



**CITY OF URBANA  
HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION  
REGULAR MEETING**

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**DATE:** Wednesday, June 07, 2023  
**TIME:** 7:00 PM  
**PLACE:** 400 South Vine Street, Urbana, IL 61801

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**AGENDA**

**A. Call to Order and Roll Call**

**B. Changes to the Agenda**

**C. Approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting(s)**

[Minutes](#) of the March 1, 2023 Regular Meeting

**D. Public Input**

[Email](#) from Brian Adams regarding the Minutes of the November 2, 2022 Meeting

**E. Continued Public Hearings**

**F. Unfinished Business**

**New Public Hearings**

[HP-2023-L-01](#) - A request by Reverend B.J. Tatum, on behalf of the Canaan Baptist Church, to designate the Canaan Missionary Baptist Church at 402 West Main Street as a local historic landmark.

**G. New Business**

**H. Monitoring of Historic Properties**

**I. Staff Report**

[Urbana](#) Historic Preservation Commission Staff Report - June 1, 2023

**J. Study Session**

**K. Announcements**

**L. Adjournment**

## **PUBLIC INPUT**

The City of Urbana welcomes Public Input during open meetings of the City Council, the City Council's Committee of the Whole, City Boards and Commissions and other City-sponsored meetings. Our goal is to foster respect for the meeting process, and respect for all people participating as members of the public body, city staff, and general public. The City is required to conduct all business during public meetings. The presiding officer is responsible for conducting those meetings in an orderly and efficient manner.

Public Input will be taken in the following ways:

### **Email Input**

In order to be incorporated into the record, emailed public comments must be received prior to 5:00 pm on the day preceding the meeting and sent to the following email address: [Planning@urbanaininois.us](mailto:Planning@urbanaininois.us). The subject line of the email must include the words "HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION - PUBLIC INPUT" and the meeting date. Emailed public comments labeled as such will be incorporated into the public meeting record, with personal identifying information redacted.

### **Written Input**

Any member of the public may submit their comments addressed to the members of the public body in writing. If a person wishes their written comments to be included in the record of Public Input for the meeting, the writing should so state. Written comments must be received prior to the closing of the meeting record (at the time of adjournment unless otherwise noted).

### **Public Hearing**

Any person desiring to appear at the public hearing and present testimony may speak during each public hearing at the time they appear on the agenda. This shall not count towards regular Public Input for the meeting. The Public Hearing is an opportunity for comments and questions to be addressed specific to each case. Board or Commission members are permitted to respond and engage during this time and/or the Chairperson may direct the applicant to respond during rebuttal. Comments unrelated to any of the public hearings listed on an agenda should be shared during the Public Input portion of the meeting where Verbal Input guidelines shall apply.

### **Verbal Input**

Protocol for Public Input is one of respect for the process of addressing the business of the City. Obscene or profane language, or other conduct that threatens to impede the orderly progress of the business conducted at the meeting is unacceptable.

Public comment shall be limited to no more than five (5) minutes per person. The Public Input portion of the meeting shall total no more than one (1) hour, unless otherwise shortened or extended by majority vote of the public body members present. The presiding officer or the city clerk or their designee, shall monitor each speaker's use of time and shall notify the speaker when the allotted time has expired. A person may participate and provide Public Input once during a meeting and may not cede time to another person, or split their time if Public Input is held at two (2) or more different times during a meeting.

The presiding officer or public body members shall not enter into a dialogue with citizens. Questions from the public body members shall be for clarification purposes only. Public Input shall not be used as a time for problem solving or reacting to comments made but, rather, for hearing citizens for informational purposes only.

In order to maintain the efficient and orderly conduct and progress of the public meeting, the presiding officer of the meeting shall have the authority to raise a point of order and provide a verbal warning to a speaker who engages in the conduct or behavior proscribed under “Verbal Input”. Any member of the public body participating in the meeting may also raise a point of order with the presiding officer and request that they provide a verbal warning to a speaker. If the speaker refuses to cease such conduct or behavior after being warned by the presiding officer, the presiding officer shall have the authority to mute the speaker’s microphone and/or video presence at the meeting. The presiding officer will inform the speaker that they may send the remainder of their remarks via e-mail to the public body for inclusion in the meeting record.

### **Accommodation**

If an accommodation is needed to participate in a City meeting, please contact the City at least 48 hours in advance using one of the following methods:

Phone: 217.384.2455

Email: [hro@urbanaillinois.us](mailto:hro@urbanaillinois.us)

### **Watching the Meeting via Streaming Services**

All City meetings are broadcast on Urbana Public Television and live-streamed on the web. Details on how to watch are found on the UPTV webpage located at <https://urbanaillinois.us/uptv>.

**MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING**

**URBANA HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION**

**DATE:** March 1, 2023

**DRAFT**

**TIME:** 7:00 p.m.

**PLACE:** City Council Chambers, 400 South Vine Street, Urbana, Illinois

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**MEMBERS ATTENDING:** David Hays, Alice Novak, Laura O'Donnell, Dennis Roberts, Angela Urban, Andrew Weiss

**MEMBERS EXCUSED** Trent Shepard

**STAFF PRESENT** Marcus Ricci, Planner II; UPTV Camera Operator

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Matt Geimer, Victoria Norrington, Emily Repetewski, Andres Vazquez

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**1. CALL TO ORDER and ROLL CALL**

Chair Novak called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m. Roll call was taken, and a quorum was declared present.

**2. CHANGES TO THE AGENDA**

There were none.

**3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

The minutes of the November 2, 2022, regular meeting of the Historic Preservation Commission was presented for approval. Mr. Roberts moved to approve the November 2, 2022, minutes as presented. Ms. Urban seconded the motion. The motion was approved by unanimous voice vote.

**4. PUBLIC INPUT**

There was none.

**5. CONTINUED PUBLIC HEARINGS**

There were none.

**6. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

Mr. Roberts inquired about the status of any conversation or presentation about the downtown design future. Mr. Ricci explained that Kevin Garcia, Principal Planner, brought a list of priorities to City Council a few months ago. One item on the list was the Downtown Historic District

Design Guidelines. City Council expressed some interest; however, it was not placed as a high priority. After discussing this topic with Mr. Garcia, they decided to invite the members of the Historic Preservation Commission to work together to research and brainstorm some ideas for the foundation to create a set of guidelines.

Mr. Roberts asked if any of the other members would be interested in helping with this project to please contact him. Mr. Hayes noted that it would be beneficial to include other experts outside of the Commission.

## **7. NEW PUBLIC HEARINGS**

There were none.

## **8. NEW BUSINESS**

There was none.

## **9. MONITORING OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES**

Mr. Ricci mentioned that the Lindley House was purchased. The new owner had previously expressed interest in continuing the use as a bed and breakfast inn. The new owner plans to do some renovations and is aware that he will need to apply for a Certificate of Appropriateness prior to doing any work.

## **11. STAFF REPORT**

There was none.

## **1. STUDY SESSION**

### **Potential Historic Preservation Month Activities**

Mr. Ricci talked about past activities in previous years. Together, the Commission and City staff brainstormed ideas for an activity or more for this year. Some of the ideas included the following:

1. A pocket tour and/or a walking tour,
2. Downtown Historic Royer walking tour,
3. Working with the African American Heritage Trail group to set up a tour of local historic sites in Urbana,
4. Buena Vista Court Tour
5. Landmarks Tour
6. Greek House Tour
7. Guest Speaker to give a Lecture

Mr. Ricci stated that City staff is willing to assist with advertising and press releases, printing, arranging transportation, etc.; however, the Commission members need to be the coordinators and organizers of any activities they choose to do.

Emily Repetewski approached the Historic Preservation Commission to speak. She stated that the discussion on Buena Vista Court was interesting with retro-fitting suburbia and mixed use development.

Andres Vazquez approached the Historic Preservation Commission to speak. He asked if the City considered vacant buildings/properties, especially old fraternities and sororities, as public nuisances for the City government or as opportunities to improve the community. Chair Novak replied that the Commission sees them as opportunities. The sorority house was on the market for years prior to being purchased and renovated. Mr. Hayes brought up the Burnham Mansion in Champaign. There is so much potential when viewed for uses outside of their original use.

Ms. Novak pointed out that the University of Illinois had the largest number of Greek houses in the country with 80 houses. They are beautiful, architecturally designed buildings with particular styles. They are a significant aspect of our community. It doesn't matter what the use was in the past; they are incredible, well-built buildings.

Mr. Vazquez talked about the expansion of trees along city blocks in Urbana. Have there been any issues with the expansion of trees blocking the historic nature of some of the facades of historic buildings? Mr. Weiss stated that he was not aware of any issues.

## **8. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

There were none.

## **9. ADJOURNMENT**

Mr. Hays moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:52 p.m. The meeting was adjourned.

Submitted,



Marcus Ricci, AICP  
Historic Preservation Commission Recording Secretary

**From:** [Brian Adams](#)  
**To:** [!Planning](#)  
**Subject:** Historic Preservation Commission-Public Input March 1 2023  
**Date:** Monday, February 27, 2023 4:06:13 PM

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**\*\*\* Email From An External Source \*\*\***

Use caution when clicking on links or opening attachments.

Reviewing the Draft Minutes of the November 2, 2022, meeting of the Urbana Historic Preservation Commission, I noticed on page 5 a comment about Urbana and Boneyard Creek. This was part of the discussion of “Study Session: Downtown Urbana Historic District Incentives and Protections”. The following comment was made:

*“...what is it about the City of Urbana that we like that is unique....Every other community in this region that the Boneyard Creek runs through has completed beautification improvements to connect the creek to their community. The City of Urbana is the only town that has not done so yet”.*

However, to further clarify, this statement fails to recognize the extensive “Boneyard Beautification Project” carried out by the city between 2006 and 2014 where the creek flows under Race Street at the intersection with Griggs Street. Groundbreaking was in the fall of 2012 and the project was completed on schedule in the fall of 2014. The total cost of the project was approximately \$7.8 million dollars. The project created an outdoor gathering space and plaza on the east and west sides of Race Street. The existing railroad trestle bridge was maintained in its original position and was upgraded to include a decked walkway and decorative guardrail. The former railroad trestle is now a bridge that connects pedestrians from Race Street to the Station Theater. A trail was created through the 1916 culvert so that the park is connected on the north and south sides of the rail tracks. Included in the project were the reconstruction of Race Street from Griggs Street to Park Street and the resurfacing of Broadway Avenue from Water Street to University Avenue along with streetscape improvements to both streets.

The two renovated railroad crossings are among a handful of the few surviving railroad-related structures representative of Urbana’s rich railroad heritage. The trestle bridge can be classified as a “Steel Deck Girder” bridge that likely dates to around 1900 or the first quarter of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. While these structures have clearly been upgraded and replaced over the years, only the northern concrete structure can be securely dated. The south facing façade exhibits the year “1916” above the central support. Inspection of the 1869 Bird’s Eye View of Urbana map indicates two railroad crossings over the Boneyard Creek have existed at this location since the railroad was finished in 1867, demonstrating the bridges preserve the original footprint of the railroad corridor.

The Boneyard Beautification Project received a PACA Heritage Award in 2015 and has encouraged public patronization of nearby businesses such as the “Best of Africa Food Store”, “25 O’Clock Brewing Company” and “Silver Creek” restaurant. The “Best of Africa Food Store” and “25 O’Clock Brewery” occupy the former Leavitt Manufacturing Company complex, a foundry originally founded as the “Enterprise Foundry” in 1872 and later remodeled by architect Joseph W. Royer in 1903.

Projects such as this are good for Urbana business as well as historic preservation.

Brian Adams

907 West Daniel Street

Champaign, IL



## DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

*Planning Division*

### m e m o r a n d u m

**TO:** Urbana Historic Preservation Commission  
**FROM:** Marcus Ricci, AICP, Planner II  
**DATE:** June 2, 2023  
**SUBJECT:** **HP-2023-L-01:** A request by Reverend B.J. Tatum, on behalf of the Canaan Baptist Church, to designate “Canaan Missionary Baptist Church” at 402 West Main Street a Local Historic Landmark.

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### Introduction

Reverend B.J. Tatum has submitted an application to designate the “Canaan Missionary Baptist Church” (“Church”), located at 402 West Main Street, as a local historic landmark. Reverend Tatum submitted the application on behalf of, and as authorized representative of, the property owner, the Canaan Baptist Church, and has provided written consent to the nomination.

The Historic Preservation Ordinance requires that the Historic Preservation Commission (HPC) hold a public hearing on the application within 60 days of receiving a complete application. The application was reviewed by staff and deemed complete on May 16, 2023. At the public hearing on June 7, 2023, the HPC should take comments from the nominators, the owners, and any other parties who wish to be heard on the application. In addition, the HPC should consider all written comments received prior to or during the hearing. It is the responsibility of the nominator to provide evidence of the suitability for historic landmark status as well as documentation of such evidence.

Following the public hearing, the HPC should review all information presented to it that is pertinent to the nomination. Since the property owner has consented to the nomination, the HPC may designate the property as a historic landmark if the HPC finds that the property meets one or more of the criteria set forth in Section XII-5.C.1. **Staff find that the nomination meets criteria a, c, d, and e, and recommend that the Church be designated a historic landmark.**

Should the application be approved, the owner would be required to obtain a Certificate of Appropriateness from the Historic Preservation Commission for future exterior changes to the property, including any proposed demolition, as per the requirements of Section XII-6 of the Zoning Ordinance.

### Background

The applicant is nominating the Church for designation as a historic landmark under several landmark criteria: its architectural significance, its noted architect, its prominent placement on historic West Main Street, and the significant position it has played in the civic, cultural, ethnic, and social heritage of the African-American community of Urbana. The nomination application provides ample evidence supporting each of these four criteria, plus a wealth of additional interesting information. Staff appreciate the contribution by the applicant and those that assisted in the preparation of the application and supporting materials.



The Church is located on the north side of Main Street (Exhibit A – Location Map), between Central Avenue and West Avenue (now North McCullough Street), on the east half of Lots 13 and 11 of C.W. Smith’s Subdivision of Lots Numbered 8, 9, 22, 23, 24 & 25 of S.T. Busey’s Addition to Urbana, platted in 1872 (Exhibit B – Plat). It was built in 1909 for the congregation of the First Christian Church, which wanted to replace their original wood church, which was constructed on the south side of West Main Street in 1889 directly across from the site of the new church (Exhibit D – Supporting Illustrations, Fig. 3, 5, & 7). The new building was designed by Joseph W. Royer, the well-known Urbana architect; initial plans were published in an article in the *Urbana Daily Courier* on December 11, 1909. The cornerstone was laid on November 13, 1909, and the finished church was dedicated on June 5, 1910 (Fig. 7).

According to the application, the Church is the first known example of Royer’s transition from his typical Victorian and Revivalist Styles, and exhibits a combination of elements of the Prairie School and Art Deco Styles (Exhibit A). The Church maintains a high level of integrity, having been minimally altered over the years, and retains most of its original architectural features, even on the interior.

## Discussion

Under Section XII-5.C of the Urbana Zoning Ordinance, the proposed landmark must meet one or more of seven possible criteria in order to qualify for landmark designation. The application states that 710 West Oregon Street meets four of the seven criteria – a, c, d, and e (Exhibit C – Application):

- a) *Significant value as part of the architectural, artistic, civic, cultural, economic, educational, ethnic, political or social heritage of the nation, state, or community;*
- c) *Representative of the distinguishing characteristics of an architectural type inherently valuable for the study of a period, style, craftsmanship, method of construction or use of indigenous materials, while retaining a high degree of integrity;*
- d) *Notable work of a master builder, designers, architect or artist whose individual genius has influenced an area;*
- e) *Identifiable as an established and familiar visual location or physical characteristics;*

Each of these criteria is explained in the next section, followed by a staff analysis.

## Designation Criteria

- a) *Significant value as part of the architectural, artistic, civic, cultural, economic, educational, ethnic, political or social heritage of the nation, state, or community.*

The application provides a thorough history of the Church’s significant value as part of the architectural, cultural, ethnic, and social heritage of the community, both of the greater Urbana community and, more specifically, its African-American community (Exhibit C – Application, Nomination Statement, pages 7-11).

The Church contributes significantly to the **architectural heritage** of the City because of its style: it is an early example of Royer’s foray into more contemporary – at the time – styles, going beyond the Victorian-era and Revivalist Styles he had used to date. Royer’s design for the Church used a mix of characteristics of both Prairie and Art Deco Styles, which differed from all of the other churches in

the community, and differed from all of his earlier work. According to the application, it may also have been the first building in the City to use pressed concrete blocks.

