



Project Description – 1201 Abercorn Street

The church at 1201 Abercorn Street was completed in largely its current form in 1898 and is a contributing structure within the Victorian Historic District. This application covers the complete rehabilitation with alteration of the building. All work will be completed following the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation. The project has applied for both state and federal rehabilitation tax credits.

Rehabilitation work includes:

- Repointing of all exterior masonry using Argos Type N lime-based mortar
- Replacement of asbestos siding with lapped Hardie Artisan Siding with a smooth finish, which will be painted
- Replacement of the pitched roofs in kind with Duration Series architectural shingles
- Repair and painting of all wood exterior trim
- Replacement of existing low-sloped and flat roofs with TPO
- In kind repair of all existing historic windows, including stained glass windows,
- Installation of five custom-built 2/2 double hung sapele sash windows in the existing openings on the south elevation
- Replacement of existing plexiglass stained glass window covers with new Klear-Flo protective glazing installed in aluminum frames matching the existing plexiglass frames
- Removal of metal tube railings from stairs along Abercorn Street
- Complete interior rehabilitation and systems upgrade for use as a restaurant

Alteration work includes:

- Replacement of breeze block HVAC screening on west elevation with a raised metal mechanical platform. The platform will be clad in lapped Hardie Artisan Siding with a smooth finish and painted to blend in with the west elevation behind it. This mechanical enclosure allows for parking as required by the City of Savannah and allows the lowest visibility and maintenance of all historic roofing materials.
- Replacement of the northwest exterior stair with a new poured concrete ADA entrance. A lift will be installed alongside the ADA platform, and its placement allows for direct access from ADA parking and avoids alteration to the primary entrances on Abercorn Street.





East Elevation





PO Box 3125, SAVANNAH, GA 31402
912-349-9617

WWW.ETHOSPRESERVATION.COM
INFO@ETHOSPRESERVATION.COM



Windows to be repaired in kind

Masonry to be repointed with Argos Type N lime-based mortar

Wood trim to be repaired in kind and painted

North Elevation



PRESERVATION WITH PURPOSE



Stair to be replaced with new ADA platform, lift, and stair

Asbestos siding to be replaced with smooth lapped Hardie siding and painted

West Elevation





PO Box 3125, SAVANNAH, GA 31402
912-349-9617

WWW.ETHOSPRESERVATION.COM
INFO@ETHOSPRESERVATION.COM



Asbestos siding to be replaced with smooth lapped Hardie siding and painted

Breeze block HVAC enclosure to be removed and replaced with new raised Hardie sided HVAC enclosure, painted to blend with wall behind

West Elevation





South Elevation

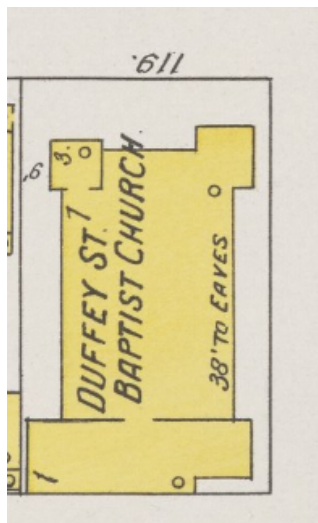




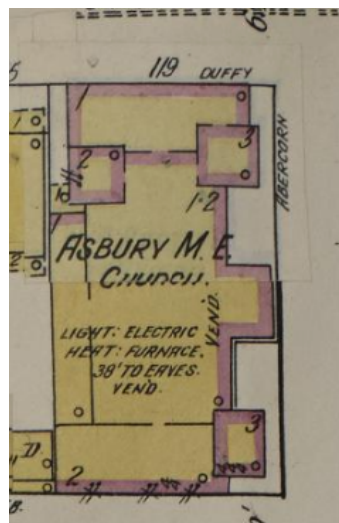
History – 1201 Abercorn Street

The first church located on this parcel was the Duffy Street Baptist Church, which was completed by 1887. That building was severely damaged by the hurricane of 1896; the *Savannah Morning News* wrote, “The building was practically destroyed. . . but was rebuilt and enlarged.” Physical examination reveals that portions of the foundation and structure appear to be reused along with the two-story north wall, but the existing building was largely rebuilt beginning in 1896 and completed in 1898. The Duffy Street Baptist Church congregation hired Alfred Eichberg and Hyman Witcover to design their largely new building. The architects reoriented the building, with the new primary entrance coming from Abercorn Street rather than Duffy Street. Preliminary sketch of this building appeared in the *Savannah Morning News* in December 1897.

