

Appendix

Glenmont Sector Plan

December 2013

Appendix I: Historic Preservation

For more information, call the Historic Preservation Division at (301)
563-3400



Montgomery County Planning Department

M-NCPPC

MontgomeryPlanning.org

Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. 31-46

1. Name of Property (indicate preferred name)

historic Georgia Avenue Baptist Church

other

2. Location

street and number 12525 Georgia Avenue __ not for publication

city, town Silver Spring __ vicinity

county Montgomery

3. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Georgia Avenue Baptist Church

street and number 12525 Georgia Avenue telephone

city, town Silver Spring state MD zip code 20906

4. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Montgomery County Courthouse liber 1854 folio 117

city, town Rockville tax map HQ63 tax parcel P195 tax ID number 13-00961350

5. Primary Location of Additional Data

- Contributing Resource in National Register District
- Contributing Resource in Local Historic District
- Determined Eligible for the National Register/Maryland Register
- Determined Ineligible for the National Register/Maryland Register
- Recorded by HABS/HAER
- Historic Structure Report or Research Report at MHT
- Other: _____

6. Classification

Category	Ownership	Current Function		Resource Count	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape	Contributing	Noncontributing
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce/trade	<input type="checkbox"/> recreation/culture	<u>2</u>	<input type="checkbox"/> buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> defense	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> religion	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> sites
<input type="checkbox"/> site		<input type="checkbox"/> domestic	<input type="checkbox"/> social	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> structures
<input type="checkbox"/> object		<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> objects
		<input type="checkbox"/> funerary	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<u>2</u>	<input type="checkbox"/> Total
		<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> unknown		
		<input type="checkbox"/> health care	<input type="checkbox"/> vacant/not in use		
		<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> other:		
				Number of Contributing Resources previously listed in the Inventory	