The Church has also contributed significantly to the **ethnic, cultural and social heritages** of the local community through its religious and social activity and programming. The First Christian Church, first established in 1883, joined with the Congregational Church of Champaign by 1932 to become the First Congregational Church of Urbana. Between 1957 and 1968, the church was known as the First United Church of Christ, the result of the merger of the Congregational Christian Denomination and the Evangelical and Reformed Church. In 1968, a merger with two other churches created the Community United Church of Christ. On November 11, 1977, Canaan Baptist Church, the current owners, received the building from the Good Shepherd Apostolic House of Prayer, and the Reverend B.J. Tatum, the Applicant, began his mission. On November 6, 1977, they held their first service and communion. On November 18, 1977, 121 charter members met for service and formed the Canaan Missionary Baptist Church, with Reverend Tatum elected as pastor and founder. The goals of “preaching, teaching, and training souls for the work of the church—evangelism and discipleship” allowed the church to reach deep into the community it served. Mrs. Barbara Tatum became Director of Christian Education in 1979, and by 2022, fourteen Ministers were licensed to preach by the Church.

By 1979, Church membership had grown to 300. Then began a long history of community outreach and ministry. In 1980, the Soul Winning Action Team (SWAT) Street Evangelistic Outreach Ministry was founded. Improvements to the Administrative Office were made, which canvassed the area and began ministry at Champaign County Children’s Home. A Children’s Church program started at that time and enrolled children up to 12 years old. A Media Ministry started in 1981 to serve the sick and shut-ins. In 1984, two significant new programs to serve the community were established: People Available to Contact and Encourage (PACE), and Substance Abuse Free Environment (SAFE), a program serving the community by providing 12-month housing and offering assistance and counseling for individuals needing to break free from controlling life addictions and habits. Later, in 2012, the Men’s and Women’s SAFE House programs became recognized by the Champaign County Court as an important option for directing substance abusers to aid. In 1994, the Canaan Development Foundation, a non-profit tax-exempt organization, was established to provide support for the wide scope of community programs initiated by the church.

In 1996, following Rev. Tatum’s vision to start a church-based elementary school, Canaan Academy was opened. The academy students’ test scores have ranked in the top 97th percentile nation-wide. In 1999, the construction of a new educational building was erected north of the sanctuary, and Canaan Academy moved into its new home. In 2005, the Bring Every Teen (BET) Youth Ministry was established. In, 2006 the Family Affair Classes and Dinner was instituted for married couples, single parents, singles due to loss or divorce, seniors, and youth.

Later contributions extended into the economic sectors of the community, when Pastor Tatum opened the Canaan Credit Union Ministry on October 14, 2021. It established access for the African-American community to low-interest loans to achieve their dreams of home ownership and other goals leading to economic improvement. This “self-help route to financial independence” has helped many individuals in the Black community to prosper, including people who might not have qualified for a bank mortgage or been able to afford tuition fees for higher education. The Church has also contributed to the artistic heritage of the community through its excellent music program and performance choir – the Victory Chorale – under the past direction of outstanding local musical giants Dr. Willie Summerville and Dr. Ollie Watts Davis (Exhibit D, Figs. 37-45).

Staff recommends a finding that the Church qualifies under ***criterion a)*** as it has significant value as part of the architectural, ethnic, social, and cultural heritages of the City of Urbana.

*b) Associated with an important person or event in national, state or local history.*

Staff recommends a finding that the Church does not qualify under criterion b) as the building is not closely associated with important persons in local, state, or national history.

*c) Representative of the distinguishing characteristics of an architectural type inherently valuable for the study of a period, style, craftsmanship, method of construction or use of indigenous materials, while retaining a high degree of integrity.*

Criterion c) is a two-part test: for a property to qualify under this criterion, it must 1) represent the distinguishing characteristics of an architectural type and 2) retain a high degree of integrity (Exhibit C – Nomination Statement, pages 2-5, and 11-12).

For the first test – architectural representation – as mentioned in criterion a), the Church is an example of Royer’s use of Frank Lloyd Wright’s Prairie Style, which itself was influenced by Europe’s Art Deco movement, with added elements of America’s Arts and Crafts and Mission Style movements. There are strong similarities between Royer’s design for the First Christian Church project and Wright’s then-recently-completed Unity Church Temple in Oak Park, Illinois, as can be seen by a visual comparison between the two buildings (Exhibit D, Figs. 15-18, and Figs. 19-26).

The church sanctuary rises two-and-a-half stories, sitting above a semi-basement level devoted to a fellowship hall, kitchen, storage, and utilities area (Exhibit D, Figs. 1 and 2). Like an apse, the west wall of the sanctuary extends outward in a large six-sided wing. A very narrow, brick-walled access trench circles this hexagonal wing, allowing light into the semi-basement windows of the fellowship hall. A rectangular two-story section extends toward the parking lot on the north. All roof areas are flat, surrounded by a short parapet rising above the roof line. A square bell tower rises one story above the building, off-set to the west above the façade, facing Main Street. There are two entrances; one leads into the main sanctuary hall through the bell tower. The other is located at the south corner of the building and is reached by six steps leading into a vestibule. The application provides additional detail about the Church’s floor plan and construction, as well as interior layout and design elements (Exhibit C, pages 4-6).

Regarding Royer’s use of innovative construction materials, his specifications for the construction of the foundation and exterior walls of the church used a new technology in building: cast cement blocks. In the early 20<sup>th</sup> Century, many commercial buildings built in Urbana’s downtown following the disastrous fire of October 9, 1871, were constructed of brick, or brick and stone, replacing the wood structures commonly used earlier. A new construction material, cast concrete blocks with a reinforced steel frame structure, had already been employed by Royer in building the free-standing Urbana Post Office at 106 North Race Street<sup>1</sup>, just north of the Cohen Building on Main Street. The blocks for the Church, fabricated by the Granitoid Stone Company of Urbana, were created using a Somers Pressure Block Machine, and pressed marble dust into white Portland cement under high pressure, producing the “Stonekote” blocks used for the Church (Exhibit D, Figs. 29 & 30). An article in the Urbana Courier-Herald, dated June 4, 1910, stated: “The new church is one of the most inspiring structures in the city...The exterior is of marble faced concrete blocks, giving the building the appearance of being constructed of genuine marble.”

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<sup>1</sup> Now home to the Rose Bowl Tavern.

For the second test – retention of integrity – the applicant asserts that the Church retains an “*extremely high degree of integrity*” in architectural style and material construction. Its exterior and interior architectural features remain as originally constructed. The only structural reconfiguration is at the entrance under the western tower facing Main Street, where the three steps leading up to the tower entrance have been turned to the side, leading to a small landing in front of the door. The sole exterior decorative change is that the original surface treatment of the pressed concrete blocks, which simulated a marble veneer, were painted decades ago. The interior retains many distinctive elements designed by Joseph Royer; from the sanctuary, with its additional raised seating level which can be closed off for Bible study or youth classes by sliding partition panels and the baptismal immersion pool located directly under the raised stage and pulpit, to the stuccoed walls and dark-stained architectural wood details. The building also retains its original stained-glass windows (Exhibit D, Figs. 25-27).

Staff recommends a finding that the Church qualifies under ***criterion c)*** as it is 1) representative of the distinguishing characteristics of the Prairie architectural style and 2) retains an extremely high degree of integrity.

*d) Notable work of a master builder, designers, architect or artist whose individual genius has influenced an area.*

The architect of the First Christian Church, now Canaan Baptist Church, was Joseph William Royer (1873-1954) (Exhibit D, Fig. 14). Royer was born in Urbana on August 2, 1873 in Urbana, and was the first child of John Daniel Royer, an early settler who arrived in Urbana in 1855, and Mary R. Brining, daughter of Joseph and Anna Brining of Oberwisensburg, Austria.

Royer attended Urbana High School, followed by enrollment at the University of Illinois’ College of Engineering. He studied both engineering and architecture under renowned architect Nathan C. Ricker, Dean of the College of Engineering, and graduated in 1895. Royer was the City Engineer of the City of Urbana from 1898 to 1906. He soon established his own architectural firm in the Stephens Building at 218 West Main Street, and later opened offices in the Flatiron building at the intersection of West Main Street and Springfield Avenue, which he designed: it was Urbana’s four-story skyscraper.

Royer established his local reputation as a designer and architect of many significant buildings and façade renovations in Urbana’s downtown, including the Champaign County Courthouse (1901), Urbana First Presbyterian Church (1902), the Stephen’s Building at 218 West Main Street (1902), the Urbana Courier building (1903), Champaign County Jail (1904), the Flatiron Building, 301 West Main Street (1905), the Nathan H. Cohen building, 136 West Main Street (1907), the first free-standing building housing the Urbana Post Office at 106 North Race Street (1907), and the Illinois Theater, 312 West Springfield (1907-1908). Among his most noteworthy achievements include the Urbana High School (1914), the Urbana Free Library (1917-1918), and the Urbana Lincoln Hotel (1922-1923).

Royer married Adelaide Danelly, a graduate of Northwestern University, Chicago, a poet, writer, and interior decorator. They lived in a home designed by Royer at 801 West Oregon, which is now a contributing property in a local Historic District and is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The Royers had no children that survived infancy. Adelaide died on September 8, 1954. Joseph Royer died on November 21, 1954, and is buried at Woodlawn Cemetery.

Staff recommends a finding that the Church qualifies under ***criterion d)*** as it a notable work of master designer Joseph W. Royer.

- e) *Identifiable as an established and familiar visual feature in the community owing to its unique location or physical characteristics.*

This criterion refers to a property having a visually distinctive location such as at the terminus of a street, located on a public square or in a park, on a hill, or with a unique and identifiable roofline.

The Church sanctuary occupies an identifiable, established, and familiar visual location on West Main Street and is distinctive in visual appearance. In June of 1855, a large section of land along the south side of West Main Street just past Race Street was platted into the city. On the north side of West Main Street, at the location of the Church today, sat Boyden's Plow and Wagon Factory. West Main Street became one of the most exclusive residential streets in Urbana and was the site of the homes of several of Urbana's most influential citizens, including Samuel T. Busey (co-founder of Busey Bank), Matthew E. Busey (state legislator influential for ensuring that railroad routes passed into Urbana), and Clark Robinson Griggs (state legislator who influence the siting of today's University of Illinois in the city). The Church's retention of its hexagonal floorplan, square bell tower, and original exterior ornamentation – including the pillars original stained glass windows – give it a distinctive, easily distinguishable appearance.

Staff recommends a finding that the Church qualifies under ***criterion e)*** as identifiable as an established and familiar visual feature in the community owing to its historic location and visual characteristics.

- f) *Character as a particularly fine or unique example of a utilitarian structure, including, but not limited to, farmhouses, gas stations or other commercial structures with a high level or integrity or architectural significance.*

Staff recommends a finding that the Church does not qualify under criterion f) as it is not a utilitarian structure as described by the criterion.

- g) *Located in an area that has yielded, or may be likely to yield, information important in history or prehistory.*

Staff recommends a finding that the Church does not qualify under criterion g) as the area around the site has not yielded, and does not appear likely to yield, any archaeologically-significant information.

## Summary of Findings

Recommended statements of findings based on the application and the completed analysis are below. The Historic Preservation Commission may revise these findings based on their review and consideration of the case, including any evidence that may be submitted at the public hearing.

1. Article XII of the Urbana Zoning Ordinance provides the City of Urbana the authority to designate local landmarks and historic districts with the stated purpose of promoting the educational, cultural, economic and general welfare of the community.
2. On May 1, 2023, the City of Urbana received a landmark application to designate the property located at 402 West Main ("Canaan Missionary Baptist Church") as a local landmark. The application was deemed complete by staff on May 16, 2023.
3. The applicant, Reverend B.J. Tatum, is acting on behalf of the Canaan Baptist Church, the property owner, which consents to the landmark nomination.

4. The Urbana Historic Preservation Commission opened a public hearing on June 7, 2023, to consider the landmark designation of the subject property.
5. The Church was built in 1909 and was designed by Joseph W. Royer in the Prairie architectural style.
6. The Church qualifies under criterion a) as it has significant value as part of the architectural, ethnic, social, and cultural heritages of Urbana.
7. The Church does not qualify under criterion b) as the building is not closely associated with important persons in local, state, or national history.
8. The Church qualifies under criterion c) as it is representative of the distinguishing characteristics of the Prairie architectural style and retains an extremely high degree of integrity.
9. The Church qualifies under criterion d) as a notable work of master builder Joseph W. Royer.
10. The Church qualifies under criterion e) as it is identifiable as an established and familiar visual feature in the community, along historic West Main Street, with its distinguishable hexagonal sanctuary, square bell tower, and exterior ornamentation.
11. The Church does not qualify under criterion f) as it is not a utilitarian structure as described by the criterion.
12. The Church does not qualify under criterion g) as the area around the site has not yielded, and does not appear likely to yield, any archaeologically-significant information.

## Options

The Historic Preservation Commission has the following options in Case No. HP-2023-L-01:

1. Find that the nomination meets one or more of the criteria for designation as a local landmark and approve the application to designate the property as a local landmark; or
2. Find that the nomination does not meet any of the criteria for designation and deny the application.

In either case, the Historic Preservation Commission should include Findings of Fact in their motion. The Findings of Fact should summarize the Commission's justification for finding that the nomination either meets or does not meet the relevant criteria. The vote required is a majority vote of those members present and voting, but with not less than three affirmative votes.

## Recommendation

Since the property owner consents to the applicant's nomination of the property as a local landmark, the Historic Preservation Commission has decision-making authority in this case.

Based on the application and staff analysis provided above, staff recommends the Historic Preservation Commission find that the landmark nomination for 402 West Main Street conforms with criteria a), c), d), and e) of Section XII-5.C of the Urbana Zoning Ordinance and **APPROVE** the application, with Findings of Fact as stated in the Summary of Findings.

Attachments: Exhibit A: Location Map  
Exhibit B: Plat  
Exhibit C: Application and Nomination Statement  
Exhibit D: Supplemental Photos

cc: Reverend B.J. Tatum, Applicant



Exhibit A: Location Map



Case: HP-2023-L-01  
Subject: Local Historic Landmark Designation  
Location: 402 West Main Street  
Applicant: Rev. B.J. Tattum, for Canaan Baptist Church

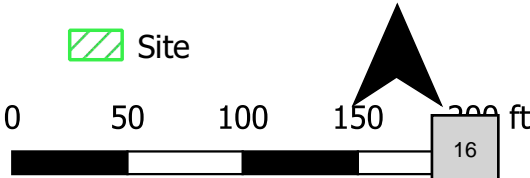
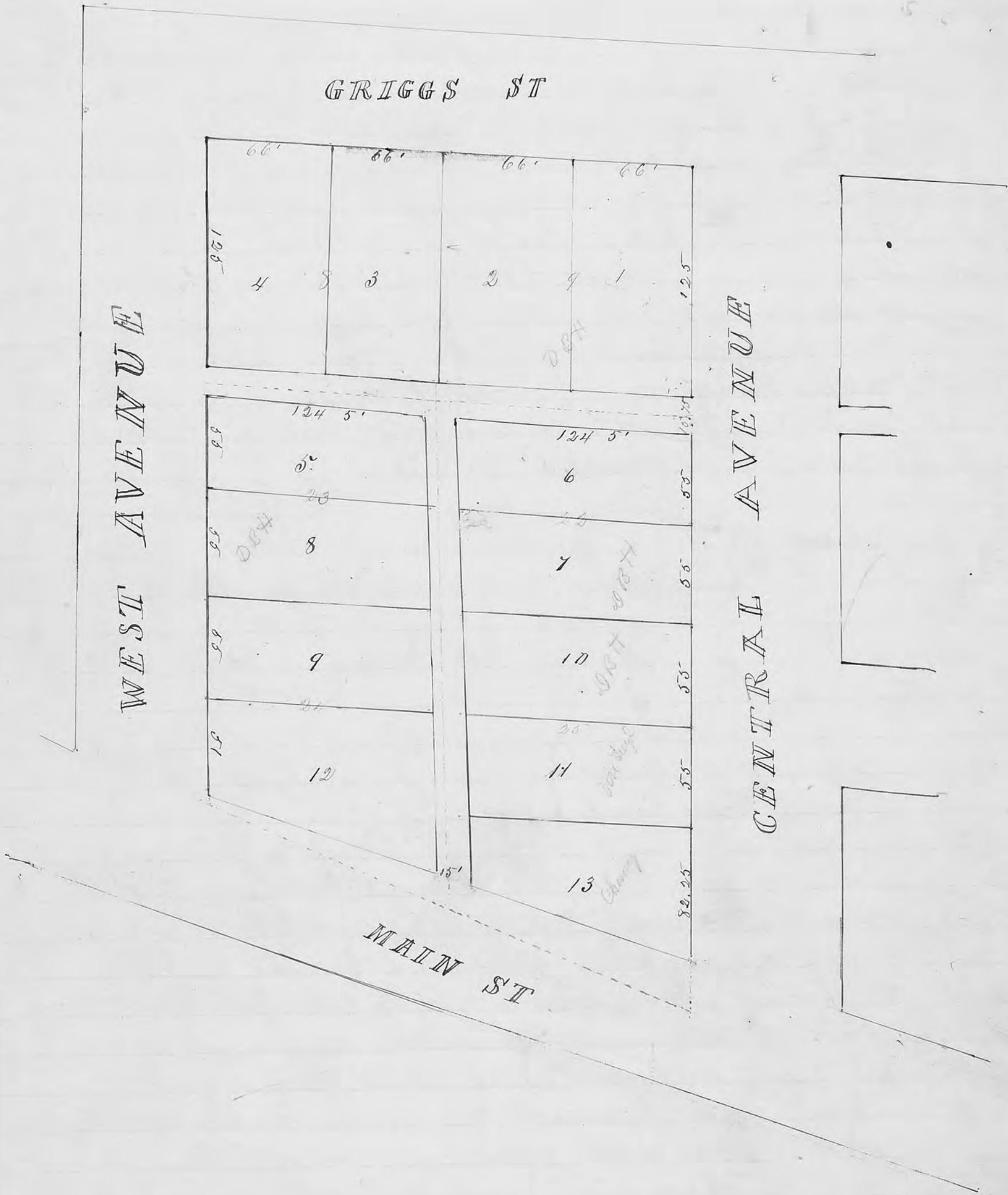




Exhibit B: Plat



C. W. Smiths Subdivision  
of Lots Numbered 8 9 22 23 24 & 25 of  
ST Buseys Addition to Urbana  
Scale 60ft = 1 inch

State of Illinois }  
Champaign County }

I, Thos B Kyle hereby certify that  
I have this day surveyed and subdivided Lots  
8, 9, 22, 23, 24, & 25 of S D Buseys addition to Urbana  
at the request of C W Smith the size of lots and  
width of Alleys is expressed in feet and hundredths  
in annexed Plat

Given under my hand this 24th day  
of Sept 1872  
Thos B Kyle Co. Sur  
Champ Co Ills

# Ex. C: Application and Nomination Statement



## Application for Historic Landmark Designation

**HISTORIC  
PRESERVATION  
COMMISSION**

Although there is no fee to file an application for Historic Landmark Designation, **the Applicant is responsible for paying the cost of legal publication fees.** Estimated costs for these fees usually run between \$75.00 and \$225.00. The applicant will be billed separately by *The News-Gazette*.

