

United States Department of the Interior  
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form

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

## 1. Name

historic Social Institutions of Columbia's Black Community (Partial Inventory)

and/or common

## 2. Location

street & number \_\_\_\_\_ not for publication \_\_\_\_\_

city, town Columbia \_\_\_\_\_ vicinity of \_\_\_\_\_ congressional district #8 - Hon. Richard Ichor

state Missouri code 29 county Boone code 019

## 3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> religious
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Thematic group	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
			<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

## 4. Owner of Property

name Multiple Ownership

street & number \_\_\_\_\_

city, town \_\_\_\_\_ vicinity of \_\_\_\_\_ state \_\_\_\_\_

## 5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Recorder's Office

street & number Boone County Courthouse

city, town Columbia state Missouri 65201

## 6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Missouri State Historical Survey has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

date 1977  federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records Department of Natural Resources  
Historic Preservation Program, P.O. Box 176

city, town Jefferson City state Missouri 65102

## 7. Description

<b>Condition</b>		<b>Check one</b>	<b>Check one</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved      date _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

### Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The five buildings nominated in this thematic group are significant for the roles they have played in the social life of Columbia's black community. Each building served as a focal point for black life and culture in Columbia.

All five structures are located in what was and still is the predominately black section of town. They are unified through their historical interaction rather than their architectural styles, although some buildings do share similar features.

The two earlier church structures, the Second Baptist Church and the St. Paul's Church are similar in style and plan. They both feature a square bell tower, decorative stone and brickwork, and decorative buttresses.

The "Blind" Boone Home has been renovated to such an extent that it is difficult to make any statement concerning its original appearance.

The two later brick buildings, the Douglass School and the Second Christian Church are, like the two previously mentioned churches, examples of well constructed brick masonry structures, although of a simpler style. The Second Christian Church does, however, feature decorative brickwork.

St. Paul's Church (1891): 501 Park Street. Part of Quinn's subdivision. Corner of Park and 5th. South Part of Lot 1 except for southern 5 ft. (easement).

The church is a modest, brick masonry structure. It rests on a rock-faced ashlar foundation and is covered by a gabled asphalt shingle roof. It is basically rectangular with a short transept. It is highlighted by both Romanesque and Gothic features including a square bell tower, bluntly pointed arched windows, elliptical-arched louvers, decorative brick and stone work, and decorative buttresses.

Second Baptist Church (1894): 407 E. Broadway. Northeast corner of 4th Street and Broadway, Lot 205.

Like St. Paul's Church, the Second Baptist Church is a modest but solidly built brick masonry structure. Its foundation is rock-faced stone masonry and the roof is gabled with asphalt shingles. It is basically cross-shaped, although the choir is very short a bell tower is located at the southwest corner of the facade. This church, also features both Romanesque and Gothic highlights such as elliptical-arched doors and windows, sharply pointed decorative arches over the two main doors, decorative brick and stonework, and decorative buttresses. The bell tower originally was one section taller and capped by a pyramidal roof.

"Blind" Boone Home (1890's): 4th Street between E. Broadway and Walnut. West and South part of Lot 245 and south half of Lot 246.

The building is two-storied and basically rectangular with slightly recessed and protruding bays. The foundation is rock-faced ashlar and the hipped roof is asphalt shingles. All windows and doors are rectangular. The original appearance is obscured by aluminum clapboard siding. Other alterations include a rear one-story addition and metal awnings over some windows. It presently serves as a funeral home.

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Fred Douglass School (1917): 310 N. Providence Road. Part of E.C. Clinkscales addition. Lots 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28 and north half of Lot 29 plus Lots 30, 31, 32, 33 and 34.

The original central block of this building rests on a rock-faced stone foundation and is covered by a hipped roof that is hidden by the front facade rising above the cornice line. The windows and central entrance are rectangular. It is basically devoid of ornamentation except for the raised brick quoins. Flanking two-story wings have been added.

Second Christian Church (1927): 401 N. 5th. Part of Cook's Addition. 62 ft. by 110 ft. of the east part of Lot 1 and 50 ft. of the northwest part of Lot 1.

The church is a rectangular, two-story, flat-roofed, brick masonry structure. The rectangular windows are recessed and accented by decorative brickwork. The facade is unimposing with two simple entrances at each end of the facade.