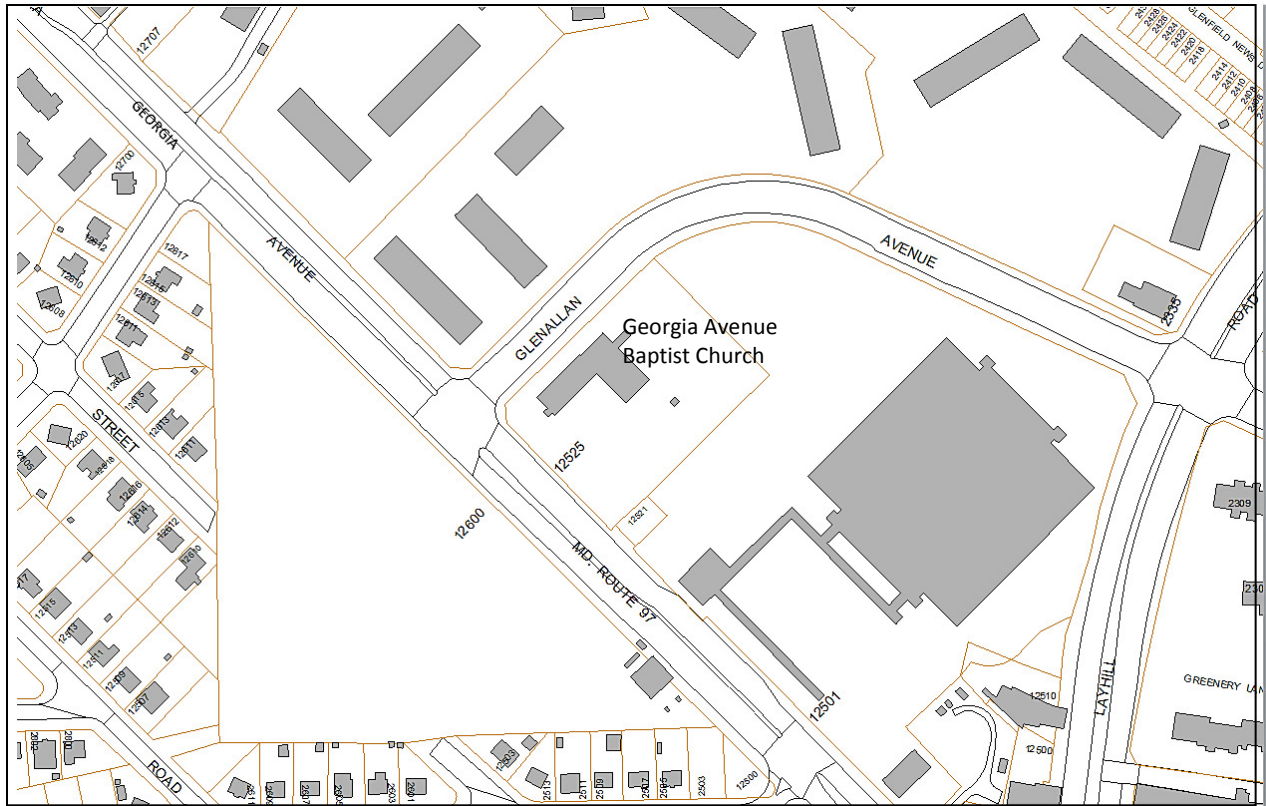


FIGURE 1 - Vicinity Map, Georgia Avenue Baptist Church, 12525 Georgia Avenue, Silver Spring

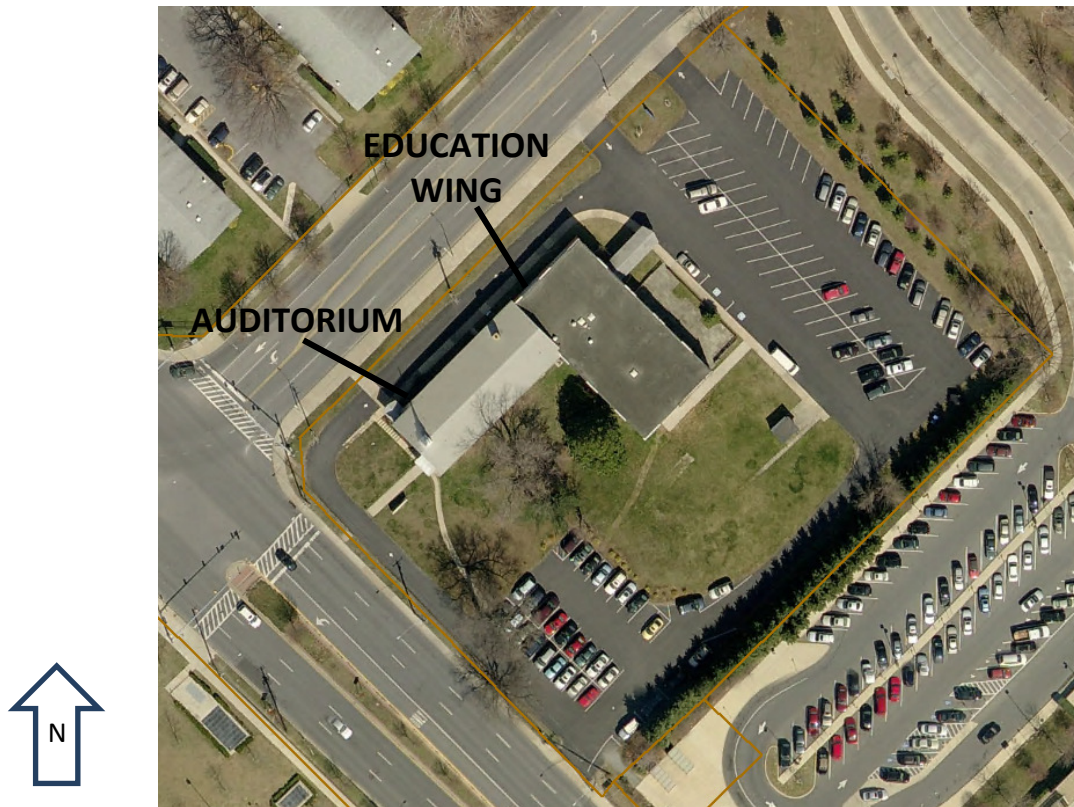


FIGURE 2 - Aerial View, M-NCPPC GIS, 10-2012



FIGURE 3 - Auditorium and Education Wing, View North from Georgia Avenue, Clare Lise Kelly, November 8, 2011