**DO NOT WRITE IN THIS SPACE - FOR OFFICE USE ONLY**

Date Application Filed 05-01-2023 Case No. HP-2023-L-01

### PLEASE PRINT OR TYPE THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION

#### 1. APPLICANT CONTACT INFORMATION

Name of Applicant(s): Reverend B. J. Tatum Phone: (217) 367-2158  
Address (*street/city/state/zip code*): 402 / 404 W. Main Street, Urbana, IL 61801  
Email Address: pastortatum@canaanurbana.org  
Property interest of Applicant(s) (*Owner, Contract Buyer, etc.*): Pastor

#### 2. OWNER INFORMATION (*same*)

Name of Applicant(s): Reverend B. J. Tatum Phone: (217) 367-2158  
Address (*street/city/state/zip code*): 402 / 404 W. Main Street, Urbana, IL 61801  
Email Address: pastortatum@canaanurbana.org

#### 3. PROPERTY INFORMATION

Canaan Missionary Baptist Church

Location of Subject Site: 402 West Main Street; NW corner of West Main and Central Avenue

PIN # of Location: 91-21-08-380-016

Sec 08, Twp 19N, Rng 9E / Census Tract 0111001028

Lot Size: 89.5 ft. x 137.25 ft.; or 11,336.0 sq. ft.; constituting 0.26 acre

Current Zoning Designation: -5 - Medium High Density Multiple-Family Residential

Current Land Use (*vacant, residence, grocery, factory, etc.*): Church

Present Comprehensive Plan Designation: Institutional (2005 Comp Plan/ Appendix "B,"  
Existing Land Use Map)

Legal Description (*If additional space is needed, please submit on separate sheet of paper*):  
(See attached)

Date of Construction of Structure: 1909-1910

## Ex. C: Application and Nomination Statement

Attach a map showing the boundaries and location of the property proposed for nomination.

Attach photographs showing the important structures or features of the property or structure

Indicate which of the following criteria apply to the property or structure (**check all that apply**).

Additionally, attach a statement that describes the proposed landmark and its historic significance; list reasons why it is eligible for nomination; and show how the proposed landmark conforms to the criteria for designation (*see attached Suggested Format*).

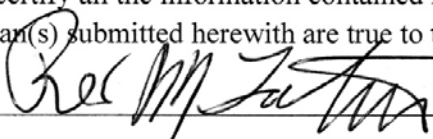
- ☒ Significant value as part of the architectural, artistic, civic, cultural, economic, educational, ethnic, political, or social heritage of the nation, state or community;
- ☐ Associated with an important person or event in national state or local history;
- ☒ Representative of the distinguishing characteristics of an architectural type inherently valuable for the study of a period, style, craftsmanship, method of construction or use of indigenous materials and which retains a high degree of integrity;
- ☒ Notable work of a master builder, designers, architect or artist whose individual genius has influenced an area;
- ☒ Identifiable as an established and familiar visual location or physical characteristics;
- ☐ Character is a particularly fine or unique example of a utilitarian structure, including, but not limited to, farmhouses, gas stations or other commercial structures with a high level of integrity or architectural significance;
- ☐ Yields, or may be likely to yield information important in history or prehistory

**NOTE:** *If additional space is needed to accurately answer any question, please attach extra pages to the application.*

**By submitting this application, you are granting permission for City staff to post on the property a temporary yard sign announcing the public hearing to be held for your request.**

### CERTIFICATION BY THE APPLICANT

I certify all the information contained in this application form or any attachment(s), document(s) or plan(s) submitted herewith are true to the best of my knowledge and belief.

  
Applicant's Signature

4-28-23  
Date

### PLEASE RETURN THIS FORM ONCE COMPLETED TO:

City of Urbana  
Community Development Department Services  
Planning Division  
400 South Vine Street, Urbana, IL 61801  
Phone: (217) 384-2440  
Fax: (217) 384-2367

# Ex. C: Application and Nomination Statement

## URBANA HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION

Suggested Format for Content and Organization of “Statements”  
For Property Located in a Proposed Historic Landmark

### *Summary Paragraph*

- Criteria which apply to subject property
- Introductory or background statement about significance of subject property
- Statement of integrity

### *Property Description*

- Architectural style
- Date of construction; date of major modifications
- Name of architect and builder, as available
- Construction materials (foundation, walls, roof shape/material)
- Description of building elements: number of stories, window type and shape, porches, entrances, etc.
- Description of unique architectural elements
- Alterations or additions to building
- Missing or removed architectural features
- Outbuildings and important landscape or streetscape features

### *History*

- Brief community background (downtown development, neighborhood development, etc.)
- Discussion of property as it relates to the development of the community
- Important people associated with the property
- Important events associated with the property

### *For Architectural Significance*

- Background of the style and/or architect
- Why/how the building reflects the style and/or architect’s work
- Other works in the community/elsewhere by same architect; discuss briefly

### *Context*

- Placement or location of property within the city/community
- Relationship to other properties of similar architectural style and date/era of construction

# Ex. C: Application and Nomination Statement

## Proposed Landmark Nomination – Canaan Missionary Baptist Church

Submitted May 1, 2023

### ***Summary Paragraph***

Urbana Local Landmark designation is being proposed for consideration before the Urbana Historic Preservation Commission, that the Canaan Baptist Church sanctuary, located at 402 West Main Street, Urbana, Illinois 61801, be considered for Urbana Historic Landmark approval. Built originally for the congregation of the Christian Church, Urbana, the building has been under ownership of Canaan Baptist Church since 1978. This nomination is prepared with the support and approval of the Reverend B. J. Tatum, pastor of Canaan Baptist Church.

#### ***• Criteria which applies to the subject property:***

The application meets the following Criteria: 1., 3., 4., and 5.

**X** Criterion 1.: The Canaan Baptist Church building has significant value as part of the architectural heritage of Urbana. It also qualifies as having significant ethnic, social, and cultural heritage of the City.

**X** Criterion 3.: The Canaan Baptist Church building represents a distinctive style with distinguishing characteristics of an architectural type inherently valuable for the study of a period, style, craftsmanship, method of construction which retains a high degree of integrity.

**X** Criterion 4.: The Canaan Baptist Church is a notable work of a master builder, designer, and architect whose individual genius has influenced an area—Joseph W. Royer.

**X** Criterion 5.: The Canaan Baptist Church sanctuary occupies an identifiable, established, and familiar visual location on West Main Street and is distinctive in visual appearance.

#### ***• Introductory or Background Statement about the Significance of Subject Property:***

In many cases a nomination for Local Landmarking is focused on a physical structure which is valued by the community for its importance as a representative of a certain historic style or as the work of a significant architect. In other cases, a building becomes notable due to the importance of the organization which occupies it, and/or the civic, cultural, educational, political, ethnic, or social heritage associated with the building. Canaan Baptist Church is being placed forward for Local Landmark consideration because it meets a wide variety of the landmark criteria, including its architectural significance, its noted architect, its prominent placement on historic West Main Street, and the significant position it has played in the civic, cultural, ethnic, and social heritage of the African-American community of Urbana.

#### ***• Statement of Integrity***

Canaan Baptist Church retains an extremely high degree of architectural integrity both in its material construction and original architectural style. Its architectural features, both exterior and interior, remain as they were originally constructed.

The original two-story building, with distinctive 6-sided apse-like extension at the western side of the main structure, the sub-floor fellowship hall, the bell tower and main entrances—all retain their original appearance, identical to the date of the building's dedication in 1910.

## Ex. C: Application and Nomination Statement

The interior retains many distinctive design elements that remain as designed by Joseph Royer: from the sanctuary, with its additional raised seating level, which can be closed off for Bible study or youth classes by sliding partition panels, the baptismal immersion pool located directly under the raised stage and pulpit, to the stuccoed walls and dark-stained architectural wood details. The building also retains its original stained-glass windows.

The only structural reconfiguration is at the entrance under the western tower facing Main Street. The three steps leading up to the tower entrance are now side-turned, leading to a small landing in front of the door. Also, the original blocks forming the façade of the building, which were surface-treated to simulate a marble veneer, are now painted, and have been for decades.

### ***Property Description***

The following information outlines the physical and stylistic feature of the property.

- ***Architectural Style:***

While much of architect Joseph Royer's best-known work shows the preference for historic revival styles which were popular at the turn of the century, Royer's design for the new First Christian Church (later to become Canaan Baptist Church) was notable both for its modern style and his use of innovative construction materials. The sanctuary's non-traditional layout featured a hexagonal, apse-like extension on the West side and an Art Deco/Prairie School exterior design. This commission differed from Royer's previous design work and all other churches in the community. The building was perhaps also the first in Urbana to make use of a new construction material—pressed concrete blocks.

- ***Date of Construction, Date of Major Modifications:***

The building nominated for Local Landmark consideration was first mentioned in an article appearing in the *Urbana Daily Courier* on March 3, 1909. The paper reported that the congregation of First Christian Church planned to replace their original wood structure, erected on the south side of West Main street in 1889, to a location which was directly across the street from the current church site. The new building was to be designed by Joseph W. Royer, the well-known Urbana architect. Initial plans were published in an article in the same newspaper on December 11, 1909. The cornerstone was laid on November 13, 1909, and the finished church dedicated on June 5, 1910. The following year, on February 12, 1911 "a gathering of the local Lincoln Legion assembled in the new church to celebrate Lincoln's birthday, with the subject of the sermon being Temperance."

The only modification to the building is a realignment of the exterior staircase leading from the sidewalk into the entrance facing Main Street under the western tower, which has been turned 90°. No other significant or major alterations have been done to the exterior of the church.

- ***Name of Architect and Builder:***

The architect of the First Christian Church, now Canaan Baptist Church, is Joseph William Royer (1873-1954). Joseph W. Royer was born in Urbana on August 2, 1873 in Urbana, IL, the first child of John Daniel Royer, an early settler who arrived in Urbana in 1855, and Mary R. Brining, daughter of Joseph and Anna Brining of Oberwisensburg, Austria, whom he married on April 12, 1868.

## Ex. C: Application and Nomination Statement

Joseph Royer attended Urbana High School, followed by enrollment at the University of Illinois' College of Engineering. He studied both engineering and architecture under renowned architect Nathan C. Ricker, Dean of the College of Engineering, and graduated in 1895. In 1898 Royer became the city engineer of Urbana, a position he retained until 1906. He soon established his own architectural firm and maintained rooms in the Stephens Building, at 218 West Main Street, and later opened offices in in the Flatiron building at the intersection of West Main Street and Springfield Avenue, which he designed (1905-1906), Urbana's 4-story skyscraper. The Flatiron building burned down on March 11, 1946, destroying his office and records. Brian Adams, Royer's biographer (Joseph William Royer, Urbana's Architect, 2011) lists only three other buildings designed by Royer following this great loss.

Royer established his local reputation as a designer and architect of several significant buildings and façade renovations in Urbana's downtown, including the Champaign County Courthouse (1901), Urbana First Presbyterian Church (1902), the Stephen's Building at 218 West Main Street (1902), the Urbana Courier building (1903), Champaign County Jail (1904), the Flatiron Building, 301 West Main Street (1905), the Nathan H. Cohen building, 136 West Main Street (1907), the first free-standing building housing the Urbana Post Office at 106 North Race Street (1907), and the Illinois Theater, 312 West Springfield (1907-1908)—among many other local and regional projects.

Royer continued his career as Urbana's most eminent local architect, designing other buildings and façades in Urbana. Among his most noteworthy achievements include the Urbana High School (1914), The Urbana Free Library (1917-1918), and the Urbana Lincoln Hotel (1922-1923), among others.

Royer married Adelaide Danley, a graduate of Northwestern University, Chicago, a poet, writer, and interior decorator. They lived in a home designed by Royer at 801 West Oregon, which is now an Urbana Local Landmark District. The Royers had no children that survived infancy. Adelaide died on September 8, 1954; Joseph Royer died on November 21, 1954, and was buried at Woodlawn Cemetery.

### • Construction Materials:

Royer's specifications for the construction of the foundation and exterior walls of the church utilized a new technology in building: cast cement blocks. In the early 20th Century many commercial buildings erected in Urbana's downtown following the disastrous fire of October 9, 1871 were constructed of brick or a combination of brick and stone, which replaced the wood structures commonly used earlier. A new construction material, cast concrete blocks with a reinforced steel frame structure had already been employed by Royer in building the free-standing Urbana Post Office at 106 North Race Street, just north of the Cohen Building on Main Street. The blocks used for the church were covered with a marble facing to enhance the structure. An article in the *Urbana Courier-Herald*, dated June 4, 1910, stated:

*"The new church is one of the most inspiring structures in the city. . . . The exterior is of marble faced concrete blocks, giving the building the appearance of being constructed of genuine marble."*

The blocks, fabricated by the Granitoid Stone Company of Urbana were created using a Somers Pressure Block Machine. The process of pressing marble dust into white Portland cement under high pressure produced a "Stonekote" block. These blocks were said to be attractive, durable, and water-resistant (*Urbana Daily Courier*, February 1910).

The roof of the main sanctuary is flat, surrounded by a low parapet punctuated by the vertical pilasters surmounted by pyramidal caps. Entrance porch roofs are also flat or slightly slanted and shingled.



## Ex. C: Application and Nomination Statement

### • Description of Building Elements:

The Canaan Baptist Church sanctuary is built on a trapezoidal lot at the NW corner of West Main Street and Central Avenue. The church sanctuary rises two and a half stories in height, sitting above a semi-basement level devoted to a fellowship hall, kitchen, storage and utilities area. The west wall of the sanctuary extends outward in a large six-sided wing of equal height and width as the main structure. A very narrow, brick-walled access trench circles the hexagonal extension on the west side of the building, allowing light into the semi-basement windows of the fellowship hall. A rectangular two-story high section extends toward the parking lot on the north. All roof areas are flat, surrounded by a short parapet rising above the roof line.

A square bell tower rises one story above the building, off-set to the west above the façade, facing Main Street. There are two entrances; one leads into the main sanctuary hall through the Bell Tower. The second entrance, located at the SE corner of the building, is reached by six steps leading into a one-story enclosed vestibule, also facing West Main Street.

