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 of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property
   historic name: St. John's Baptist Church
   other names/site number: New St. John Institutional Baptist Church/80A312

2. Location
   street & number: 1328 N.W. 3rd Avenue
   city, town: Miami
   state: Florida
   code: FL
   county: Dade
   code: 025
   zip code: 33136

3. Classification
   Ownership of Property: public-local
   Category of Property: building(s)
   Number of Resources within Property: Contributing: 1
                                           Noncontributing: 0
                                           TOTAL: 1
                                           buildings: 1
                                           sites: 0
                                           structures: 0
                                           objects: 0

   Name of related multiple property listing: Downtown Miami Multiple Resource Area
   Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register: 0

4. State/Federal Agency Certification
   As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, 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 [X] meets [ ] does not meet the National Register criteria. [ ] See continuation sheet.

   Signature of certifying official: Florida Dept. of State, Division of Historical Resources
   Date: 3/25/92

   In my opinion, the property [X] meets [ ] does not meet the National Register criteria. [ ] See continuation sheet.

   State or Federal agency and bureau:

   Signature of commenting or other official: Date

5. National Park Service Certification
   I, hereby certify that this property is:
   [X] 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 the Keeper: Date of Action: 2
### 6. Function or Use

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)</th>
<th>Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>RELIGION: religious structure</td>
<td>RELIGION: religious structure</td>
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### 7. Description

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Architectural Classification (enter categories from instructions)</th>
<th>Materials (enter categories from instructions)</th>
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<tr>
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<td>foundation concrete</td>
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<td>walls brick</td>
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<td>roof ceramic tile</td>
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<td></td>
<td>other</td>
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Describe present and historic physical appearance.

Please see continuation sheet.
United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 7  Page 1  St. John's Baptist Church

DESCRIPTION

St. John’s Baptist Church, 1328 N.W. 3rd Avenue, is located on the southwest corner of N.W. 3rd Avenue and 13th Street in Overtown, a historically black section of Miami. It is a rectangular, two-story masonry building clad in buff brick. It has a front gable roof covered in clay tile and parapets that are capped by a simple masonry coping. The church is an eclectic architectural blend of Art Moderne details on Gothic style massing. Designed by the black architectural firm of McKissack and McKissack, the church was completed in 1940.

The main (east) facade of the building is three bays wide and has a central entrance set beneath a tower that is flanked by a series of setbacks. The tower is embellished by a simple circular window with triple windows above it. The entrance is made up of three doorways, each capped by a rectangular transom, and is framed by a masonry surround that contains stylized ornamentation with religious iconography. The triple doorway is approached by a series of broad steps which conceal the church’s raised basement. Tall window openings are recessed within the end bays of the elevation.

The side elevations are five bays long and are relatively plain except for a water table that wraps around the church and brick corbeling found at the cornice. Each bay contains an elongated, multi-pane window set into a simple wood frame that rests on a flat masonry sill.

The interior of the church sanctuary is rather plain and is characterized by a balcony located to the rear of the church. The altar, set at the west end of the sanctuary, is flanked by a choir gallery set above the sanctuary floor level. A raised baptismal font is located behind the altar. Flat brick pilasters divide the interior walls into bays.

The lower level of the church consists of an auditorium and classrooms which are accessible from a side entrance found on the south elevation.

The modernistic image of the building is enhanced by a monolith found in front of the church which serves as signage. It is composed of glass block and buff-colored brick, and contains an inscription that the church is "fully air-conditioned."
St. John's Baptist Church has undergone very little alteration since its construction. The building maintains its integrity of design, materials, workmanship, feeling, location, and association.
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 (enter categories from instructions)

Architecture

Period of Significance

1940

Significant Dates

1940

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Significant Person

N/A

Architect/Builder

McKissack and McKissack (architects)

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

Please see continuation sheet.
St. John's Baptist Church, an Art Moderne style religious structure with Gothic massing, was constructed in downtown Miami during the historical period of the Bust and Great Depression (1927 to 1942). It is architecturally significant under Criterion C at the local level as a rare mixture of Art Moderne details on Gothic style massing in a religious building in Miami. Located in Overtown, a historically black section of Miami, the building was designed by the black architectural firm of McKissack and McKissack of Nashville. Construction was completed in 1940.