FIGURE 4 - View East from Georgia Avenue at Glenallen Avenue, Clare Lise Kelly, November 8, 2011



FIGURE 5 - Auditorium (1956), Front (SW) Façade, Clare Lise Kelly, September 12, 2012



FIGURE 6 - Cornerstone bearing date of 1956, West corner of Auditorium, Clare Lise Kelly, September 12, 2012



FIGURE 7 - West corner of building. Northwest side (left) faces Glenallen Avenue. Clare Lise Kelly, September 12, 2012



FIGURE 8 - Northwest façade: Auditorium block extension (center) and education wing. Clare Lise Kelly, September 12, 2012



FIGURE 9 - Northwest façade, view south, with education wing in foreground. Note cornerstone, with 1962 date, at lower left. Clare Lise Kelly, September 12, 2012



FIGURE 10- Rear (northeast) façade of Education Wing (1962), Clare Lise Kelly, September 12, 2012



FIGURE 11 - East corner of education wing. The fence, with steel frame and diagonal wood slats, is original, though the wood has been replaced. Clare Lise Kelly, September 12, 2012



FIGURE 12 - Southeast elevation, L to R: Auditorium, 1962 Auditorium extension, education wing. Clare Lise Kelly, September 12, 2012



FIGURE 13 - Detail, Brick wall on 1962 Auditorium extension with protruding headers on alternating courses



FIGURE 14 - Detail, TECFAB panel, Education wing



FIGURE 15 - Auditorium, view toward vestibule entrance. Clare Lise Kelly, September 12, 2012.



FIGURE 16 - Auditorium, view toward pulpit. Clare Lise Kelly, September 12, 2012.



FIGURE 17 - Glass walls at the south corner light the vestibule entrance on Georgia Avenue. Clare Lise Kelly, September 12, 2012.



FIGURE 18 - Geometric color-blocked glass wall divides and also joins vestibule and auditorium. View SE into vestibule from side stairway. Clare Lise Kelly, September 12, 2012



FIGURE 19 - The pulpit, choir loft, baptistry and brick gable wall date from 1962 when the auditorium was expanded. Clare Lise Kelly, September 12, 2012.



FIGURE 20 - Church members crafted church furnishings, including the communion table. Clare Lise Kelly, September 12, 2012.



FIGURE 21 - The front vestibule was originally lit by this opaque glass—later replaced by clear glass. A sample of the original textured glass has been preserved in a window on the lower level, southeast facade. Clare Lise Kelly, October 10, 2012



FIGURE 22 - The storage building, located southeast of the education wing, is a non- contributing building. Clare Lise Kelly, September 12, 2012.