### • Description of Unique Architectural Elements—The Prairie Style Influence:

In his preliminary drawings for the new Christian Church in Urbana, reproduced in the *Urbana Daily Courier* in 1909, Royer had presented a fairly traditional concept for the church (figs. x & x.) This design was apparently discarded, and Royer proposed a more unique and modern architectural solution. In this, Royer departed from traditional Victorian or Revivalist styles more commonly associated with him. The final solution displays Royer's experimentation which includes Art Deco, Prairie, and Mission style elements. Royer's solution for the church "defies precise classification" ("Joseph W. Royer's First Christian Church at Urbana," Bryan Adams, *Preservation Matters* newsletter, Vol. 31, No. 1, Winter 2011).

The "Prairie Style," was an architectural style first introduced by Chicago based architect Frank Lloyd Wright. It expresses the influence of the Art Deco movement of Europe, with some elements of the Arts and Crafts and Mission Style movements as seen in America. Wright is also said to have been inspired by the broad flat landscapes of the American Prairie of the Midwest. It is considered the first uniquely American architectural style of the 20th Century.

Strong similarities between Royer's design for the Christian Church project and Frank Lloyd Wright's recently completed Unity Church Temple in Oak Park, Illinois can be seen by a visual comparison between the two buildings.

The Oak Park Unity Church congregation was a progressive community. Their wood-framed church burned to the ground following a lightning strike on the night of June 6, 1905. Frank Lloyd Wright's mother, Anna Jones Wright, was a close friend of recently retired Unity pastor Augusta Chapin, which led to his offering his services to design a new church building. Wright's design for the new sanctuary broke with almost every existing convention for traditional ecclesiastic architecture. He proposed using poured cement as the main building material, partly to meet the restraints of the congregation's budget and partly to explore the creativity allowed through the new construction techniques. The congregation accepted his design, the building was constructed following several delays, and was ultimately dedicated in September of 1909.

Royer's design for the Christian Church, the future home of Canaan Baptist Church, expressed Wright's Prairie Style through its asymmetrical layout, clean streamlined lines, strong horizontal and vertical elements, uncluttered exterior surfaces, horizontal rows of narrow casement windows, widely overhanging eaves, and massive square piers which support porch roofs. Decorative elements are greatly simplified and abstracted to geometric shapes.



## Ex. C: Application and Nomination Statement

The concrete block façade facing south toward West Main Street is dominated by strong vertical piers running from ground to rooftop, dividing the façade into four sections. A square, three-story tower projects above the roofline parapet set asymmetrically on the western section. Its massive vertical stone piers end with pyramidal caps.

At street level the double door entry into the sanctuary is approached by three side-turned steps and landing. Directly above the entry doors are three square transom windows. The entryway is shaded by a strongly projecting flat roof supported by large, curved brackets. Above this is a grouped set of three stained glass windows of unified design common to all the other windows of similar size in the building. These feature Tiffany style opaque glass panels in hues of blue and pale yellow. Above this rises the bell tower. Between the massive piers of the tower a flat roof projects forward, protecting the lattice wood grid covering the openings into the bell tower, shielding the interior.

The center section of the south façade is a one-story extension projecting toward the street. Five stained-glass windows separated by concrete block vertical piers sit atop a horizontal stone lintel, a feature which divides the façade into lower and upper sections, and runs around most of the building. The extension is roofed with a slanted roof. Directly above this, on the main wall of the façade, a second grouping of five similarly sized stained-glass windows is framed by vertical piers and a four-stepped architrave band running the width of the windows. The two end piers framing this grouping are decorated with slightly projected vertical ribs topped by an elongated hexagonal element set within a rectangular box which intrude into the lower tier of the architrave.

At the southeast corner facing West Main Street is the main entry door, approached by six steps leading to a porch landing. This is covered by a slanted roof that projects forward between the square pillars supporting the roof.

The east façade is divided into three sections divided by wide, unadorned pilasters standing on a running stone lintel. The pilasters rise three feet above the roof line and end in an obtuse. In the center section of the façade are five tall stained-glass windows, separated by six vertical piers whose upper sections are decorated with slightly projected vertical ribs topped by an elongated hexagonal element set within a rectangular box which intrudes into the lower course of a four-step tiered architrave band running the width of the windows. Below the running stone lintel five unframed windows admit light into the Fellowship hall situated in the basement below.

The west façade is dominated by a six-sided extension which houses the Sunday school classrooms above and the semi-basement level of the fellowship hall below. A massive vertical pier sits on the running stone lintel that divides the upper and lower sections of the building. These piers project upward and end in pointed caps decorated with large-sized elements seen elsewhere dividing the larger window groupings— high relief elongated hexagonal boxes striding the angle at the pyramidal cap. The upper sections of the façade between the vertical piers enclose groups of three identical stained-glass windows featuring the blue and light yellow design found consistently around the building. The narrow piers between each window are unadorned.

Below the running lintel the windows of the semi-basement align to those grouped directly above. The windows to the basement are full sized, which is possible due to the narrow ground trench surrounding this extension, allowing light and air into the basement below.

At the rear of the building a narrow two-story wing the width of the main building faces the parking lot to the north. This façade, the rear of the building, has very little architectural ornamentation. The horizontal lintel

## Ex. C: Application and Nomination Statement

seen dividing the building visually into upper and lower sections on the rest of the building is absent. An entry door from the parking lot is positioned at the far right on the first floor. Two groupings of two windows each are aligned on both the first and second stories. These rest on short stone lintels with a modest architrave molding above. The six-sided extension of the west façade is visible to the right.

- Alterations or Additions to the Building:

Canaan Baptist Church has undergone only minor alterations to its exterior. Among these include the orientation of the steps leading to the tower entrance. The front-facing steps directly off the sidewalk seen in earlier photographs have been re-aligned to be side-turned and lead to a short landing in front of the door. The original building's "Stonekote" marble surface treatment has been painted over in beige and medium brown. Areas of chipped paint reveals the original surface, however the coating quality may be degraded. Broken stained glass panes has been repaired by a local stained-glass shop.

- Missing or Removed Architectural Features:

The church exterior remains essentially intact, except for the replacement of some copper gutters with those fashioned from steel and aluminum. (Olin, Ruth. 1981. *The First Christian Church Building, Urbana IL*. Champaign County Historical Archives). The exterior block surface is painted.

- Outbuildings and Important landscape or Street Features:

None to our knowledge.

### Additional Information

- Interior Layout and Design Elements:

While not covered for consideration for local landmarking, mention of the unique interior arrangement created by Royer is of interest. The interior design was unusual for a typical church sanctuary. It included the extensive use of moveable room dividers and sliding doors which allowed the congregation to convert the Sunday school rooms into one large auditorium. *The Urbana Courier-Herald* (June 4, 1910) wrote:

*"In order to appreciate the beauty and elegance of the church. . . one must inspect the interior. The building has an architectural style of its own. The auditorium is oblong in shape and is approached from the south entrance. The parlor is on the west and separated from the auditorium by sliding doors which disappear under the floor. The choir and organ loft is directly back of the pulpit, and below, in order to afford a background for the baptistry during baptismal rites, is a scene of the River Jordan. This painting is upon the trap-door covering to the baptistry, so that only when the latter is open the scene is shown."*

The basement housed a gymnasium, dining room, kitchen, restrooms, and cloak room. The Sunday school room is located in the northeast corner. The design of the church's baptistry pool is very unusual. A trap door on the floor of the dais at the front of the congregation, directly behind the pulpit, opens to reveal steps leading to a baptism tank on the lower level, which allows complete submersion of the convert. The mural depicting the River Jordan adorns the wall.

Architectural details in main sanctuary and western extension remain as they were designed by Royer. Stained-glass windows adorn the building on all sides, set in pairs or threes. Those in the main sanctuary are larger, reaching to the ceiling. Their central window depicts an open book crossed by a feather in a diamond-shaped frame that is inset in the opaque glass, while the flanking windows show biblical figures at full length. These are the only figurative images found in the church windows.

## Ex. C: Application and Nomination Statement

### *History*

#### • Brief Community Background:

The town of Urbana as county seat of the recently created Champaign County, was founded at the southwestern edge of the Big Grove along the Boneyard Creek tributary flowing Eastward into the Salt Fork River. The city was founded on June 21, 1833 [Summer Solstice].

**The original plat for the town** of “Urbana Illinois” [sic.] was filed by Isaac and Sarah Busey, consisting of 43 acres of land, on September 3-4, 1833. The town was bound by Water Street on the north, Green Street on the south; by Race Street on the west and Vine Street on the east. Vine street also marked the division between the original properties of the two main land donors: Isaac Busey’s property west of Vine street and William T. Webber’s property (Webber’s Grove) to the east. Property north of Water Street and east of Vine Street were added in 1834. The town retained this configuration until 1851, with the announcement of plans to build the Illinois Central Railroad south from Chicago. The Webber land was held in timber and agricultural production, while the Busey property became open to subdivision and development by Isaac Busey’s heirs following his in 1847. Urbana continued to grow rapidly westward. The 1858 map of the city published by Alexander Bowman shows no further development eastward, but an expansion west to Snyder Avenue (today, McCullough Street) and south to Oregon Street. Western Main Street in particular had developed into the commercial hub of the community. Development southward was greatly blocked to the east of Market Street (today, Broadway Avenue) by the property owned by T. Lindsey.

In June, 1855 a large section of land along the south side of West Main Street, which, just past Race Street, turned northwest towards West Urbana, was platted into the city. On the north side of West Main Street, at the location of Canaan Baptist Church today, sat Boyden’s Plow and Wagon Factory (A. Ruger’s Birdseye View Map of the City of Urbana, Champaign County, Illinois 1869).

By 1860 the town had grown in size to a population of 14,629 people and incorporated into a city (1855). Following the arrival of the Illinois Central railroad west of town, part of the population had moved to the new tracks and established the town of West Urbana—incorporating into the independent town of “Champaign” in 1860.

**West Main Street** became one of the most exclusive residential streets in Urbana and along its length may be found the homes of several of Urbana’s most influential citizens.

Samuel T. Busey, co-founder of Busey Bank, built his home at 504 West Main Street on land where his father, Matthew W. Busey, had built his original log. After his father’s death in 1852, Busey bought out large parts of the inheritance along Main Street from his siblings, and in 1873 he replaced his father’s cabin with an elegant Italianate residence. The home was surrounded by an urban arboretum of trees. The home was torn down in the 1970s after being damaged by fire, and replaced by an apartment complex. A gigantic ginkgo tree is the only tree preserved at that location.

Matthew E. Busey, a cousin of pioneer Matthew W. Busey, with his wife, Sarah, built an elegant Italianate brick home at 804 West Main Street in 1868-9. Known as “Black Matt” for his dark complexion, the Busey family, more than any other, is responsible for the growth and development of early Urbana. Matthew served as a state legislator and saw to it that railroad routes passed into Urbana. Their home is included in the “West Main Street Historic District” established on the 800 block of West Main Street in November 2007. (*West Main Street Historic District*, <https://urbanaillinois.us/node/1538> ).

## Ex. C: Application and Nomination Statement

In 1871 Urbana businessman and prominent civic leader, Clark Robinson Griggs, built a home at 505 W. Main Street as a wedding gift for his son. While serving in the state legislature, Griggs efforts helped to secure the Illinois Industrial University (becoming University of Illinois) for Urbana included hiring a room at the state capitol in Springfield, plying fellow politicians with free oyster dinners and theater tickets, and otherwise maneuvering the vote to secure the location of the state's first land grant college for Urbana.

Other significant individuals who resided along West Main Street and built homes in 1892 on property formerly owned by Samuel Busey. These include brothers-in-law Emmett Yearsley (508 West Main) and Frank Marriott (506 West Main), wealthy farmers and real estate speculators. More interestingly was Louis Wahl, a local saloon owner in Urbana, who built a fine home at 510 West Main Street, whose escaped pet alligator made the June 10, 1898 issue of the *Champaign Daily Gazette*:

*"An alligator belonging to L. A. Wahl, escaped from a pond back of his residence on Main Street yesterday, and up to this time has not been found. The animal measures about 6 feet in length and is large enough to injure the little folks. Mr. Wahl offers a reward for any information."*

On June 15 the following article appeared in that publication, completing the story:

*"Lost Is Found – The lost is found and Lou Wahl is happy. His pet alligator which escaped from his private pond on West Main Street last week was found yesterday afternoon in the Boneyard branch between the Big Four and the Wabash railroads, near the mill on North Race Street, It was found by Frank Ingalls in an old well where the Big Four pump house stood about ten years ago. Finding him was only a small part of the program. He did not seem to want to leave his new quarters in every way possible. He was at last brought to the surface by John Carson who succeeded in getting a rope around him and he was taken to his old quarters on West Main Street."*

When these imposing homes were completed, the *Champaign County Herald* proudly declared, "On West Main Street are three homes that would do honor to Chicago or any other city."

**More recently**, in 2027, the 800 block of West Main Street was designated as the "West Main Street Historic District." The original intent was to celebrate the entire length of West Main Street with historic district designation, but the approval of the prerequisite number of property owner was not met, and the district was ultimately shortened to the 800 block, which, however, boasted many significant homes. Had the full block been approved, Canaan Baptist Church would have been included in the center of West Main Street Historic District.

### • Discussion of the Property as It Relates to the Development of the Community:

There is a historic connection between the Congregational Church of Champaign, occupying what was known as the Goose Pond Church of West Urbana, and First Christian Church of Urbana. First Christian Church of Urbana, established in 1883, occupied a wood framed, clapboard sided structure built in 1889 at 403 West Main Street, directly across the street from Royer's new church building which replaced it, built in 1910. Further changes in the church's ownership followed:

*"By 1932 the Christian and Congregational denominations joined to become the First Congregational Church of Urbana. Between 1957 and 1968 the church was known as the First United Church of Christ, the result of the merger of the Congregational Christian Denomination and the Evangelical and Reformed Church. In 1968, a merger with two other churches created the Community United Church of Christ. In October 1971, the Board of Trustees of the First United Church of Christ sold the building to the*

## Ex. C: Application and Nomination Statement

*Community United Church. With this sale, all records of church history were moved to a new building at 6th and Daniels Street on the University of Illinois campus. Unfortunately, archival records there only go back to the 1920s. On 11 November 1977, Canaan Baptist Church, the current owners, received the building from the Good Shepherd Apostolic House of Prayer. Canaan Baptist Church currently occupies the church building and has flourished in the community.” (“Joseph W. Royer’s First Christian Church at Urbana,” Bryan Adams, *Preservation Matters* newsletter, Vol. 31, No. 1, Winter 2011).*

### **Canaan Missionary Baptist Church**

With the sale of the church property from Father Ronald Roth, minister of the Good Shepherd House of Prayer, the Reverend J. B. Tatum began his mission. On November 6, 1977 the first service and communion was held. On November 18, 1977, 121 charter members met for service and formed the Canaan Missionary Baptist Church, with Reverend Tatum elected as pastor and founder. The goals of “preaching, teaching, and training souls for the work of the church—evangelism and discipleship” allowed the church to reach deep into the community it served. Mrs. Barbara Tatum became Director of Christian Education in 1979. By 2022 fourteen Ministers were licensed to preach.

In January 1978 a mortgage was approved to cover the purchase the sanctuary building at 402 and the house at 404 West Main Street, which was used as the office, administration Building, and Nursery. In that year a water fountain was donated in the Fellowship Hall and a large wooden pulpit cross. By 1979 membership had grown to 300. In 1980 the Soul Winning Action Team (SWAT) Street Evangelistic Outreach Ministry was founded. Improvements to the Administrative Office was made, which canvased the area and began ministry at Champaign County Children’s Home. A Children’s Church program started at that time enrolled youth ages 0-12 years old. A Media Ministry started in 1981 to serve the sick and shut-in. Three additional pastors were added to the ministry. In 1984 a program for interior renovations for repair and beautification of the Sanctuary raised \$65,000.

Also in 1984 two significant new programs to serve the community were established: People Available to Contact and Encourage (PACE), and Substance Abuse Free Environment (SAFE), a program serving the community by providing 12-month line-in housing program, offering assistance and counseling for individuals needing to break free from controlling life addictions and habits. It’s Mission:

*“ . . . to combat the incidence and impact of drugs and alcohol abuse among men and women; to empower them to make informed choices about their future and the future of their dependent children.”*  
(Men and Women’s SAAFE House brochure, Canaan Development Foundation)

The Men’s and Women’s SAFE House (opened in 2012) programs became recognized by the Champaign County Court as an important option for directing substance abusers to aid. Past graduates have become successful as College instructors, MTD bus drivers, a radio personality, staff members at the University of Illinois, and SAFE House personnel. (*SAFE House News*, Substance Abuse Free Environment. Newsletter, Winter 2017)

In 1990 fifteen properties surrounding the church were purchased and architectural plans drafted. Reverend Tatum’s vision to create a church-based elementary school became realized with the creation of Canaan Academy. The academy students’ test scores have ranked in the top 97th percentile nation-wide.

