

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM

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1. Name of Property

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Historic Name: Colonial Baptist Church

Other Name/Site Number: New Zion Baptist Church THC Survey File: Phase IV-
South Dallas DAL/DA 1314

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2. Location

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Street & Number: 2210 Pine

City/Town: Dallas

Not for Publication: N/A

State: TX County: Dallas Code: 113 Zip Code: 75215

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3. Classification

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Ownership of Property: Private

Category of Property: Building

Number of Resources within Property:

Contributing	Noncontributing
2	buildings sites structures objects
2	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register: 0

Name of related multiple property listing:

Historic & Architectural Resources of East and South Dallas

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, 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. See continuation sheet.

Signature of Certifying Official

Date

State of Federal Agency or Bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register Criteria. See continuation sheet.

Signature of Commenting or Other Official

Date

State or Federal Agency and Bureau

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby certify that this property is
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):

Signature of Keeper

Date of Action

6. Function or Use

Historic: Religion

Sub: Religious Structure

Current: Religion

Sub: Religious Structure

7. Description

Architectural Classification
Late 19th & 20th Century Revivals

Other Description
Late Gothic Revival

Materials: foundation brick
walls brick
roof composition shingles
other

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

 x See continuation sheet.

8. Statement of Significance

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

nationally statewide locally

Applicable National Register Criteria: A B C D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions): A B C D E F G

Areas of Significance: Architecture

Period(s) of Significance: 1941

Significant Dates: 1941

Significance Person: N/A

Cultural Affiliation: N/A

Architect/Builder: unknown

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

 x See continuation sheet.

9. Major Bibliographical References

See Historic Context List of References

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 -- Specify Repository:

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property:

UTM References: Zone/Easting/Northing Zone/Easting/Northing

A	B
C	D

Verbal Boundary Description

Addition: T.A. Greer Addition Block: 1749 Lot: Part Lots 2,3,13,16

Boundary Justification

Property includes area historically associated with structure.

11. Form Prepared By

Name/Title: Daniel Hardy, Project Director
Terri Myers, Historian

Organization: Daniel Hardy
Preservation Consultant

Street & Number: 2112 Rio Grande St.
City or Town: Austin

Date: July, 1991
Telephone: 512-478-8014
State: TX Zip: 78705

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number 7

Colonial Baptist Church

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The Colonial Baptist Church at 2210 Pine is a modestly scaled and detailed institutional building that stands at the western corner of Pine Street and Central Expressway. This vernacular structure has brick exterior walls and a gabled roof with asphalt shingles. The facade has a large projecting central bay and smaller projecting bays at each corner. Although the building is in good condition, it has been altered over the years. A large addition was built onto the rear (southeast) elevation, and metal awnings have been placed over several of the window and door openings. Despite these changes, the church retains much of its historic character.

The Colonial Baptist Church stands on an irregularly shaped corner lot in the T.A. Greer Addition, and there are no significant landscaping features on the property. The building's exterior shape is rectangular, with the front facing northwest onto Pine Street. The church is of wood-frame construction, but it has a brick veneer on the exterior. The symmetrically arranged facade has three projecting bays, all of which have parapets with brick extensions at the corners that resemble battlements, usually associated with the Gothic Revival style. Access to the interior is gained by way of a double-door entrance at the base of the central bay. The only noteworthy architectural feature, other than the stained-glass windows, is a diamond window in the central bay of the front.

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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number 8

Colonial Baptist Church

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The Colonial Baptist Church, constructed in 1940 to meet the expansion needs of its white congregation, is an example of late Gothic Revival church architecture that currently serves an African American congregation as New Zion Baptist Church. The church is one of the only historic churches within the South Dallas project area, south of Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd. extending to Hatcher Street, that has not been significantly altered from its original appearance. The modest brick church building is representative of the increased settlement of lower Colonial Hill additions by working-class and tradesmen families during the 1920s and through the 1940s, a marked change from the business and professional families who earlier settled upper Colonial Hill. It also is representative of the racial transformation that began to occur in the lower Colonial Hill additions, even as it was still developing, as the rapidly growing black community, centered in the Queen City area around Metropolitan Avenue and Atlanta Street, grew to abut the historically white South Dallas enclave just east of Central Avenue in the early 1950s. The Colonial Baptist Church was one of several Baptist churches in South Dallas whose white members sold their property to black congregations when these demographic changes occurred. The church is nominated under Criterion C for its architectural merits.

The Colonial Baptist Church was founded in 1903 during a post-depression building boom in which the Colonial Hill additions expanded south of Forest Avenue along the Ervay Streetcar line. The congregation met in a frame building on Colonial Avenue, but as construction and residential density in the neighborhood intensified throughout the first several decades of the century, the membership expanded and outgrew the building. A new church building was constructed in 1927 on Pine Street, just east of Central Avenue (now Central Expressway). This frame church building (2210 1/2 Pine) is still standing and is included in the nomination as a contributing structure. This building is currently being used for Sunday School rooms. About 1935, the church shortened its name from Colonial Avenue Baptist Church to simply Colonial Baptist Church. Reverend John L. Watson served as pastor, and he and his wife, Annie, resided nearby at 2246 Pine Street. Virtually all the parishioners at that time resided within a short distance of the church.

About 1940 the congregation built a new sanctuary immediately west of the original building, which was then converted into a Sunday School building. Colonial Baptist Church eventually became one of the city's largest Baptist churches with 1,600 members in 1950 (Dallas Times Herald, July 26, 1951).

Post-World War II Dallas experienced many social and physical changes from pre-war norms including a change in the racial makeup of South Dallas and Colonial Hill. The historic context discusses in greater detail the various reasons for the influx of black families to South Dallas during the late 1930s and 1940s; however, it should be noted that the new arrivals were simply joining an existing black community whose core centered around Atlanta, Latimer, and Metropolitan streets as early as the late 19th century. As its numbers increased, this black community expanded in the post-war years until it was perceived as encroaching into neighboring white additions to the south, west and north, precipitating "white flight" from the area. Members of the Colonial Baptist Church reacted to the phenomenon, as did a number of other institutions in the area, by abandoning their building to the new residents and moving the congregation to a new church building in a North Dallas suburb. Then-pastor Rev. John G. Moore commented on the move in a 1951 newspaper article, saying that, "A great many white families have moved out of the area because of Negro encroachment. That's the reason we're doing it [selling the church]. About nine other churches will have to move from this area within the next five or six years if the Negroes keep moving in . . . Some 150 families have moved in the last year from the area east of Central Expressway between Hatcher and Eugene streets, to Oak Cliff and other parts of Dallas. So far, most of our members have come back to go to church but they won't always do that. We know that the congregation will eventually dwindle" (Dallas Times Herald, July 26, 1951). The congregation continued to hold services in the Pine Street church until a new sanctuary was completed at Glover Pass and Scyene Road in January of 1953. The Pine Street building was sold to a black congregation, which continues to worship in the building, now known as New Zion Baptist Church. Although its congregation has changed, the facility continues to serve its community as a neighborhood church.

Colonial Baptist Church is one of the few relatively intact historic churches in all of South Dallas. Consequently, it is nominated under Criterion C as a good example of a 1940s vernacular religious structure that displays modest amounts of late Gothic Revival detailing. While South Dallas has several churches with similar detailing, this building is noteworthy because it is a late example and is perhaps the only relatively intact ecclesiastical structure in South Dallas dating to the early 1940s.