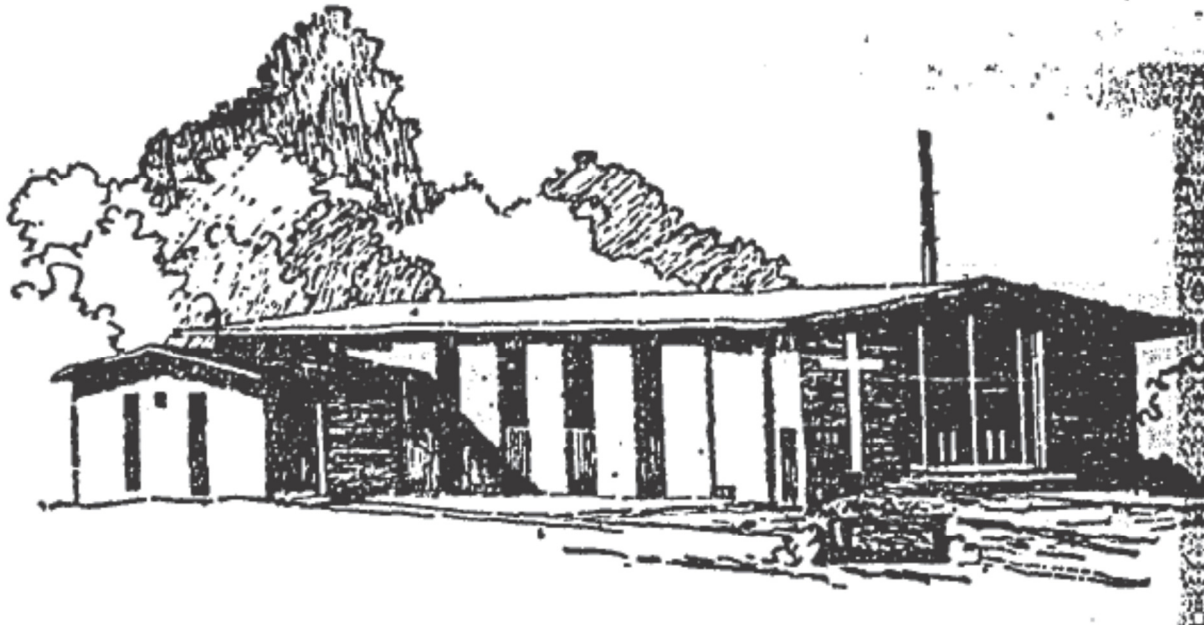


FIGURE 23 - Theodore Bennett designed the original section of Viers Mill Baptist Church, a sister church to Georgia Avenue Baptist Church which he also would design. Washington Post, September 18, 1954.



FIGURE 24 - Natural materials, exposed trusses and woodwork were hallmarks of church architect Pietro Belluschi, whose work was well publicized in the 1950s. Zion Lutheran Church (1950), Pietro Belluschi, architect. Source: Meredith Clausen, *Pietro Belluschi: Modern American Architect*, p240.

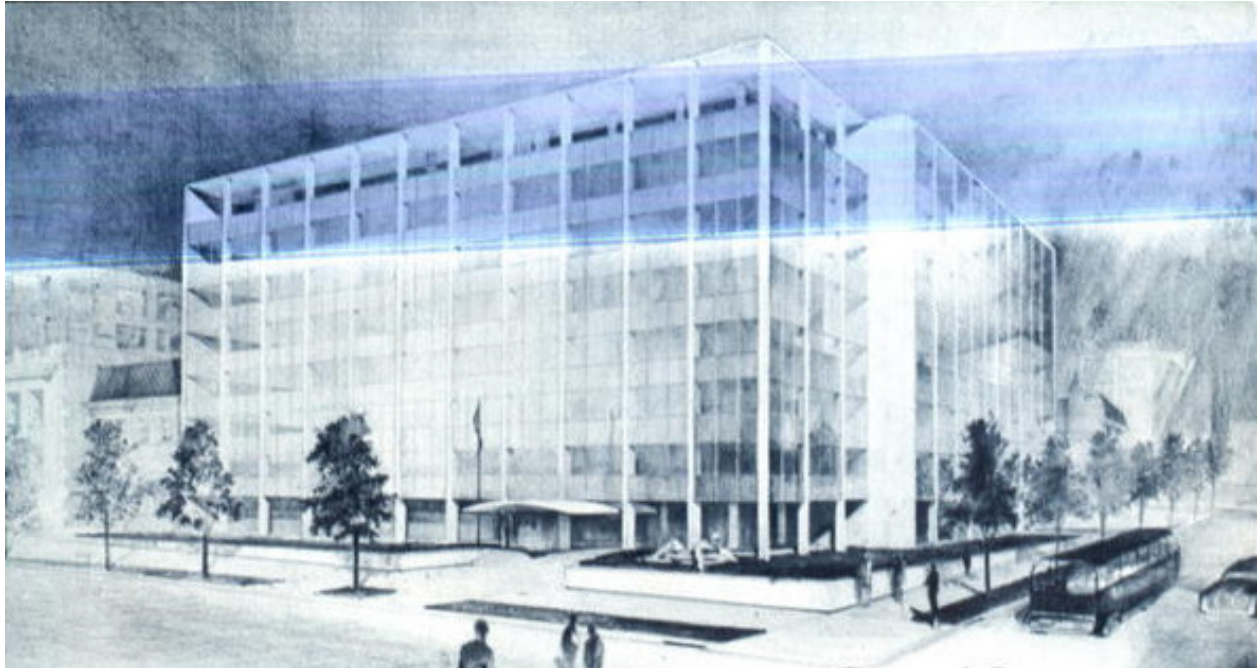


FIGURE 25 - National Education Association headquarters building, Washington DC, Vosbeck-Ward & Associates (1957). Source: cardcow.com