In 1994 the Canaan Development Foundation, a non-profit tax-exempt organization was established to provide support for the wide scope of community programs initiated by the church.

## Ex. C: Application and Nomination Statement

In 1996, following Rev. Tatum's vision, Canaan Academy elementary school was opened. In 1999 the construction of a new educational building was erected north of the sanctuary, and Canaan Academy moved into its new home.

In 2005 the Bring Every Teen (BET) Youth Ministry was established. In 2006 the Family Affair Classes and Dinner was instituted for married couples, single parents, singles due to loss or divorce, seniors, and youth.

Pastor Tatum implemented his vision of economic empowerment for the African American community by opening the Canaan Credit Union Ministry, chartered by the State of Illinois, on October 14, 2021. It established a means for the African American community access to low interest loans to achieve their dreams of home ownership and any other goal leading to economic improvement. This "self-help route to financial independence" has provided many individuals in the Black community to prosper, who might not have qualified for a bank mortgage or pay tuition fees for higher education.

Canaan Baptist Church has developed an excellent music program and performance choir, the Victory Chorale, under the past direction of outstanding local musical giants Dr. Willie Summerville and Dr. Ollie Watts Davis.

(Source: "*Through the Years, 25th Pastoral and Church Anniversary, 1977–2002.*" Cynthia Biggers, Ed. November 8, 2002. and "*30th Pastoral and Church Anniversary, 1977–2007.*" Cynthia Biggers, Ed. November 11, 2007.)

### • Important People Associated with the Property:

Many people of importance have either been members, served in the programs, or made major contributors as educators, mentors, university instructors to the African American community and the City of Urbana.

These include:

Minister William Moses Summerville  
Willie T. Summerville, Deacon and Music Director  
Ollie Watts Davis, Music Director, MLK Celebration Music Director  
Cynthia Biggers, President of Women's Auxiliary  
George Biggers, Trustee  
Eric Grant, Trustee Chairman  
Mary Preston, Director of Christian Education  
Michael Preston, Trustee  
Robert Ray, Director of Youth Choir  
Cora Dixon  
Robert Morris, Trustee and President of Brotherhood Auxiliary  
August Pierce, Superintendent of Sunday School  
Dorothy Friend, Church Clerk  
Sheena Bruett, Administrative Assistant  
Reverend Harold Davis  
Preston Thompson

Tatum family members:

Reverend B. J. Tatum, Senior Pastor, Canaan Baptist Church  
Barbara Tatum, Administrative Secretary and Educator, Canaan Baptist Church  
Yolanda Tatum-Brown, Registered Pharmacist

## Ex. C: Application and Nomination Statement

Stephanie Lynne Tatum, Tenured Professor, Dowling College, Long Island, NY

Bryant Tatum, Principal, Canaan Academy

Jennifer Ivory Tatum, Superintendent, Urbana School System

- Impact of Canaan Baptist Church Programs on the Community:

Letters from the community commenting on the importance of SAFE House:

*“The accomplishments of Rev. B. J. Tatum are truly extra-ordinary. His remarkable vision and foresight for a worship center, educational center, and faith-based help centers are unparalleled in the entire community. This has been a benefit to our neighborhood, our city, and our entire community.*

*The amazing aspect is that he has been able to turn his vision into reality. He has seen a loving, caring, sharing, hard working Canaan congregation grow to be the largest in Urbana. He has seen his model for academic performance be successful and result in some of the best student achievements in the state. The success of faith-based help centers, like SAFE House, are far superior to any other programs—anywhere.*

*Rev. B. J. Tatum is an outstanding, brilliant, extremely talented human being with extraordinary vision and extraordinary ability to help and provide proper direction for his fellow beings. He is truly a remarkable man.*

*—Darrel Foste and Family”*

....

*“The MSH (Men’s Safe House) provided more structure and offered spiritually based programs, which was what I needed. . . . I always thought that my problem was drug related, but it was more than drugs. I had moral and spiritual issues that resulted in me using drugs. All of these issues were addressed in the Men’s SAFE House Program.*

*—Allen James, recovered addict”*

(SAFE House News, Substance Abuse Free Environment. Newsletter, Winter 2017)

- Important Events Associated with the Property:

In 1911 the church hosted a meeting of the local Lincoln Legion assembly to celebrate Lincoln’s birthday, with the subject of the sermon being Temperance. (Podcast: City of Urbana “In Lincoln’s Shadow, Historic Urbana, Illinois” — [http://www.city.urbana.il.us/\\_Video/Lincoln\\_Podcasts/First\\_Christian\\_Church.m4v](http://www.city.urbana.il.us/_Video/Lincoln_Podcasts/First_Christian_Church.m4v)).

The first biennial Gala Fundraiser to benefit Canaan Development Fund was held in 2004 at Krannert Center for the Performing Arts at the University of Illinois campus. These have been held every other year following.

### ***For Architectural Significance***

- Background of the Style and/or Architect’s Work:

At the time many of Urbana’s downtown multi-storied commercial buildings built after the 1871 downtown fire were rebuilt in stone-banded red brick, transoms above the entrances, large display windows, and upper story windows and cornices designed in the Victorian Italianate style. Royer’s earliest work, such as the Fox Building (1898) at 220 West Main Street, and Eubeling Building (1901) at 116 West Main Street are early examples.

## Ex. C: Application and Nomination Statement

Royer's architectural work also reflected the preferences of his time and responded to the various "revival" styles popular at the turn of the century. His output was also highly "eclectic" in its variety. For the Champaign County Courthouse, one of his earliest large commissions, Royer chose the Richardson Romanesque Revival style popular circa 1870-1890. The Stevens Building at 218 West Main Street (1903) is another example. His use of the Classical Revival style can be seen in the design of the Nate Cohen Building at 136 West Main Street (1907) and the remodel of the Tiernan Building façade at 115 West Main Street (1914). The Unitarian Universalist Church at 309 West Green Street (1913) was built in the English Gothic Revival style, while the Urbana Free Library (1917-18) at 210 South Race Street is done in the Beaux-Art style.

First Christian / Canaan Baptist Church (1909-1910) is a rare example of Royer's assimilation of the new "Prairie Style" of architectural design introduced at the turn of the century by Chicago based architect Frank Lloyd Wright. Wright was said to have been inspired by the broad flat landscapes of the American Prairie of the Midwest. The Prairie Style is considered the first uniquely American architectural style of the 20th Century.

- Why/How the Building Reflects the Style and/or Architect's Work:

Canaan Baptist Church building reflects Royer's new use of the Prairie Style in its general form, appearance, and detail, and can be compared to the Unity Church designed in 1909 by Frank Lloyd Wright for their congregation in Oak Park in many details, including its asymmetrical layout, clean streamlined lines, strong horizontal and vertical elements, uncluttered exterior surfaces, horizontal rows of narrow grouped casement windows, widely overhanging eaves, and massive square piers supporting the porch roof. Decorative elements are abstracted into simple geometric shapes. Royer was a member of the Unity Church he designed.

- Other Works in the Community/Elsewhere by the same Architect; Discuss Briefly:

Besides the examples of Royer's work, listed above, seen in Urbana's downtown, There are other significant local examples, many of which are highlighted in the pamphlet published through a grant from the Illinois Historic Preservation Agency, "*The Joseph W. Royer Arts and Architecture District, In the Heart of Old Urbana*" (2007). These include Urbana High School (1914), The Urbana Free Library (1917-1918), the Urbana Lincoln Hotel (1922-1923), and the Knowlton and Bennett Drug Store (1926), to name a few.

Royer's output as an architect includes 5 fraternity houses (University of Illinois campus), 5 churches, 12 commercial buildings and/or storefronts, 30 school buildings, 9 county courthouses, 3 jails, 2 theaters, 3 club or lodge buildings, 2 military buildings, 2 hospitals, 2 hotels, 2 libraries, 1 swimming pool, 1 gymnasium, 1 poor farm, 1 post office, and at least 23 private residences, both regionally, across Illinois, 1 in Indiana, and 3 in Iowa. (*Joseph William Royer, Urbana's Architect*, author Brain Adams, © 2011, The News Gazette, Appendix, p.122-125).

### Context

- Placement or Location of Property within the City/Community:

Canaan Baptist is located at 402 West Main at the NW corner of West Main Street and North Central Avenue, Urbana Illinois 61801.

- Property Index Number (PIN): # 91-21-08-380-016.

- Public Land Survey: Sec. 08, Twp 19N, Rng 9E. Mapped acreage: 0.26 acres.



## Ex. C: Application and Nomination Statement

- Legal Description (Champaign County Property Assessor): Lots pt 11, pt 13 Smith's, C.W. Sub.
- Zoning: The property resides in the R-5 Medium High Density Multiple-Family Residential District.

### • Relationship to Other Properties of Similar Architectural Style and Date/Era of Construction:

Canaan Baptist Church is one of three churches built by Royer, all in close proximity, in the West Urbana neighborhood. These are: First Presbyterian Church of Urbana (1901-02) at 602 West Green Street (demolished in 1963), the Unitarian Universalist Church (1913-14) at 309 West Green Street, and First Christian Church/Canaan Baptist Church (1909-10) at 402 West Main Street, in West Urbana.

Canaan Baptist Church differs significantly, however, from these other churches designed by Joseph Royer, designed in the Gothic Revival style. While many commercial buildings in the downtown and residential dwellings along West Main Street are examples of the eclectic style of architecture so popular in the era between 1890-1910, Canaan Baptist Church is a singular example of this blend of Art Deco and Frank Lloyd Wright's Prairie Style architecture.

### ***Source Materials***

#### Books

Adams, Bryan. Joseph William Royer, Urbana's Architect. *The News Gazette*. 2011 Appendix, p.122-125.

Adams, Bryan. "Joseph W. Royer's First Christian Church at Urbana" *Preservation Matters*, Vol. 31, No. 1, Winter 2011.

Johnson's Champaign-Urbana City Directory, 1906. Johnson Pub. Co., Loveland, CO.:

"CHRISTIAN CHURCH, (FIRST?) Rev. W. H. Sands, pastor, C-: 401-403 W. Main, U." Listing: pgs. 106, 583.

Champaign and Urbana Illinois City Directory, 1910. Chas. M. Samson, Publisher:

"GRANITOID STONE CO. cor N. Orchard and Big 4 tracks, U." Adv. pgs. 431, 525; Listing: pg. 533.

Matkovszki, Ilona and Roberts, Dennis. *URBANA, Images of America*. Arcadia Publishing. 2009.

#### Articles, Pamphlets, Newsletters, Programs

Biggers, Cynthia, ed. *Through the Years, 25th Pastoral and Church Anniversary, 1977–2002*. November 10, 2002,

Biggers, Cynthia, ed. *30th Pastoral and Church Anniversary, 1977–2007*. November 11, 2007.

Olin, Ruth. *The First Christian Church Building, Urbana IL*. Champaign County Historical Archives at The Urbana Free Library. 1981.

"Substance Abuse Free Environment," *SAFE House News*. Winter 2017. Canaan Baptist Church.

*The Joseph W. Royer Arts and Architecture District, In the Heart of Old Urbana*. Pamphlet published through a grant from the Illinois Historic Preservation Agency. 2007.

## Ex. C: Application and Nomination Statement

### Maps

Ruger, Albert. *A Ruger's Birdseye View Map of the City of Urbana, Champaign County, Illinois, 1869*. Chicago Lithographing Co.

### Online Sources

*Champaign Daily Gazette*, June 10, 1898. Champaign County Archives at The Urbana Free Library.

King, Audrey. *Frank Lloyd Wright / Art Deco Movement, Biography and Significance*.  
<https://study.com/academy/lesson/frank-lloyd-wright-the-art-deco-movement.html>

“*The Lost Is Found*,” *Champaign Daily Gazette*. June 15, 1898. Champaign County Historical Archives at The Urbana Free Library. Online.

*Urbana Courier-Herald*, June 4, 1910. Champaign County Historical Archives at The Urbana Free Library. Online.

*Urbana Daily Courier*, February 1910. Champaign County Archives at The Urbana Free Library. Online.

*West Main Street Historic District*. City of Urbana. Online. <https://urbanaillinois.us/node/1538>.

### Podcasts

“In Lincoln’s Shadow, Historic Urbana, Illinois.” City of Urbana. Online.  
[http://www.city.urbana.il.us/\\_Video/Lincoln\\_Podcasts/First\\_Christian\\_Church.m4v](http://www.city.urbana.il.us/_Video/Lincoln_Podcasts/First_Christian_Church.m4v)

## Ex. C: Application and Nomination Statement



### Historic Landmark Preference Form

### HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION

#### PLEASE PRINT OR TYPE THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION

Name: Rev B.J. Tatum  
Street Address: 402 W. Main Street  
City/State/Zip: Urbana, IL 61801  
Telephone: 217-367-2158

#### LANDMARK NOMINATION OF PROPERTY

Common address of nominated property: 402 W. Main St., Urbana, IL 61801  
Owner of nominated property: Canaan Baptist Church

#### Please check one:

- ☒ I **support** the nomination of the aforementioned property for landmark designation.  
☐ I **do not** support the nomination of the aforementioned property for landmark designation.  
☐ I have **no opinion** regarding the nomination of property for landmark designation.

**COMMENTS:** Please use the following space to add additional comments. Attach additional papers if necessary.

Signature: [Signature]  
Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: 5-30-23  
Date: \_\_\_\_\_

#### PLEASE RETURN THIS FORM ONCE COMPLETED TO:

City of Urbana  
Community Development Department Services  
Planning Division  
400 South Vine Street  
Urbana, IL 61801  
Phone: (217) 384-2440  
Fax: (217) 384-2367

# Exhibit D: Supplemental Illustrations

## Canaan Missionary Baptist Church Urbana Local Landmark Application

### Supporting Illustrations

#### Overview



Fig. 1. Front and East façades. Corner of West Main St. at North Central Avenue



Fig. 2. West façade from West Main Street



# Exhibit D: Supplemental Illustrations

## Structural and Design Integrity

There is a very high level of structural integrity.

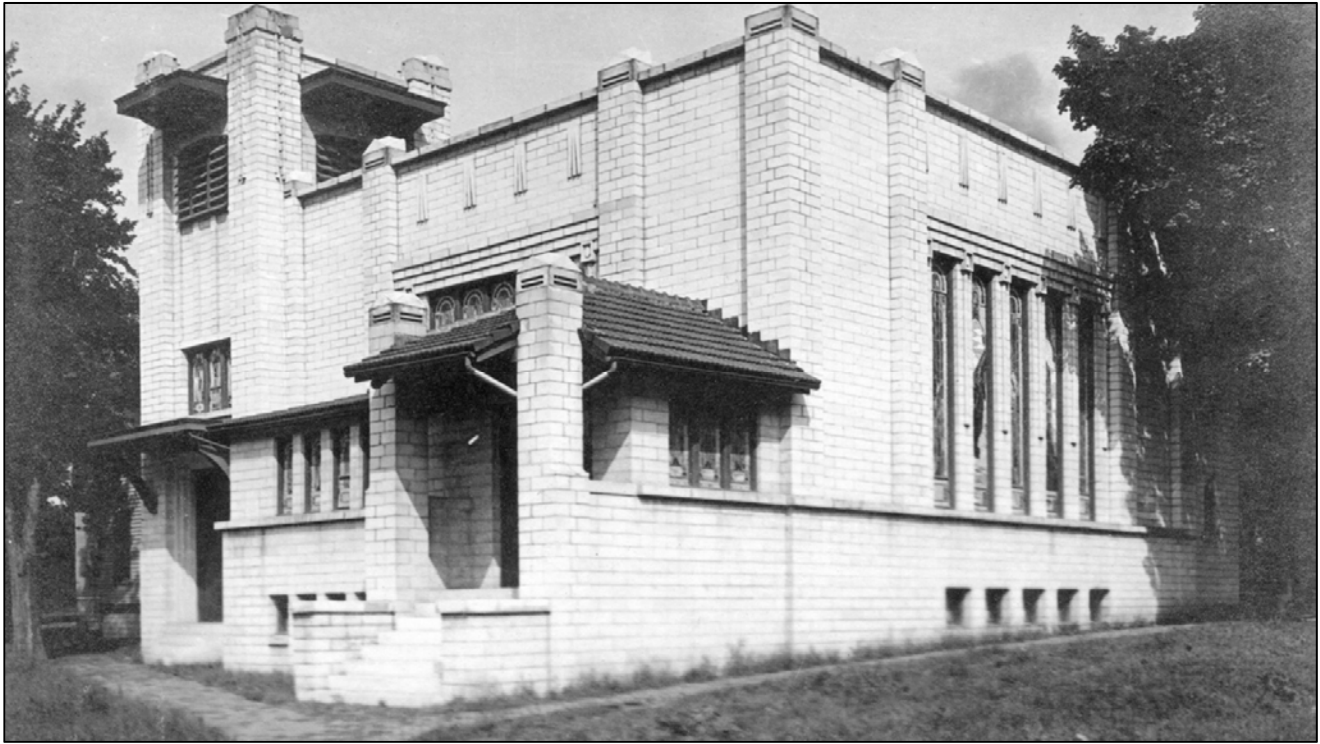


Fig. 3. The church as designed by Joseph Royer in 1909 and dedicated in 1910



Fig. 4. The church as it appears in 2023

## Exhibit D: Supplemental Illustrations

### History of the Building

The original church stood on the South side of E. Main Street. The new church was erected opposite, on the north side of Main Street.