## 8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> social/ humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

Specific dates

Builder/Architect

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

St. Paul's Church, the Second Baptist Church, the Second Christian Church, Douglass School and "Blind" Boone Home are significant both as shapers and as marks of achievement of Columbia's black community. Each as an individual entity has had a large influence upon the social and religious life of black Columbians. Combined through mutual aid and support, moreover, they have exerted tremendous influence over the entire black community.

The three churches were early focal points not only of religious activity, but also of the social life for the black community. Through each congregation members were drawn together to form cohesive groups working for the betterment not only of each congregation, but for the black community as a whole. Community dances, picnics, and other social events were generally sponsored by the churches. These gatherings not only brought people together for social interaction, but financially benefited the churches, securing their role as anchor institutions around which to structure black community life.

Once the churches were well established, they in turn contributed to developing black education in Columbia. With their support and guidance two private schools were opened, one of which became the Douglass School, the officially recognized black public school.

The educational and religious institutions all benefited from the generosity of John William "Blind" Boone. He frequently loaned money to churches and gave benefit concerts to aid humanitarian projects.

As suggested from this brief introduction the five buildings nominated are both closely linked and are important centers of Columbia's black community. Through the following brief history of these five institutions these two themes will be more fully developed.

After the Civil War, black congregations in Missouri grew rapidly.<sup>1</sup> At first many blacks in Columbia attended white churches, but they became dissatisfied with being forced to sit in specified areas of the church (usually the back or the gallery) and other forms of discrimination.<sup>2</sup> So blacks began to form their own congregations and build their own churches. It generally took a few years for a poor black congregation to be able to finance a proper church so they met in homes or other non-religious buildings.

The first black Baptist church in Columbia was organized by Rev. William F. Brooks in 1856. The congregation met in the home of John Lang, Sr. a well-off black butcher. They soon moved to the Cummings Academy (a black school) where they worshipped until 1873 when their church building was completed.<sup>3</sup> This structure was located

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on the corner of Fifth and Cherry. Within twenty years they had outgrown the church so in 1894 the congregation moved into the larger present church at Fourth and Broadway.<sup>4</sup>

Columbia's blacks who had belonged to the Methodist Episcopal Church, North, established their own church in 1880. It was named St. Paul's Church and their present church was dedicated on April 17, 1892; the building had cost \$10,000.<sup>5</sup>

Both of these early black churches were built through the determination of the black community. Festivals and dinners were held open to the entire community for raising funds. In 1882 a picnic was held for the entire black community and the proceeds were divided between the two churches.<sup>6</sup> Through such projects the churches unified not only their own congregations, but all Columbia blacks. In this way they were leaders in the social as well as the religious lives of the blacks.

The Second Christian Church was formed in 1872 by Rev. Burrell Basket. Although the congregation was smaller than the other two churches, it too played a part in the social and religious life of many Columbia blacks. The present church was built much later than the previous two in 1927.<sup>7</sup>

The Frederick Douglass School can be traced back to 1868. The Cummings Academy opened in that year due to a large extent to the financial support of the black community. The organization of that support was greatly aided and guided by the black churches. In 1872 the school received official recognition as the Columbia black public school. In 1885 a new school was built and the name was changed to the Excelsior School. Upon petition in 1898 from the black community, the Columbia Board of Education officially changed the name to the Frederick Douglass School.<sup>8</sup> The present building was finished in 1917 and served as the Columbia black high school until 1954 when Columbia public schools were integrated.<sup>9</sup> As is to be expected, the Douglass school played a central role in the educational and social life of many Columbia blacks not only for those enrolled in the school, but, through sports and social events, for the entire community. At the present time, the Douglass School houses the Special Education Administrative Service and certain special education programs and services for the Columbia School District.

John William "Blind" Boone was a nationally and internationally reknown concert pianist and composer during 1890's and early 20th century. His programs consisted of everything from Classical selections to humorous camp songs and featured his own ragtime and popular compositions. His diversity brought him wide acclaim and a popularity that crossed class structure. Such recognition was gained through hard work and through people who believed in him and his talent. Overcoming two handicaps, his blindness and color, Blind Boone became famous and wealthy. He lived in Columbia during most of his professional career and was regarded as one of Columbia's most generous and public-minded citizens.<sup>10</sup> His generosity benefited many of the black churches, organizations, and schools for which he gave numerous benefit concerts. In 1894 he loaned the Second Baptist Church \$3,000 to finish their new building. Although he was one of Columbia's largest black property owners at one time, he died in 1927 leaving only \$132.65 for his widow. He had been generous to the point of extravagance and had squandered much of his money. He had also lost his

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close friend and manager, John Lang, Jr., in 1916 and bookings became scarce. At least part of his wealth was put to good use and benefited the black community of Columbia.