FIGURE 26 - Charles Goodman featured TECFAB panels in his award-winning design of the TECFAB plant in Beltsville. The structure has since been demolished. (Source: The Architecture of Charles Goodman Associates, company brochure)

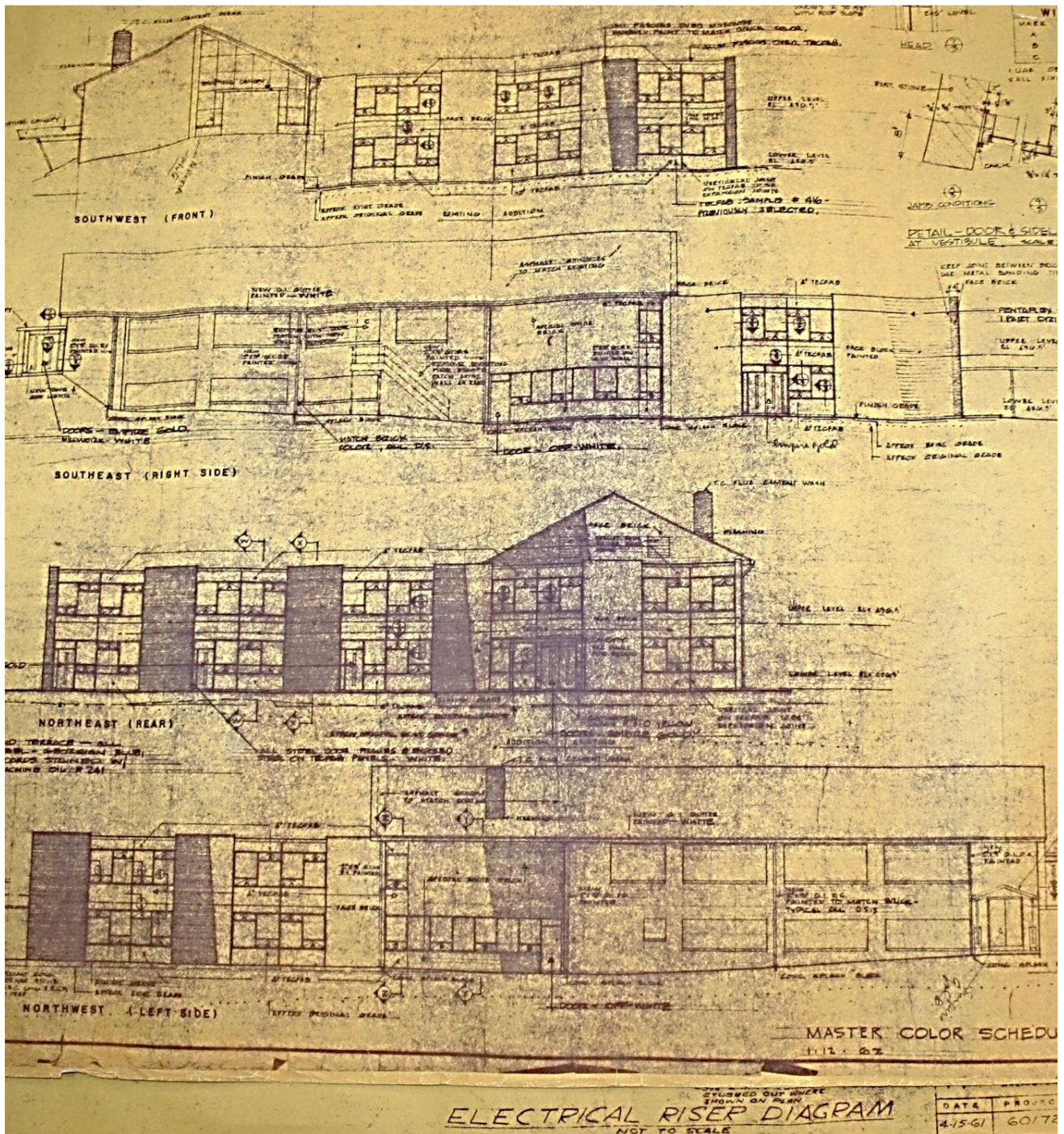


FIGURE 27 - Education wing elevation, Georgia Avenue Baptist Church, Vosbeck-Ward & Associates, architects, 1961 plan