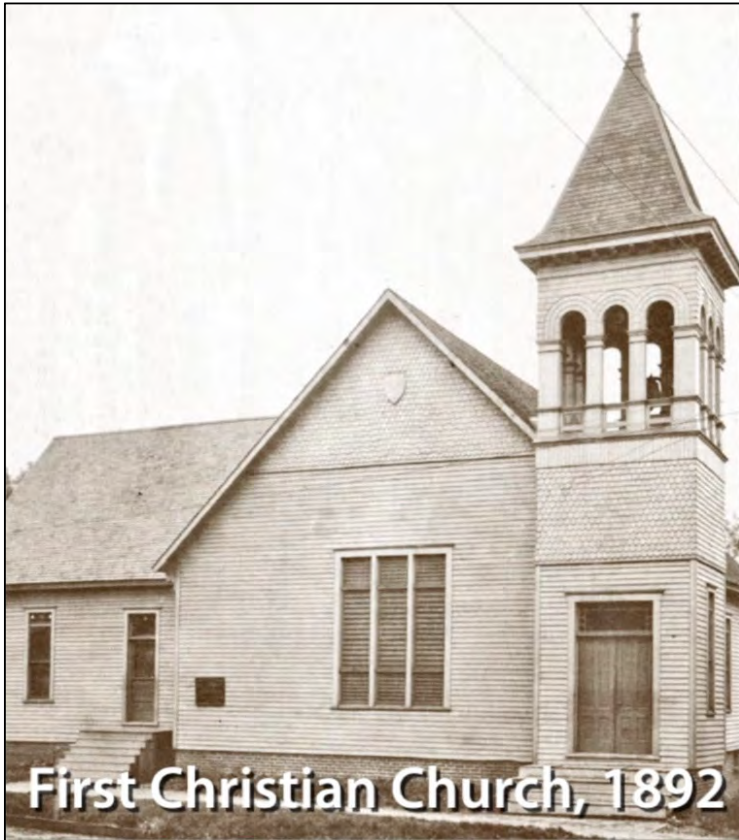


Fig. 5. First Christian Church, original wood building

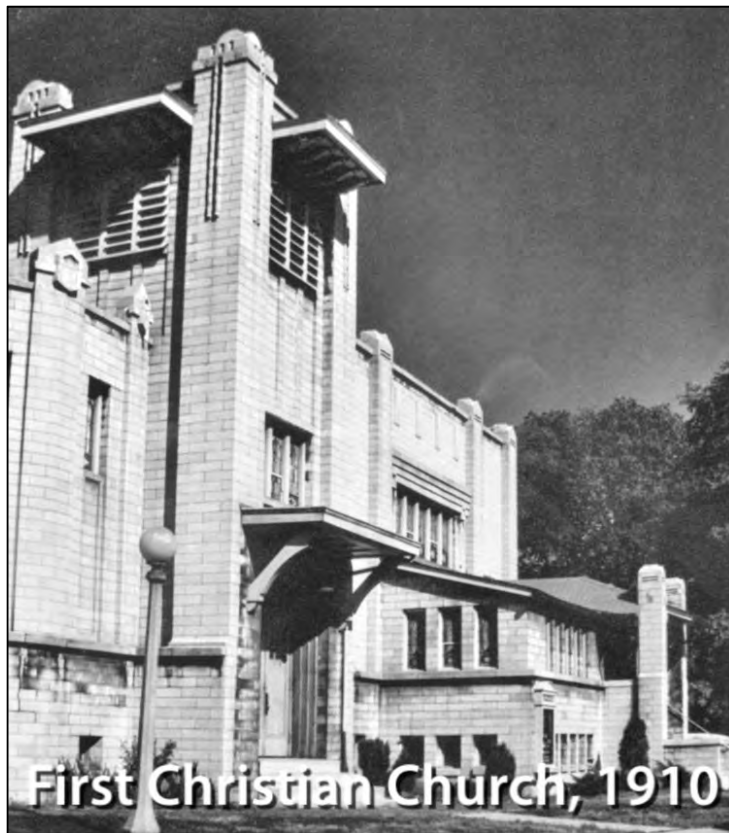


Fig. 6. First Christian Church, new building, erected 1910



## Exhibit D: Supplemental Illustrations



Fig. 7. May 1910 – Sanctuary Dedication



Fig. 8. 1978, just after purchase of the property by Canaan Missionary Baptist Church. Church Archives Photo



# Exhibit D: Supplemental Illustrations

## Contemporary Images of Canaan Baptist Church



Fig. 9. Church photo available from Property Assessment Records information, 2008



Fig. 10. South Façade—facing West Main Street, photographed February, 2023



## Exhibit D: Supplemental Illustrations



Fig. 11. West Façade—viewed from West Main Street, photographed February, 2023



Fig. 12. East Façade—viewed from North Central Avenue, photographed February, 2023



## Exhibit D: Supplemental Illustrations



Fig. 13. Rear of building and parking area entered from North Central Ave., photographed February, 2023

**Notable Work of a Master Builder, Designer, Architect or Artist Whose Individual Genius Has Influenced an Area — Architect Joseph William Royer**



Fig. 14. Royer: January 3, 1911. Source: Fraternal Order of Elks program



## Exhibit D: Supplemental Illustrations

**Design Elements Representative of a Distinguishing Architectural Style:**  
**Frank Lloyd Wright, Prairie School Art Deco with Prairie School Influences**  
**Stylistic Influence — Unity Temple, Oak Park, IL.**

Unity Temple, Oak Park, IL, designed by Frank Lloyd Wright, opened just one year before Royer was commissioned to design the First Christian Church of Urbana.



Fig. 15. Unity Temple. Frank Lloyd Wright. 875 Lake St., Oak Park, IL 60301. Dedicated September 1909



Fig. 16. Unity Temple, Oak Park, IL 60301



## Exhibit D: Supplemental Illustrations



Fig. 17. Unity Temple architectural influences: projecting flat roof, abstract ornamentation on pilasters, large unadorned surfaces, and poured cement construction



Fig. 18. Unity Temple, Oak Park, IL. Architectural details: projecting flat roof and abstract, stylistic pilaster ornamentation



## Exhibit D: Supplemental Illustrations

### Canaan Baptist Church: Art Deco with Prairie School Influences



Fig. 19. Canaan Baptist Church—East Façade: Grouped windows between strong vertical piers capped with Art Deco stylistic ornamentation

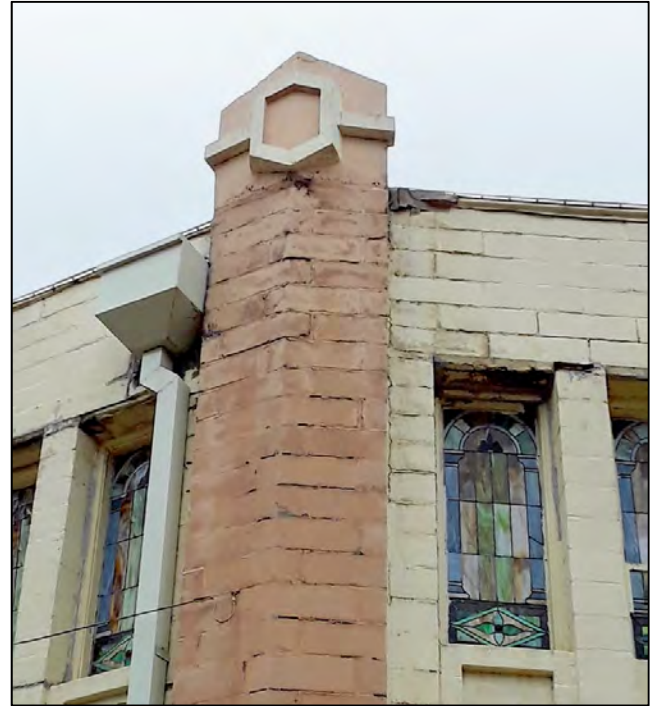


Fig. 20. Canaan Baptist Church—East Façade detail



Fig. 21. Canaan Baptist Church—Main Entry: Thick square piers topped pyramidal caps; flat or slightly slanting roofs with wide overhangs, in the Art Deco Style showing influences of Frank Lloyd Wright's Prairie School architecture

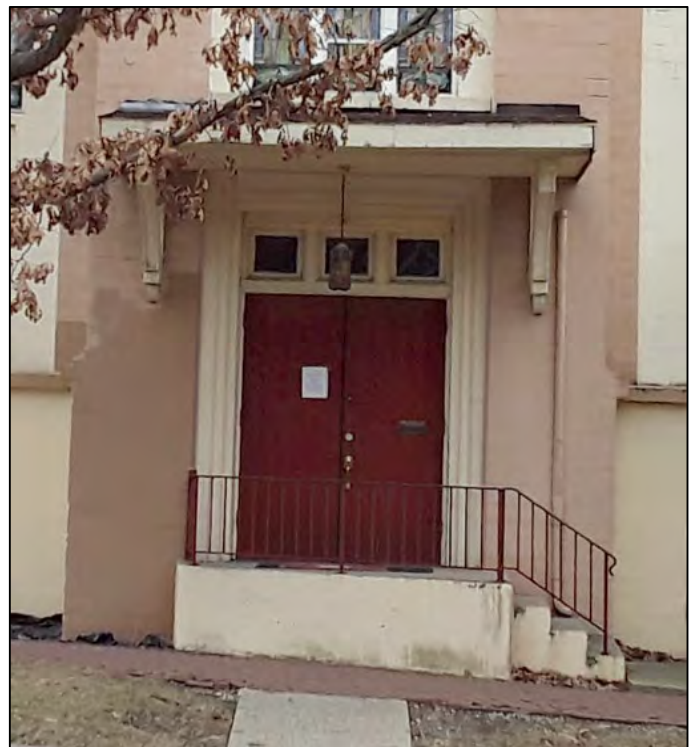


Fig. 22. Canaan Baptist Church—Main Entry: showing Art Deco features



## Exhibit D: Supplemental Illustrations



Fig. 23. Canaan Baptist Church—Tower: Massive piers, extended flat roof supported by bracket



Fig. 24. Abstract pilaster decoration. Louvered side heavy panels



Fig. 25. Canaan Baptist Church—East Façade: Art Deco elements above and between grouped stained glass windows



Fig. 26. Ornament Detail



## Exhibit D: Supplemental Illustrations



Fig. 27. Canaan Baptist Church—Window Treatment: The stained-glass windows are original to building

### Construction and Materials

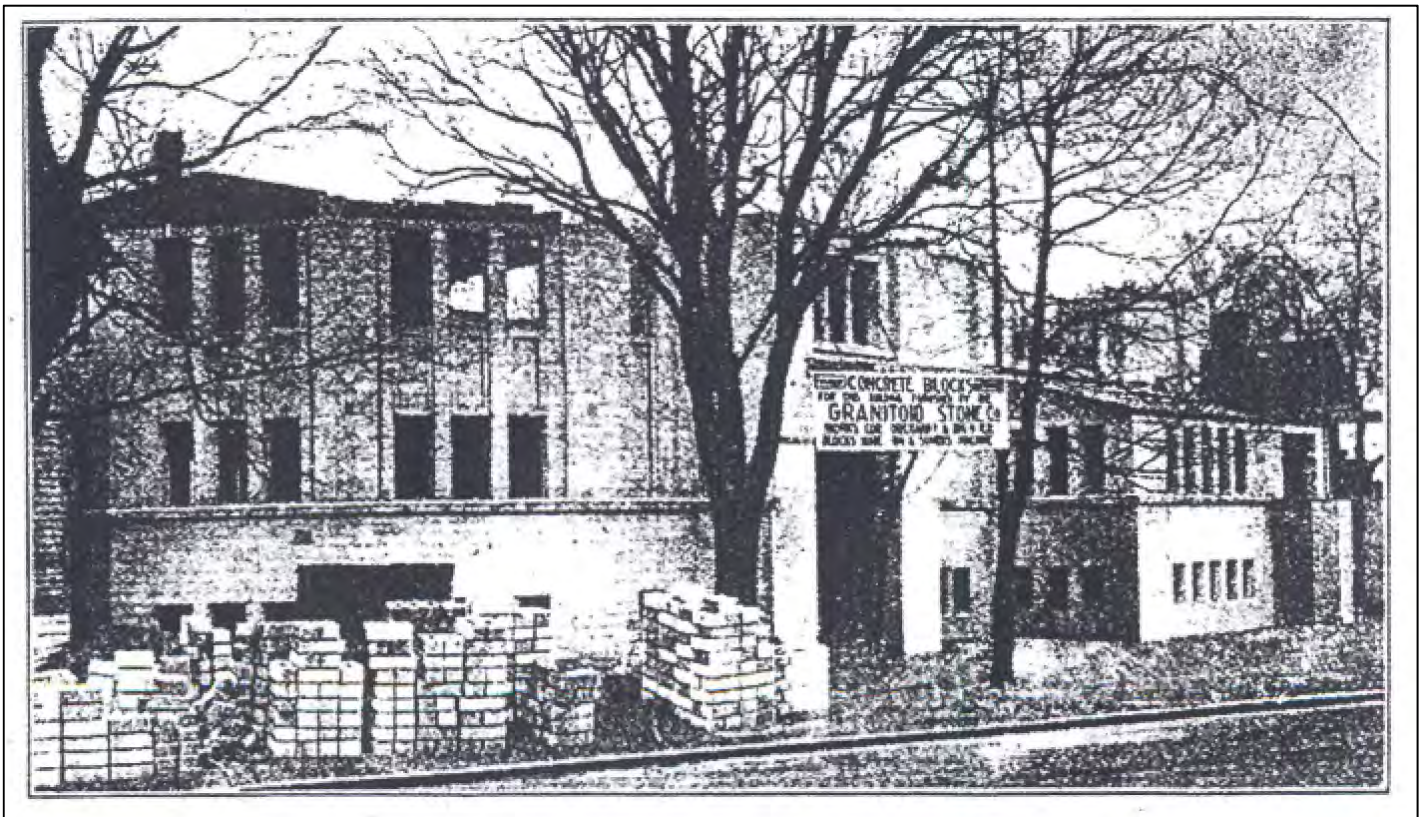


Fig. 28. First Christian Church under construction, 1910. Banner above tower entry advertises the Granitoid Stone Company



## Exhibit D: Supplemental Illustrations



Fig. 29. Granitoid Stone Company Advertisement. Located on N. Orchard St. at the Big Four Railroad

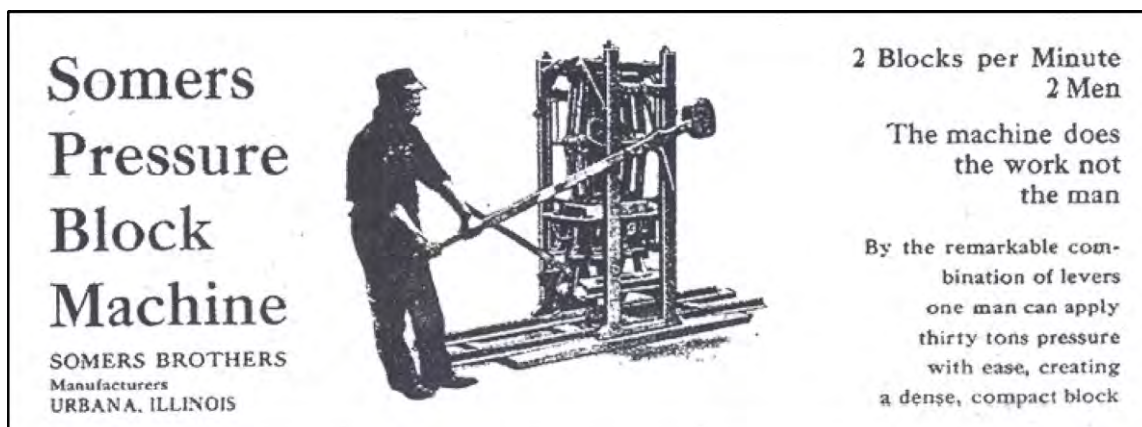


Fig. 30. Concrete block as a new building material: Somers Pressure Block Machine used to compress blocks



Figs. 31-32. Canaan Baptist Church—The original “Stonekote” *foux-marble* surface treatment used on the Granitoid Blocks, and mentioned in contemporary newspaper articles, is still visible under the weathered, painted wall surfaces.



