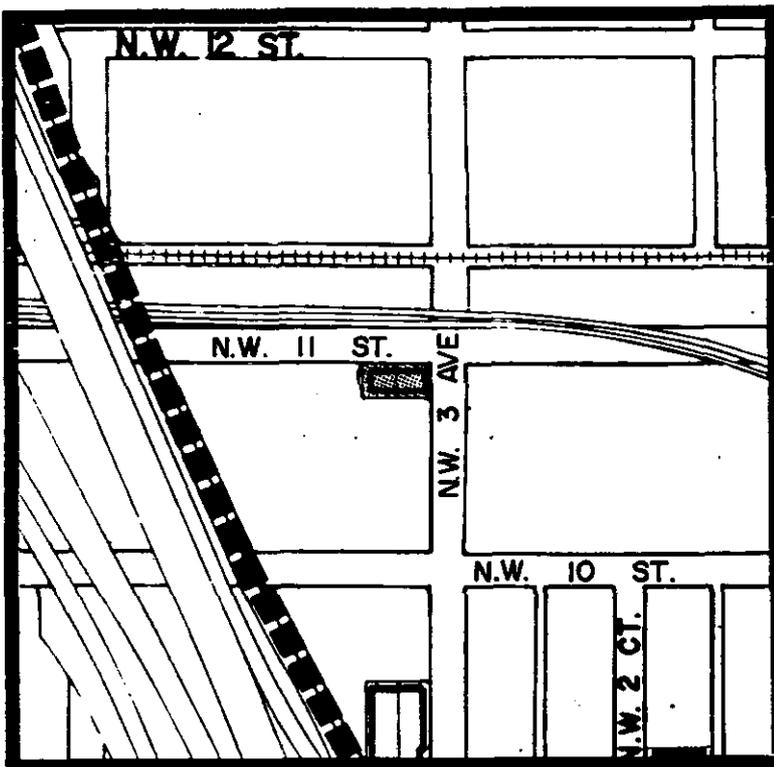
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EBENEZER METHODIST CHURCH

1042 N.W. 3 AVENUE



location



site plan