As can be seen, the five buildings in this nomination have played important roles in the growth and enrichment of the Columbia black community. Partially through the help of "Blind" Boone the churches were able to grow and they in turn fostered black education which was also a beneficiary of Boone's generosity. Through the interaction and support of these groups the black community was nourished and strengthened religiously, educationally and socially. The black church, represented by the three here, has been a source of great strength for the black community; education as represented by Douglass School, has always been the hope of the black community; and Blind Boone lives on as an example of a dream of fulfillment that can come true for the black community.

FOOTNOTES

1. Gaston H. Wamble, "Negroes and Missouri Protestant Churches Before and After the Civil War" Missouri Historical Review LXI (April 1976), pp. 326-327.
2. Ibid., p. 78-79.
3. Suzanne Grenz, "The Black Community in Boone County, Missouri", p. 80.
4. Ibid., p. 86.
5. Ibid., p. 85.
6. Ibid., pp. 9-12.
7. Ibid., p. 82.
8. Suzanne Grenz. The Negro in Boone County, Mo. 1850-1900, p. 144.
9. Roger A. Gafke. A History of Public School Education in Columbia (Columbia, Mo. 1978), p. 11.
10. John C. Crighton. "Blind" Boone: Early Link to Ragtime" History of Columbia and Boone County #109, p. 3.

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

1. Bellamy, Donnie D. "The Education of Blacks in Missouri Prior to 1861" Journal of Negro History LIX (April, 1947).
2. . "Free Blacks in Antebellum Missouri 1820-1860" Missouri Historical Review LXVII (January 1973)

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreege of nominated property Each is less than one acre

Quadrangle name "Columbia, Mo." (1967) photo revised 1974

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UMT References

A 

115	5517	71315	413	111	81710
Zone	Easting		Northing		

B 

115	5517	91715	413	111	81710
Zone	Easting		Northing		

C 

115	5517	91710	413	111	41210
1	115	5517	71810	413	111
2	115	5517	91215	413	111
3	115	5517	81510	413	111

D 

115	5517	71315	413	111	41310
2	115	5517	91215	413	111
4	115	5517	81510	413	111

Verbal boundary description and justification

5 1 5    5 5 7 8 5 0    4 3 1 1 4 4 0

The thematic group is bounded by an area contained within a rectangle formed by the above referenced UTM coordinates. Consult Item 7 and enclosed Historic Inventory Data Sheets for boundaries of each individual property being nominated.

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

state	code	county	code
state	code	county	code

state	code	county	code
state	code	county	code

## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title 1. Antonio Holland, Project Director

organization Lincoln University

date April 4, 1980

street & number 820 Chestnut Street

telephone 314/751-2325

city or town Jefferson City

state Missouri 65101

## 12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national     state     local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

Director, Department of Natural Resources and  
title State Historic Preservation Officer

date

For HCERS use only

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

date

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

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3. Crighton, John C. "Blind" Boone: Early Link to Ragtime." History of Columbia and Boone County #109, p. 1-3.
4. Dareh, Robert R. "Blind" Boone: A Sensational Missouri Forgotten" Missouri Historical Society Bulletin, XVII (April, 1961) pp. 245-50.
5. East, Wilburo, "Negro Churches in Columbia"
6. Frazier, E. Franklin. The Negro Church in America (New York, 1974).
7. Gafke, Roger A. A History of Public School Education in Columbia (Columbia, Mo. 1978).
8. Grenz, Suzanna. "The Black Community in Boone County, Mo."
9. \_\_\_\_\_ . The Negro in Boone County, Mo. 1850-1900.
10. Parrish, William E. "Blind" Boone: Forgotten Virtuoso" Missouri Life.
11. Switzler, William. Boone County History.
12. Wamble. "Negro and Churches".
13. Woodson, Carter G. The History of the Negro Church 2nd ed. (Washington, D.C., The Associated Publishers, 1921).