# Exhibit D: Supplemental Illustrations

## Identifiable as an Established and Familiar Visual Location or Physical Characteristics

Printed references of Canaan Baptist Church are readily available—in Arts and Architectural District Brochures, Historic Preservation Walking Tours, and P.A.C.A. Newsletters

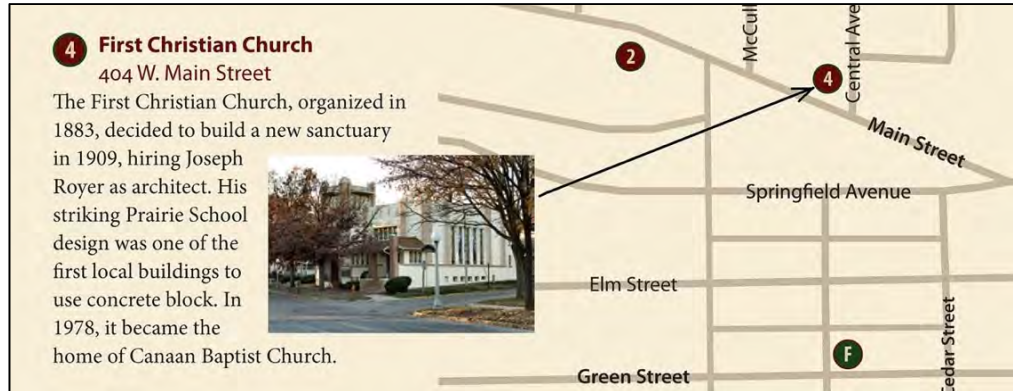


Fig. 33. "In Lincoln's Shadow, A Walking Tour of Historic Urbana." Urbana podcast brochure, #4.

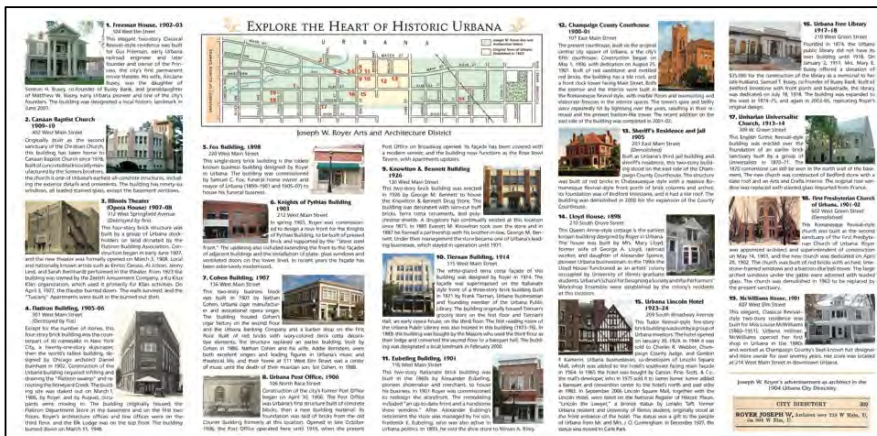
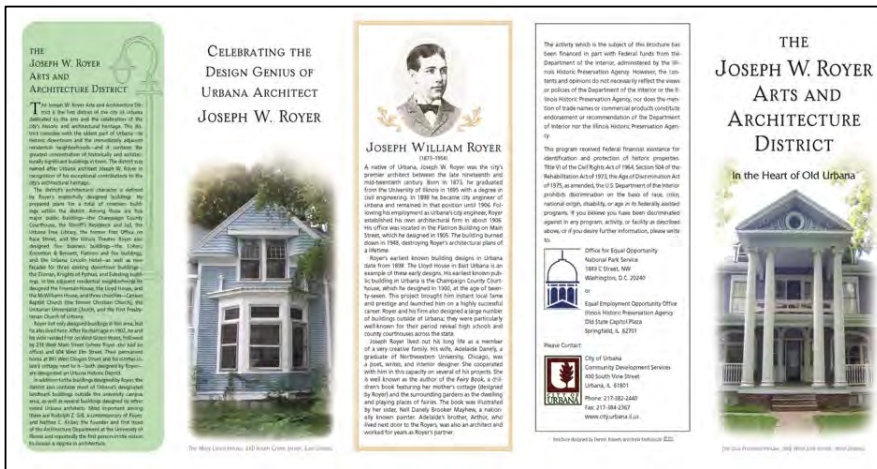


Fig. 34. The "Joseph W. Royer Arts and Architecture District" walking tour brochure



Fig. 35. Brochure detail—# 2: Canaan Baptist Church



# Exhibit D: Supplemental Illustrations

Preservation and Conservation Association (PACA) Bulletin



## PRESERVATION MATTERS

PRESERVATION AND CONSERVATION ASSOCIATION

VOLUME 31

WINTER 2011

NUMBER 1

### Joseph W. Royer's First Christian Church at Urbana

By Brian Adams

The First Christian Church at 402 West Main Street, Urbana, was the second concrete block structure designed by the renowned Urbana architect Joseph W. Royer. The new church was built in 1910–1911 to replace the congregation's aging wood church building on West Main.

#### Siting and acquisition

The original First Christian Church was located at 401 West Main, across the street from where the new building was eventually erected. The congregation had first planned to raze the old structure and rebuild at the same location. But soon it was decided to consider property located directly across Main to the south (*Urbana Daily Courier*, 17 March 1909). This property was owned by Captain John H. Benford, a Civil War veteran. Benford, born in Summerset, Pennsylvania, on 1 February 1834, served with Company B, 54th Pennsylvania Volunteer Infantry Regiment during the war. Shortly after the end of the war, in 1867, Benford moved to Urbana (*Urbana Daily Courier*, 17 March 1909, p 1; 19 September 1923, p 1). In 1869, he built a house at 308 West Elm Street, which was later occupied by his son Stanley and wife.

Benford initially offered his Main Street property to the First Christian Church building committee for \$5,500. At first, the committee reject-



Joseph Royer's "Mission Prairie" gem: the First Christian Church of Urbana. The early 20th century building shows off an aesthetically pleasing "modern" style and uses high-quality materials such as simulated marble and copper details.

ed his offer and instead considered building immediately to the east, on the Halberstadt property at the corner of Main Street and Central Avenue. By May 1909, however, Benford had reduced the price of his property, and in June of 1909, the First Christian Church building committee purchased it for \$5,000 (*Urbana Daily Courier*, 15 May 1909; 4 June 1909). Benford's house was to be relocated immediately to the west of the church construction site and used as a parsonage (*Urbana Daily Courier*, 8 June 1909). Benford vacated his residence, and moved to an apartment in the Courier building with son Harry and wife (*Urbana Daily Courier*, 19 June 1909, p 9; 18 June 1909, p 13).

#### Project architect selected

In March 1909, Royer was chosen by a special church committee to design the new building, which was to replace the original frame structure erected in 1889 (*Urbana Daily Courier*, Wednesday, 3 March 1909, p 1). In April 1909, it was announced that the new church would be made of concrete block faced with white marble (*Urbana Daily Courier*, Friday, 3 April 1909, p 5). The *Urbana Daily Courier* (11 December 1909, p 13) reported that

*Lincoln Harrison is framing a large picture of the new Christian church,*

*Continued on next page*

Fig. 36. "Joseph W. Royer's First Christian Church at Urbana." *Preservation Matters*, P.A.C.A Bulletin, Vol. 31, Number 1, pgs. 1-3. Winter 2011. Article by Brian Adams



# Exhibit D: Supplemental Illustrations

done in water colors by J.W. Royer. The drawing will be used for illustration in the sale of cement blocks at fifteen cents each for the benefit of the church fund.

The blocks, a conspicuous aesthetic feature of the modern new building, were to be fabricated by the Granitoid Stone Company of Urbana, A.D. Starkey and F.A. Somers, proprietors. The company had developed a method of producing attractive, durable, and water-resistant hollow concrete

blocks using a contraption it called the Somers Pressure Block Machine. This device produced a "Stonekote" Portland cement block that convincingly simulated a marble surface through the addition of marble dust to white cement under high pressure (*Urbana Daily Courier*, 28 April 1910). A Granitoid advertisement dated 1910 (below) boasts about the labor-efficiency of block fabrication using the Somers machine, and includes a photograph of Royer's church under construction (*Urbana Daily Courier*,

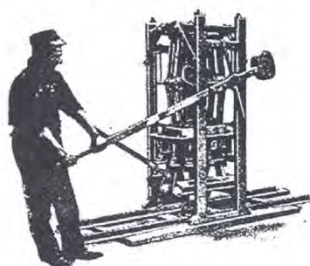
February 1910). They even plastered a mini-advertisement near the center of the church picture!

## Construction begins

By the end of June 1909, excavation of the basement for the proposed parsonage had commenced, and the former Benford residence was ready to be moved (*Urbana Daily Courier*, 29 June 1909, p 13). By the end of July 1909, the old Benford house was being moved (*Urbana Daily Courier*, 28 July 1909, p 9).

## Somers Pressure Block Machine

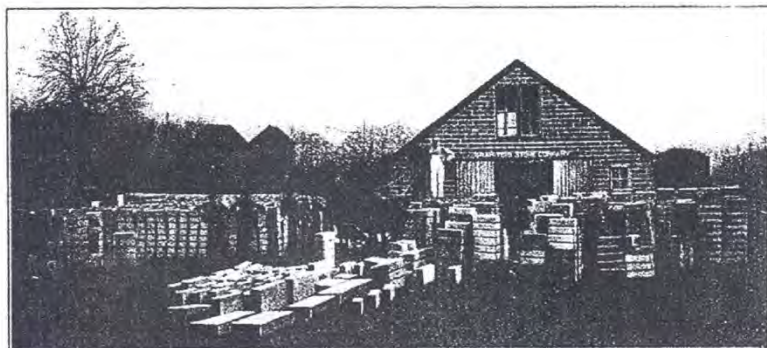
SOMERS BROTHERS  
Manufacturers  
URBANA, ILLINOIS



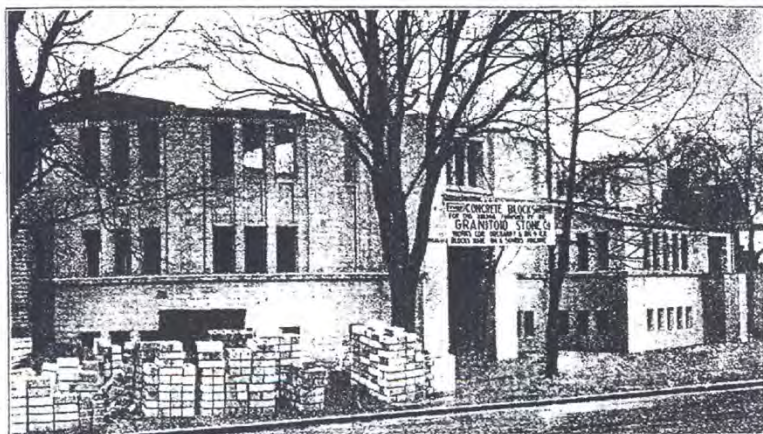
2 Blocks per Minute  
2 Men

The machine does  
the work not  
the man

By the remarkable combination of levers one man can apply thirty tons pressure with ease, creating a dense, compact block



Works of the.... **GRANITOID STONE COMPANY** A. D. STARKEY and F. A. SOMERS  
Concrete Work of Any Kind Proprietors  
Cor. Orchard St. and Big Four R. R.



The cornerstone of the new church was laid on 13 November 1909, and the church was dedicated on 5 June 1910. The original plan for the church differs greatly from the finished building. Most notable is a tall tower on the southeast corner of an early rendering of the building. In the final plan, the basement housed a gymnasium, dining room, kitchen, toilet and cloak room. A Sunday School room was located at the northeast corner. The final cost of the church was \$25,000. Years later, in 1924, a \$4,575 pipe organ was installed and dedicated (Olin 1981).

## Style and aesthetics

The architectural style of Royer's church defies precise classification. One expert says it is most similar to the Prairie Style of Frank Lloyd Wright (Alice Novak, personal communication), but it is clearly not a pure example of that style. Olin (1981) contends the building displays elements typical of the Mission Style, such as the squat tower and plain walls. She suggested the term "Mission Prairie" to describe the church. Regardless of its formal style, though, the church building was favorably received by the community on the eve of its dedication. The *Courier Herald* (4 June 1910) wrote:

*The new church is one of the most inspiring structures in this city ... The exterior is of marble faced concrete blocks, giving the building the appearance of being constructed of genuine marble. In order to appreciate the beauty and elegance of the*



# Exhibit D: Supplemental Illustrations

church ... one must inspect the interior. The building has an architectural style of its own. The auditorium is oblong in shape and is approached from the south entrance. The parlor is on the west and separated from the auditorium by sliding doors which disappear under the floor. The choir and organ loft is directly back of the pulpit and below, in order to afford a background for the baptistery during baptismal rites, is a scene of the river Jordan. This painting is upon the trap-door covering to the baptistery, so that only when the latter is open the scene is shown.

As indicated in this *Courier Herald* quote, the illusion of marble construction was quite convincing. However, it was later reported that the exterior blocks were in fact Granitoid's Stonekote marble imitation material (*Urbana Daily Courier*, 18 September 1909, p 1). Royer's choice of exterior building material for this project clearly demonstrates his appreciation for cutting-edge technology that could provide stately looking building materials at an affordable cost for his clients.

## Home to many congregations

Over the years, Royer's church building has hosted a succession of



Urbana's wood-frame First Christian Church, replaced in 1910 by Royer's Stonekote edifice.

congregations (Olin 1981). By 1932, the Christian and Congregational denominations joined to become the First Congregational Church of Urbana. Between 1957 and 1968 the church was known as the First United Church of Christ, the result of the merger of the Congregational Christian Denomination and the Evangelical and Reformed Church. In 1968, a merger with two other churches created the Community United Church of Christ. In October 1971, the Board of Trustees of the First United Church of Christ sold the building to the Community United Church. With this sale, all records of church history were moved to a new building at 6th and Daniels Street on the University of Illinois campus. Unfortunately, archival records there only go back to the 1920s. On 11 November 1977, Canaan Baptist

Church, the current owners received the building from the Good Shepherd Apostolic House of Prayer. Canaan Baptist Church currently occupies the church building and has flourished in the community.

## Latter-day maintenance and repair

In 1966, the architectural firm Lanz & Edwards was consulted on possible expansion of the church (Olin 1981). Despite concluding that the building was structurally sound and suitable for expansion, the firm argued for construction of a new building. Fortunately, the pitch fell on deaf ears. As of the early 1980s, the church was in generally good condition, but needed some maintenance and repair. The most serious problems were spalling and cracking of the concrete blocks and the need for tuckpointing. Substitution of limestone blocks for deteriorated Stonekote blocks was suggested because the original materials were no longer available. Also, ornamental pilaster caps were crumbling (Olin 1981). Today, the church exterior remains essentially unchanged from the original, except for some original copper gutters that have been replaced with steel or aluminum, and the building has been painted beige and brown.

**Additional reference:** Olin, Ruth. 1981. *The First Christian Church Building*. Urbana, IL: Champaign County Historical Archives.

## MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

**PACA**

Box 2575, Station A Champaign, IL 61825

### MEMBERSHIP STATUS

☐ New ☐ Renewal

### MEMBERSHIP CATEGORY

☐ Adult \$15  
☐ Student \$10  
☐ Senior Citizen \$10  
☐ Family \$20  
☐ Corporate \$75

☐ I wish to include an additional contribution of \$ \_\_\_\_\_

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

E-MAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

**Note:** Please make your check payable to PACA. Your contribution is tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law.

## Exhibit D: Supplemental Illustrations

Significant Value as Part of the . . . Civic, Cultural, Economic, Educational, Ethnic, Political, or Social Heritage of the . . . community.

### Individuals Associated with Canaan Baptist Church



Fig. 37. Pastor Reverend B. J. Tatum



Fig. 38. Barbara Tatum



*Deacon Willie Summerville  
Director of Music  
Dr. Ollie Watts Davis  
Assistant Director of Music*

Fig. 39. Willie Summerville and  
Dr. Ollie Watts Davis



Fig. 40. Group photo of the church's Charter Members.