The exterior of St. John's Baptist Church embodies the distinctive characteristics of Gothic massing with Art Moderne details. The visual composition represents a fine example of modernism in ecclesiastical architecture in Dade County, as evidenced in the use of buff-colored brick as a surface material inside and out, and for the use of streamline stylistic features. The scale of the building, its construction materials, and corner location make this church one of the most prominent visual landmarks in Overtown.

The church building houses a congregation that was organized on 17 June 1906. The first services were held in a small frame structure two blocks away from the present site. By 1939, with membership exceeding 1,000 parishioners, the present building was planned and subsequently built for approximately $75,000.

The current building was constructed at the urging of Reverend J. W. Drake, one of Overtown’s most well-known leaders. Drake was born in 1872 in Oglethorpe County, Georgia, and studied at the Baptist Seminary in Atlanta. He came to Miami in 1912 and transformed the Baptist Church in Overtown into one of the area’s leading religious institutions. Drake died in 1951.
Please see cover nomination.

Previous documentation on file (NPS):
☐ preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 86)
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
☐ recorded by Historic American Engineering

10. Geographical Data
Acreage of property

Less than 1 acre

UTM References

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<td>80 1 80</td>
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<tr>
<td>C</td>
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</table>

Verbal Boundary Description

Miami, Lots 19 and 20, less the southerly 90.6 feet, of Block 2 of the plat of SOSTS SUBDIVISION (PB B-27)

Boundary Justification

Boundary includes the city lots that have been historically associated with the property and that maintain their historic integrity.

11. Form Prepared By
name/title: Julie W. Taylor, Historic Sites Specialist
organization: Division of Historic Resources
street & number: 500 E. Bronough St.
city or town: Tallahassee
state: Florida
zip code: 32303
The Director of the National Park Service is pleased to inform you that the following properties have been entered in the National Register of Historic Places.

For further information call 202/343-9542.

WEEKLY LIST OF ACTIONS TAKEN ON PROPERTIES: 4/20/92 THROUGH 4/25/92

KEY: State, County, Property Name, Address/Background. City, Vicinity, Reference Number #, Status, Action, Date, Multiple Name