7. Description

Inventory No. 31-46

Condition

excellent deteriorated
 good ruins
 fair altered

Prepare both a one paragraph summary and a comprehensive description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

SUMMARY

Georgia Avenue Baptist Church is a mid-century modernist church. The property, located in the suburban community of Glenmont, is bounded on the southwest by Georgia Avenue, northwest by Glenallen Avenue, the northeast by an access road that leads to the Glenmont Metro parking lot and garage, to the southeast. The property comprises approximately 2.37 acres. The ell-shaped, two-story church complex is comprised of a gable-front auditorium section (1956) and a flat-roofed education wing (1962). The auditorium is banked into the land, which slopes down from the front of the property along Georgia Avenue back to the northeast.

DESCRIPTION

Located at the intersection of Georgia and Glenallen Avenues, the Georgia Avenue Baptist Church property, at 12525 Georgia Avenue, is 2.6 acres. (Figure 1) The parcel contains the church with education wing, a storage building, two parking lots, and mature trees. (Figure 2) The church complex was built in two phases. In 1956, the auditorium was completed, and, in 1962, the rear education building was built. At the same time, the auditorium block was extended to meet the education building. The steeple was constructed in 1977. The main (southwest) Georgia Avenue entrance to the upper level auditorium is on the ground floor on the uphill side, while the lower levels are accessed on ground floors on the remaining three elevations on the downhill sides. Canopies at the front elevation and NW side entrances are original to the 1956 structure. (Figure 3)

The auditorium block has a moderately pitched roof. A traditional two-part steeple is located on the ridgeline near the gable front. Brick is laid in common bond with sixth course headers. The auditorium block has light red brick walls with banks of metal sash windows. The auditorium extension has brick-faced walls with whitewashed and protruding bricks. The education building has red brick walls, concrete aggregate panels, and metal sash windows with fixed and hopper units. (Figure 4)

The main (southwest) gablefront façade of the auditorium is one story. (Figure 5) The southern (right) half is lightened by a wall of glass extending from ground to eave and wrapping around the south corner to the southeast façade. The northern (left) portion of the main façade has brick siding with the lettering "Georgia Avenue Baptist Church". An applied wooden cross was crafted by a congregant. Extending from ground to gable peak is a deep limestone pier that bisects the façade, dividing brick from glass. A cornerstone dated 1956 is located at the west corner. (Figure 6)

Facing Glenallen Avenue is a full two-story side (northwest) elevation. An entrance in the southernmost bay leads to a stairwell accessing the upper level vestibule. The original 1956 canopy has a broad gabled roof supported by canted metal posts. Banks of steel sash windows lighting the auditorium on the upper level and classrooms on the lower level match windows on the opposite (southeast) elevation. (Figure 7)

The rear extension of the auditorium, part of the 1961 building campaign, was designed as a transition to the education wing. (Figures 8 and 9) Walls are faced with brick laid in monk bond, with two stretchers separated by a header. (Figure 13) Headers in alternating rows protrude from the wall to give it a textured appearance. Stretchers have a

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whitewashed finish. A bank of windows on the lower level matches windows in the education wing. An exterior door and fire escape stairway on the southeast elevation were removed in 1962 when the addition was constructed. (Figure 12) At that time, a window was installed in place of the doorway.

The northeast façade of the two-story education wing (Figures 10 and 11) is enlivened by an interplay of solid and void, with vertical brick slabs serving as anchors between airy banks of windows and pebble-finished, concrete TECFAB panels. The TECFAB panels have exposed aggregate of blue, tan, and light gray stone that create a mosaic effect. (Figure 14) An entrance to the lower level is in the northernmost bay, with a canopy matching the one on the northwest side. A fence surrounding the terrace to the south of the entrance has an exposed steel frame (originally painted Georgian Blue), with diagonal board infill, originally bleached redwood and since replaced with another wood. All exterior doors were originally painted Empire Gold, and millwork was white.¹

Inside the main entrance, the vestibule is made bright and open by the exterior glass wall with aluminum sash. (Figures 17 and 18) The interior vestibule wall, which forms the back wall of the auditorium, has a geometric pattern of opaque and colored glass with wood framing. Inside the auditorium, shaped steel purlins support the gabled ceiling, which is sheathed in plank boards and has exposed wood framing. (Figures 15 and 16) Flags of many nations, installed in recent years, hang along the perimeter, reflecting the diversity of the congregation.