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2. Barbara Carr, Research Assistant  
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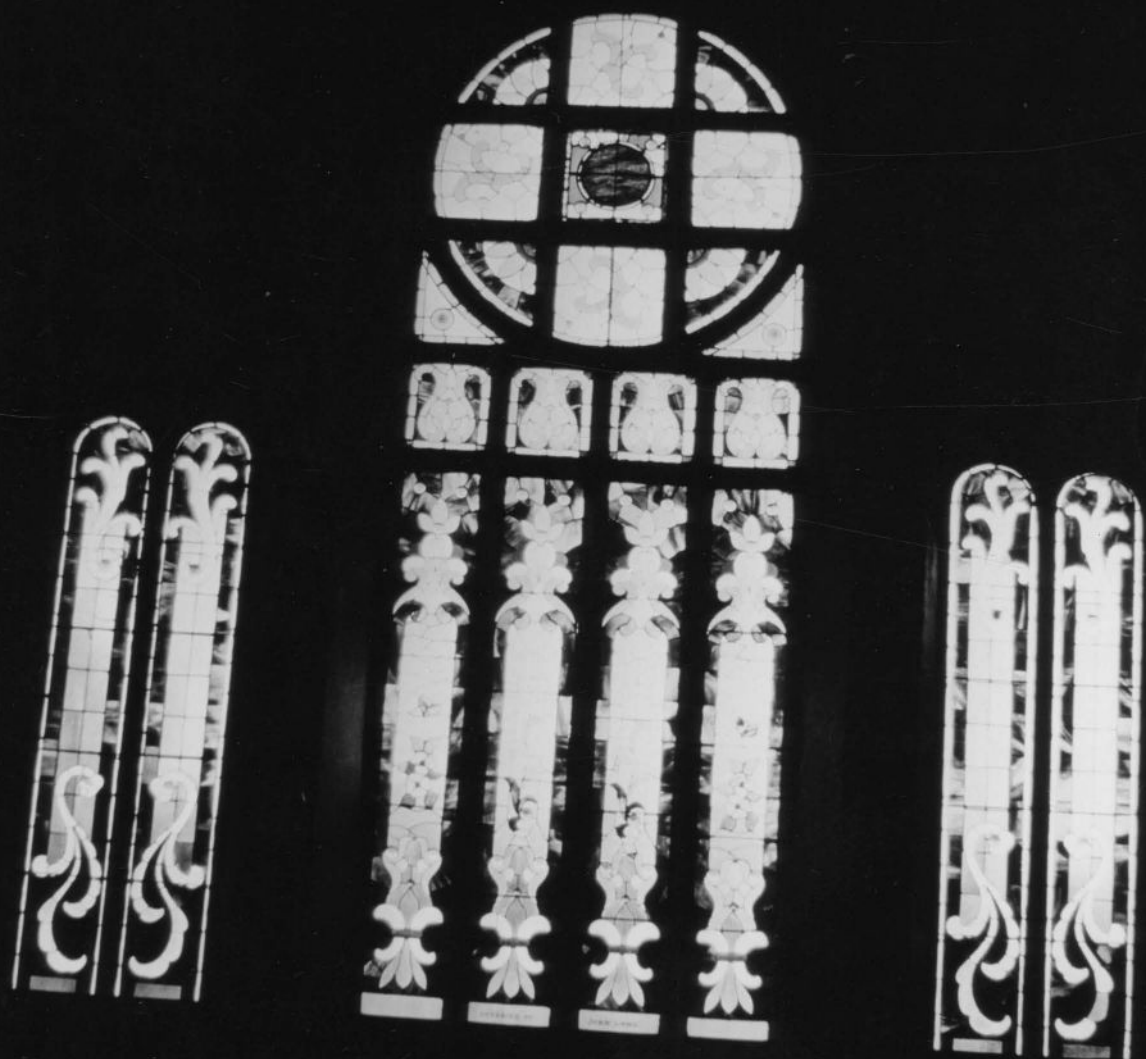


ST. PAUL  
A.M.E. CHURCH  
1912











**STUART P. PARKER  
FUNERAL HOME**









CHRISTIAN CHURCH

CHRISTIAN CHURCH