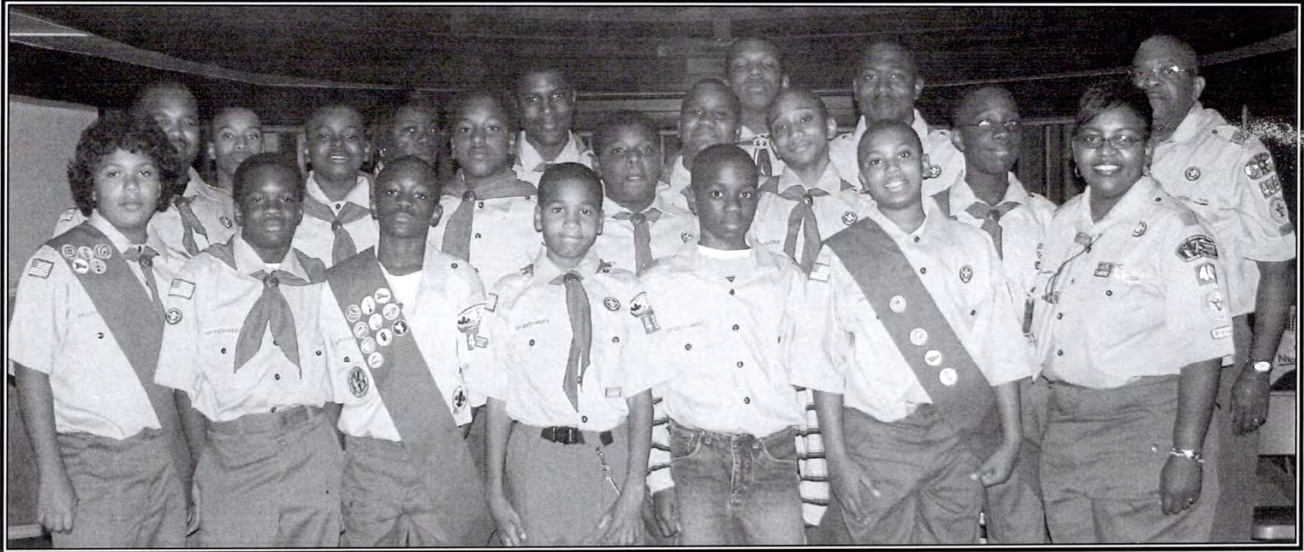


Fig. 41. The Canaan Credit Union Staff provides economic opportunity to the community.

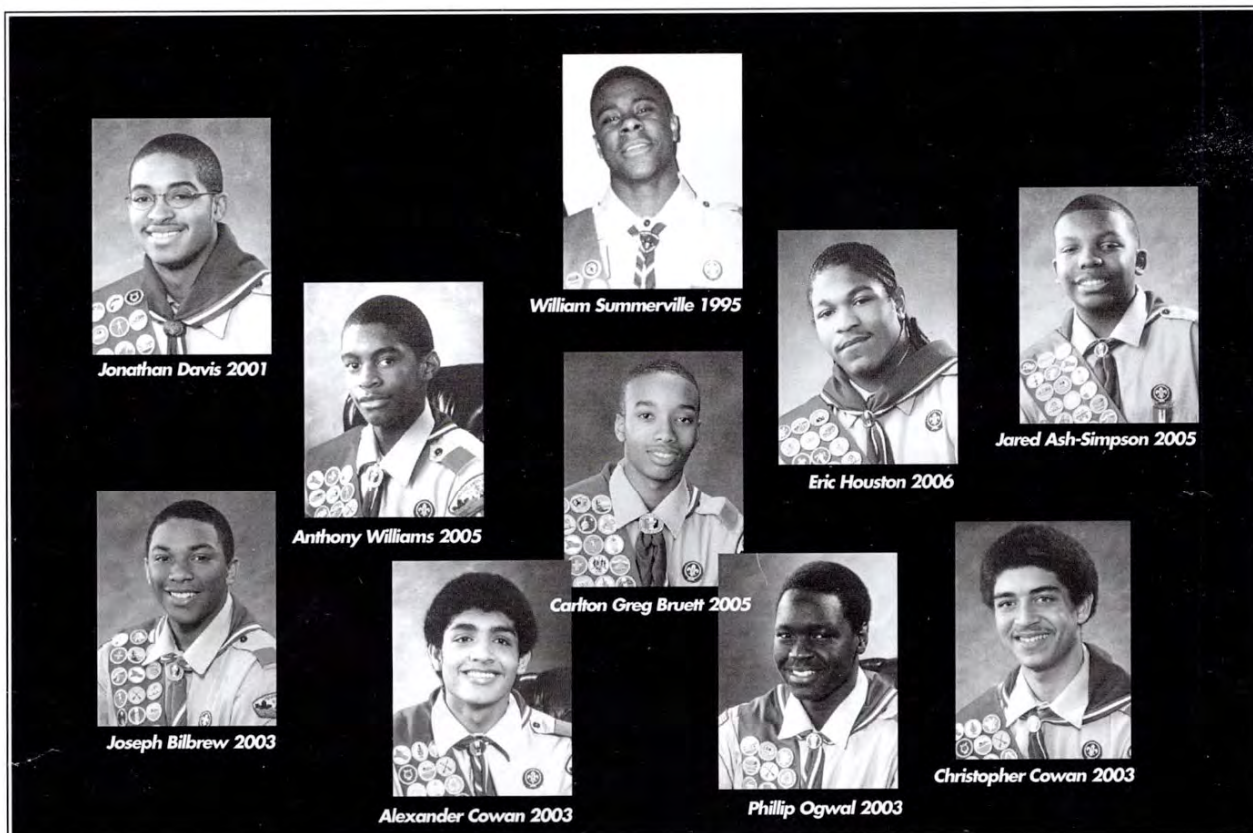


## Exhibit D: Supplemental Illustrations

Canaan Baptist Church's Outreach and Community Assistance Programs



# BOY SCOUT TROOP 402



# EAGLE SCOUTS

Figs. 42-43. Canaan Baptist Church-sponsored Cub Scouts, Boy Scouts, and Eagle Scouts of Troop 402



## Exhibit D: Supplemental Illustrations

### Contribution to the Educational and Cultural Heritage of the Black Community



Fig. 44. Canaan Academy School



Fig. 45. Canaan Safe House (Substance Abuse Free Environment) Program participants



# Exhibit D: Supplemental Illustrations

## Canaan Baptist Church—Property Location Maps

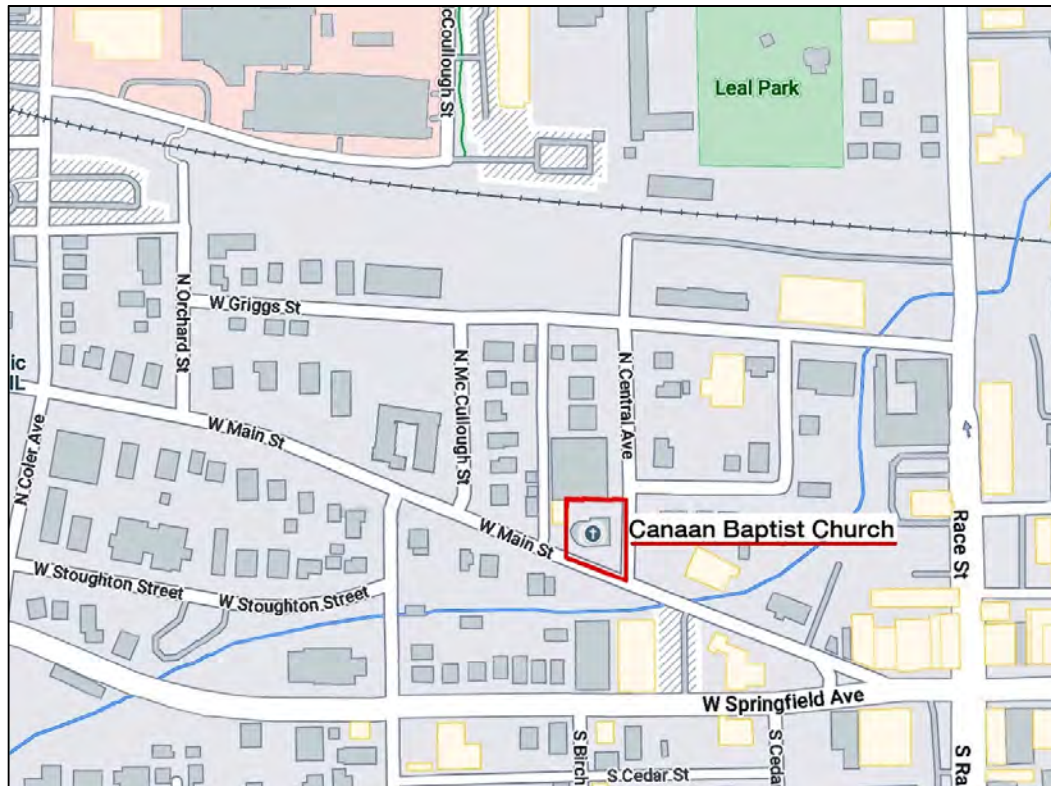


Fig. 46. Property Location

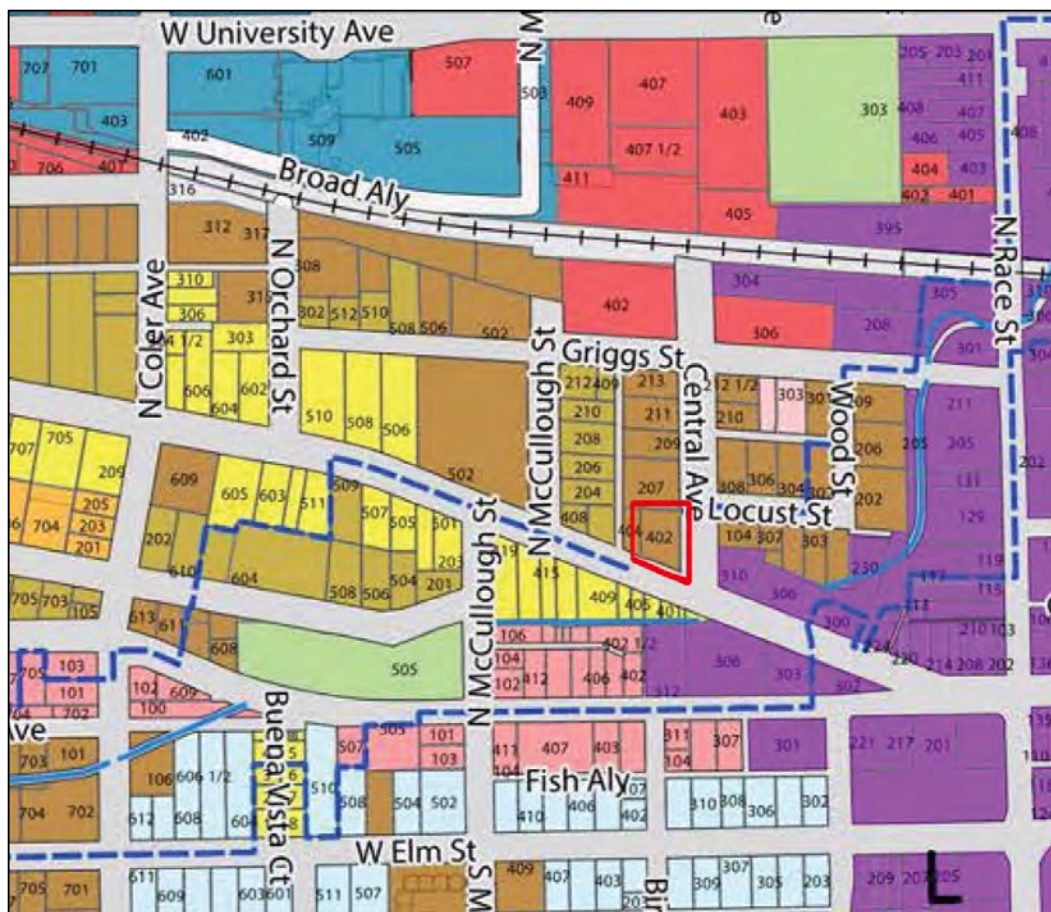


Fig. 47. City Zoning Map

<END>



## Exhibit E: Public Comments

**From:** [Darrel Foste](#)  
**To:** [Ricci, Marcus](#)  
**Subject:** Re: 402 West Main Street - Canaan Baptist Church - comments of support  
**Date:** Thursday, May 25, 2023 4:41:13 PM

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**\*\*\* Email From An External Source \*\*\***

Use caution when clicking on links or opening attachments.

Hi Marcus,

Was nice to visit with you as well.

We wanted to let you know that we are very supportive of Rev Tatum's request to make Canaan Baptist Church a Historic Landmark. That Church is a classic structure and both the exterior and the interior are magnificent. We have lived across the street from the Church for nearly 40 years and have always appreciated it.

Sincerely,

Darrel

---

Darrel Foste  
REDACTED

# Urbana Historic Preservation Commission Staff Report

June 1, 2023

Marcus Ricci, AICP, Planner II

## A. Public Input and Items of Interest:

- R-7 Adaptive Reuse Project: The former Alpha Chi Sigma Greek House, located at 606 West Ohio Street, was constructed in 1935 in the Gothic Revival architectural style. Kellner Properties used the provisions in the recent zoning text amendment to renovate the interior of the house to a multi-unity apartment building. The renovations included enclosing a porch; this was reviewed by HPC Chair Novak and Acting Zoning Administrator Ricci.

## B. Historic Property Activities:

### 1. Landmarking

- HP-2023-L-01: Historic Landmark – Canaan Missionary Baptist Church.  
402 West Main Street – Reverend B.J. Tatum on behalf of Canaan Baptist Church. Application assistances by Dennis Roberts.  
**2023-06-07 – Application to be reviewed at June HPC meeting.**

### 2. Certificates of Appropriateness In Progress or Review

- HP-2020-COA-06 – Exterior Stucco Repair. Minor Work.  
8 Buena Vista Court – Henry Strehlow → to be transferred to Javier Romo & Ruth Chavez  
**2023-05-31 – UPDATE: Must transfer COA to new owners.**
- HP-2021-COA-01: Access ramp removal, stair sidewall removal, porch repair. Minor works.  
8 Buena Vista Court – Henry Strehlow → to be transferred to Javier Romo & Ruth Chavez  
**2023-05-31 – UPDATE: Must transfer COA to new owners.**
- HP-2021-COA-02: Roof repair. Minor work.  
210 South Race Street, Hotel Royer – Icon Hospitality, LLC.  
**2022-05-31 – UPDATE: Roof work continues.**
- HP-2021-COA-03: Siding, lighting, accessory structure, wood detail. Major and Minor Works.  
210 South Race Street, Hotel Royer – Icon Hospitality, LLC.  
**2022-05-31 – UPDATE: progress continues: stucco skim-coating and painting almost completed, trim installed and painted, PTAC covers and many new windows installed, stonework and brick repair almost completed. Interior work continues to all portions of building.**

### Questions: Certificates of Appropriateness:

- Do they expire if they do not start construction within a certain time, or if they are not completed within a certain time? We would treat them like a building permit: the Certificate would expire if work is not started within one year, or if – once started – work pauses for more than six months.

- A Certificate for a specific proposed activity runs with the property, and will be automatically transferred to a subsequent owner, if they agree to complete the project as originally submitted and approved by the HPC. Abovementioned period of validity and expiration dates apply.

## 2. Certificates of Appropriateness Pending or Inquiries

- 502 and 504 West Elm Street – Sutton House and Freeman House. Owner Jonah Weisskopf installed porch railings to meet insurance requirements. On May 7, 2022, Jonah emailed stair and railing designs. Marcus spoke with Jonah in October, and will be pre-filling out the CoA applications for the porch stair railings for Jonah to complete and submit. Over the winter, Jonah will apply for the Major Work CoA for the porch railing for 502 Elm.  
**2022-11-02 – NO UPDATE: ZAD Ricci has reviewed the railing designs with Chair Novak, and re-determined the stair railing installations would be Minor Works:**
  - 504 Elm – Freeman House: In order to address safety issues new vinyl porch stair railings matching existing vinyl porch railings are recommended, and would require review and approval as a **Minor Work**. A COA will be required to be issued to meet this safety issue and will be reviewed administratively.
  - 502 Elm – Sutton House: New wood porch stair railings matching existing wood porch features are recommended, and would require review and approval as a **Minor Work**. \* A COA will be required to be issued to meet this safety issue. New wood porch railings matching existing wood porch features could be considered, and would require review and approval as a Major Work, and require a Certificate of Appropriateness.
- 508 West Elm Street – Bills House. UPDATE: The property owner decided to repair the railing, which is an Exempt activity.
- 312 West Green Street – Lindley House. Derrick Braun purchased this property and did minor painting. I contacted him recently and he said he would apply for a Minor Work CoA for any planned undertakings.