The original pulpit area and baptistery were replaced when the auditorium was expanded in 1962. The baptistery is located against the new gable wall, which is finished in face brick and flanked by vertical wood paneling. (Figure 19) In front of the baptistery is the choir loft, with an organ and piano set to either side. The communion table and pulpit were built by congregation members. (Figure 20)

A hallway connects the auditorium entrance to the upper level of the education wing. A second perpendicular hallway extends to the end of the wing, accessing classrooms. Interior walls of the education wing were painted concrete block, the ceilings were lined with acoustical plaster, and floors covered with asphalt tile. Some classrooms, originally for junior and intermediate classes, are arranged in suites, with 3-4 small rooms opening to one common room. On the lower level, a fellowship hall is located along the northeast wall, with doors opening onto the terrace. A folding screen enabled the conversion into smaller spaces as needed. Originally the kitchen was located on the northwestern portion of the hall, where a stage changing room is now located. In 1988, the kitchen was relocated to its current location to the southeast. This space was originally used for nursery classes and a kitchenette.

The steeple was built in 1977. According to a founding member, a steeple was always planned and was installed when funding became available.

A large, main auditorium had been planned as part of this multi-phase complex, but was ultimately not built. It was to be located on the southern portion of the complex, in parallel with the original auditorium so that the entire complex

¹Vosbeck and Ward plans and elevations, 1961, Georgia Avenue Baptist Church Archives.

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formed a U-shape. Before it was constructed, plans had been announced for building the Metro station facility to the south.

The original wood doors at the front and rear entrances have been replaced with glass doors. On the front façade and in the vestibule, clear glass and aluminum trim replace original opaque glass and wood trim. One original window with opaque glass is found on the lower level of the southeast façade, lighting the women's restroom. (Figure 21)

Northeast of the education wing is a non-contributing concrete block storage building with flat roof and overhead door. (Figure 22)

8. Significance

Inventory No. 31-46

Period	Areas of Significance	Check and justify below		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> health/medicine	<input type="checkbox"/> performing arts
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> invention	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-1999	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment/ recreation	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 2000-	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> ethnic heritage	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/ settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> social history
	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning		<input type="checkbox"/> maritime history	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation		<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other: _____

Specific dates 1954 auditorium design; 1961 education wing design **Architect/Builder** Theodore R. Bennett; Vosbeck-Ward Assoc.

Construction dates 1956: 1962

Evaluation for:

National Register

Maryland Register

not evaluated

Prepare a one-paragraph summary statement of significance addressing applicable criteria, followed by a narrative discussion of the history of the resource and its context. (For compliance projects, complete evaluation on a DOE Form – see manual.)

SUMMARY

The modernist Georgia Avenue Baptist Church represents a new architectural vocabulary chosen for a church established at the height of a tremendous postwar church building activity. The work of local architects, the church is composed of an auditorium block, designed in 1954 by Theodore R. Bennett, and built in 1956; and an education wing designed by Vosbeck-Ward Associates in 1961, and built 1962. With its asymmetrical glass wall design and concrete panels, the auditorium design is characteristic of mid-century modernist design and material. Modern features include the way the building is worked into the hillside, the glass walls that wrap from the front to side, and the banks of windows that light the auditorium above and classrooms below. The education wing features locally manufactured, prefabricated TECFAB panels that represent local innovation and technology.