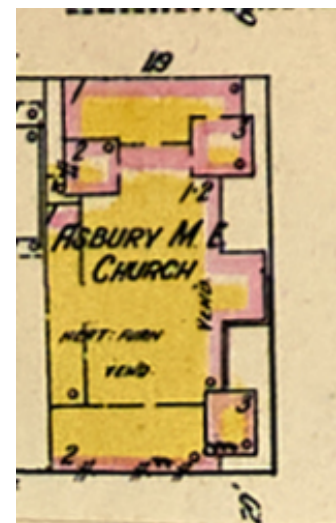
In 1923, the Duffy Street Baptist Church congregation officially changed their name to Second Baptist Church. In 1927, the congregation moved to Bull Street, and remains today as the Bull Street Baptist Church congregation. This building was vacant when the congregation moved in 1927, until 1929 or 1930. Asbury Methodist Episcopal Church moved into the building at that time. As early as 1940, Asbury hosted the United Methodist Savannah Conference, and this building was home to the first troop of Boy Scouts for African Americans in Savannah. The congregation is also notable as a prominent African American congregation in Savannah, with members such as Virginia and Dr. Calvin Kiah. Asbury United Methodist sold the building in 2024 to move to a location closer to the majority of their congregation.



1898 Sanborn Map



1950 Sanborn Map

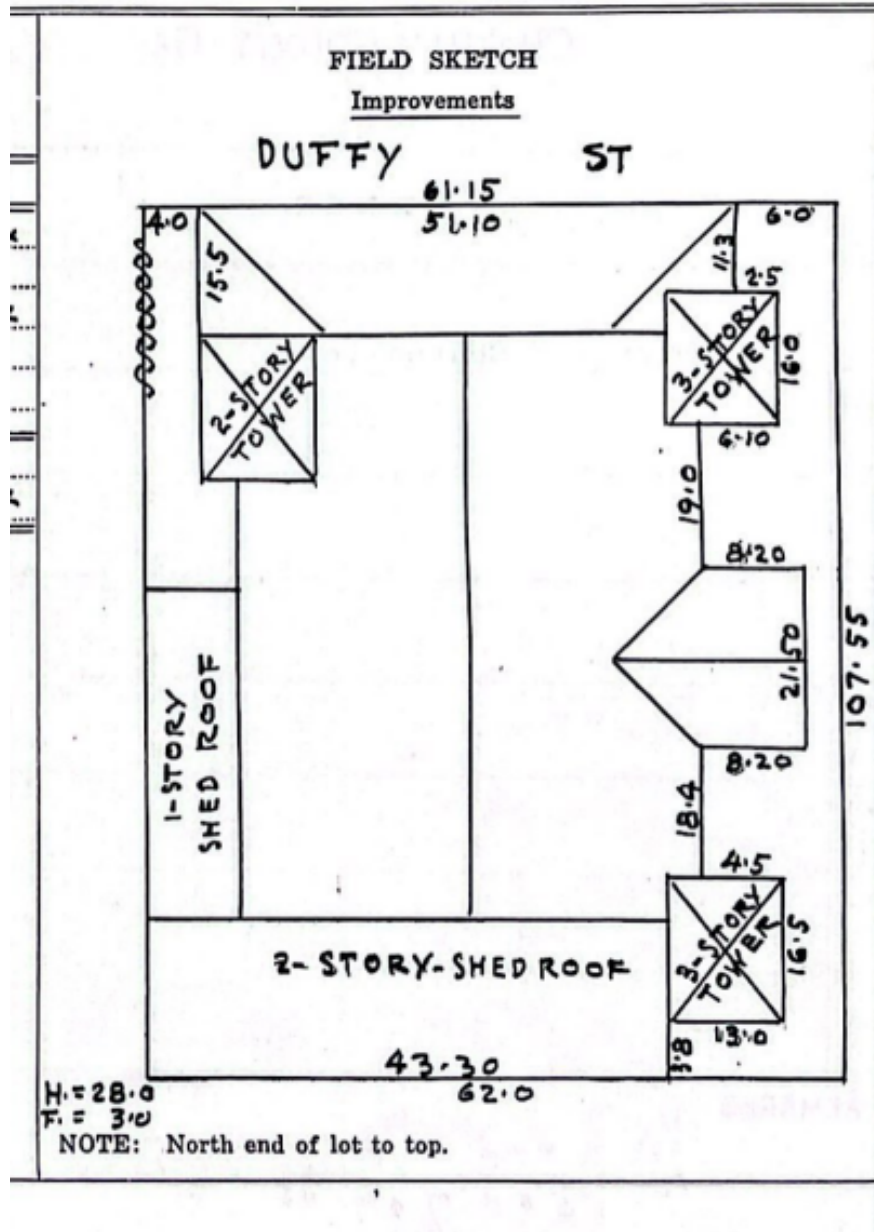


1966 Sanborn Map



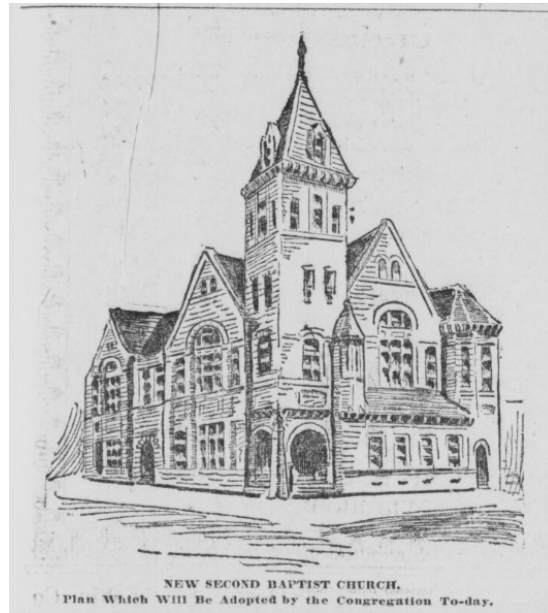
PO Box 3125, SAVANNAH, GA 31402
912-349-9617

WWW.ETHOSPRESERVATION.COM
INFO@ETHOSPRESERVATION.COM

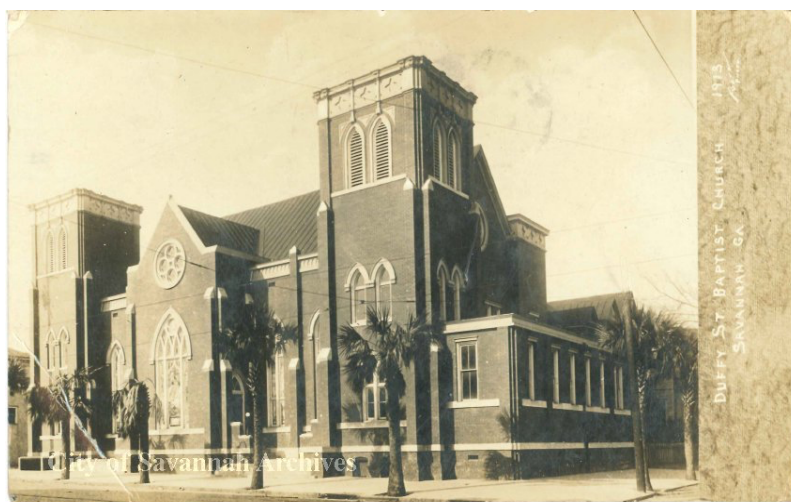


Cadastral Survey conducted on February 25, 1937.





Preliminary sketch of the building now at 1201 Abercorn Street, designed by Alfred Eichberg and Hyman Witcover. This sketch appeared in the *Savannah Morning News*, alongside an article discussing how the current frame building would be moved to accommodate the construction of this new building. The article ran on December 12, 1897.



Photograph of Duffy Street Baptist Church, 1911. From *City of Savannah Municipal Archives*.