ALABAMA, MOBILE COUNTY, Convent and Academy of the Visitation, 2200 Springhill Ave., Mobile, 91000884, NOMINATION, 4/24/92 (Historic Roman Catholic Properties in Mobile MPS)
ALABAMA, MOBILE COUNTY, Convent of Mercy, 753 St. Francis St., Mobile, 91000845, NOMINATION, 4/24/92 (Historic Roman Catholic Properties in Mobile MPS)
ALABAMA, MOBILE COUNTY, St. Vincent de Paul, 351 S. Lawrence St., Mobile, 91000839, NOMINATION, 4/24/92 (Historic Roman Catholic Properties in Mobile MPS)
ARIZONA, COCONINO COUNTY, Ridge Ruin Archeological District, Address Restricted, Flagstaff vicinity, 92000359, NOMINATION, 4/25/92
CALIFORNIA, LOS ANGELES COUNTY, Examiner Building, 1131 S. Broadway, Los Angeles, 92000038, OWNER OBJECTION, 4/21/92
CALIFORNIA, SANTA CRUZ COUNTY, Pacific Avenue Historic District, Roughly bounded by Pacific Ave., Water, Front, and Cathcart St., Santa Cruz, 87000004, REMOVAL, 4/21/92
CONNECTICUT, FAIRFIELD COUNTY, Boots, Nathan B., House, 6080 Main St., Stratford, 92000037, NOMINATION, 4/17/92
FLORIDA, Brevard COUNTY, Titusville Historic District, Address Restricted, Titusville, 92000040, NOMINATION, 4/12/92
FLORIDA, BUNO COUNTY, Historic Church, 545 N. Main St., Bainbridge, 92000097, NOMINATION, 4/17/92 (Continued)
FLORIDA, Brevard COUNTY, Titusville Historic District, Address Restricted, Titusville, 92000040, NOMINATION, 4/12/92 (Continued)
FLORIDA, COOK COUNTY, Altamonte Springs Historic District, 5141 Wymore Ave., Sanford, 92000321, NOMINATION, 4/24/92
ILLINOIS, COOK COUNTY, Alden, George F., House, 704 N. 4th Ave., Maywood, 92000358, OWNER OBJECTION, 4/25/92 (Maywood MPS)
IOWA, AUDUBON COUNTY, Poplar Rural District, Roughly, area from Poplar S. and W. to Wolf Cr., Jacksonville vicinity, 91001463, NOMINATION, 4/9/92 (Ethnic Historic Settlement of Shelby and Audubon Counties MPS)
KENTUCKY, Powell County, Neil Tunnel #1 and #2, Address Restricted, Nada vicinity, 92000342, NOMINATION, 4/20/92
KENTUCKY, SPENCER COUNTY, Neubauer, Charles, House, 309 Washington St., Taylorsville, 92000301, OWNER OBJECTION, 4/17/92
MARYLAND, Anne Arundel County, Davidsonville Historic District, Along MD 214 E to jct. with Davidsonville Rd., Davidsonville, 92000041, NOMINATION, 4/25/92
MASSACHUSETTS, Essex County, Lynn Common Historic District, Roughly, N. and S. Common St. from Market Sq. to City Hall, Lynn, 92000247, NOMINATION, 4/10/92
MASSACHUSETTS, Essex County, Washington Street Historic District, Washington, Main, Holt and Sewall Sts., Peabody, 85000330, ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTATION, 4/17/92
MINNESOTA, Hennepin County, St. Anthony Falls Historic District, Around Mississippi River between Plymouth and S. 10th Ave., Minneapolis, 71000438, ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTATION, 4/25/92
MINNESOTA, Pipestone County, Great Northern Depot, jct. of 5th Ave. SE. and 2nd St. SE., Pipestone, 92000258, OWNER OBJECTION, 4/9/92
NEW MEXICO, Colfax County, Dawson Cemetery, Approximately 4 mi. NW of jct. of US 64 and the Dawson Rd., Dawson, 92000049, NOMINATION, 4/9/92
NORTH CAROLINA, Guilford County, East White Oak School, 1801 Tenth St., Greensboro, 92000360, NOMINATION, 4/21/92 (Greensboro MPS)
NORTH CAROLINA, Guilford County, Forney, Edward J., House, 1402 Spring Garden St., Greensboro, 92000359, NOMINATION, 4/21/92 (Greensboro MPS)
NORTH CAROLINA, Guilford County, Pooles High School, 2201 Spring Garden St., Greensboro, 92000361, OWNER OBJECTION, 4/23/92 (Greensboro MPS)
NORTH DAKOTA, Dickey County, Elksland Opera House Block, 105–111 Main St., Elksland, 92000354, NOMINATION, 4/23/92
PUERTO RICO, San Juan Municipality, House at 659 La Paz Street, 659 La Paz St., Miramar, 91002007, NOMINATION, 1/30/92
SOUTH CAROLINA, Saluda County, Webb-Coleman House, 2 mi. S of Chappells, 2.3 mi. E of SC 39, & jct. of three dirt rds., Chappells vicinity, 92000365, NOMINATION, 4/24/92
TENNESSEE, Hamilton County, Hickman, Chancellor T. W., House, 517 E. Fifth St., Chattanooga, 92000314, NOMINATION, 4/17/92
TENNESSEE, Loudon County, Lawrenceburg Commercial Historic District, Roughly, bounded by N. Military St., Public Sq., E. Caines St. and E. Pulaski St., Lawrenceburg, 92000346, NOMINATION, 4/14/92
TENNESSEE, Madison County, Lone Oak Historic District, Lone Ave., Jackson, 8700117, BOUNDARY INCREASE, 4/21/92
May 14, 1992

Miami Heritage Conservation Board
C/O Ms. Sarah Eaton
Historic Preservation Planner
City of Miami Planning Department
Post Office Box 330708
Miami, Florida 33133

Re: St. Johns Baptist Church, Miami, Florida

Dear Board Members:

It is a pleasure to advise you that the above referenced site has been officially listed in the National Register of Historic Places as of April 17, 1992.

The enclosed fact sheet outlines the effect of listing in the National Register with reference to major laws and Federal regulations related to listed properties. Local planning agencies should be aware of the review requirements pertaining to any Federally assisted activities that may have an impact on listed properties.

Sincerely,

Suzanne P. Walker
State Historic Preservation Officer

GWP:Tbm
Enclosure
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY St. John's Baptist Church
NAME:

MULTIPLE Downtown Miami MRA
NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: FLORIDA, Dade

DATE RECEIVED: 11/21/88
DATE OF 15TH DAY: 12/22/88
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 88002970

NOMINATOR: STATE

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

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

COMMENT WAIVER: N

ACCEPT RETURN REJECT 1/7/89 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

See attached comments

RECOM./CRITERIA Acurn
REVIEWER
DISCIPLINE
DATE 1/17/89

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