Church Founding and Land Acquisition

A guiding force behind the founding of the Georgia Avenue Baptist Church was Rev. J. C. Ledbetter, pastor of the Viers Mill Baptist Church. The Glenmont area grew rapidly in the postwar era and there was no venue for Baptist worship. With the aid of the Kensington Baptist Church, Ledbetter organized an initial gathering of interested residents, alerted by the circulation of flyers in the neighborhoods. In 1951, a group of 13 Glenmont residents gathered in the residence of Everett Hannis, and formed a congregation which they called the Glenmont Baptist Chapel. With a mortgage that the congregants obtained from the Baptist Association, a two-story frame house was purchased at 2601 Randolph Road for church services. Rev. Ledbetter alternated preaching between Glenmont Baptist Church and Viers Mill Baptist Church.²

Starting in 1949, the Glenmont area grew with Glenmont Hills and Glenmont Forest subdivisions. A church founder, Mildred Hollingsworth, recalls that she and her husband, Oscar, a war veteran, qualified for a GI loan which enabled them to acquire a house with no downpayment. The couple moved into their Glenmont Hills house in November 1950.

The church held an annual weeklong revival each spring. In 1953, the chapel was consecrated as a church, receiving a permanent minister with the appointment of Rev. Thomas F. Shreeve, graduate of Johns Hopkins University and the

²Mildred Hollingsworth interview by Clare Lise Kelly, October 10, 2012. Washington Post, July 18, 1953. December 12, 1953.

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Southern Baptists Seminary. The same year, the congregation acquired land for construction of a new church. (Figures 1 and 2) The 2.49-acre parcel, which had been the property of Eugene and Devina Merlone, contained a main house, caretaker's house, and large barn. Interior walls were removed from the main house and it was used for services. The other two buildings were used for Sunday school classes.³

Auditorium (Theodore R. Bennett, 1954 design, 1956 construction)

The Georgia Avenue Baptist Church congregation selected Theodore R. Bennett to design their church. Bennett had already designed a modernist church building for Viers Mill Baptist Church, 12221 Viers Mill Road, the sister church for the Glenmont church. (Figure 23) Being a democratic congregation, members of Georgia Avenue Baptist Church were very involved with the design and, as one member recalled, worked closely on the design with the architect. The congregation had a concept in mind to construct a three-part, U-shaped facility of which the auditorium was the first part. This scheme was completed by the Viers Mill church, however, as will be seen, circumstances prevented the Georgia Avenue church to build its last phase.⁴

In 1954, the congregation held a groundbreaking ceremony that was attended by regional and state Baptist leaders. The project, to be built in phases and estimated to cost \$400,000, was hailed for its "new contemporary-design." The first phase, costing \$45,000, featured an auditorium seating 250, with stage, on the top floor, and a nursery and glassed-in room on the ground floor.⁵ (Figures 3-5) By this time, the congregation had a membership of 130, with 318 students enrolled in Sunday school. The auditorium was completed in 1956, the year which appears on a cornerstone at the east corner of the front façade. (Figure 6) According to tradition, the cornerstone contains the architect's plans for the structure.⁶

When the auditorium was first built, the area was quite rural. A fence line divided the northwestern border from a neighboring farm with cows and pear trees. Glenallen Avenue was not yet built. A grove of mature trees stood between the building and the southern lot line.⁷

Education Wing and Auditorium Expansion (Vosbeck-Ward Associates, 1961 design, 1962 construction)

The second phase of the building campaign was an extension of the auditorium building and addition of modernist education wing, designed by Vosbeck-Ward & Associates in 1961. (Figures 7-11) The architects used TECFAB, a newly developed type of concrete panel, to sheath the education wing, which gave it a modern look which was yet affordable.

³Church holding a revival meeting announced March 28, 1953, Washington Post. In July 1953, the chapel became a church with appointment of a permanent minister. Deed dated September 11, 1953; Liber 1854: folio 117.

⁴Washington Post, September 18, 1954. Hollingsworth interview.

⁵Washington Post, June 12, 1954.

⁶Hollingsworth interview.

⁷Aerial photographs, M-NCPPC GIS, 1951 and 1970.

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TECFAB panels were a prefabricated building unit developed locally by architect Charles Goodman (see following section). The auditorium extension serves as a transition between the brick auditorium and the TECFAB paneled wing. Above a bank of windows on the lower level is a textured brick wall with varied pallor. (Figures 8, 12 and 13)

The total cost for the second phase construction was \$170,000. Engineering firm for the project was Kendrick & Redinger of Arlington, who later formed a partnership with William F. Vosbeck, Jr. The cornerstone, dated 1962, is located at the northernmost corner. (Figure 9)

Before the education wing was built, education programs including Sunday school classes and vacation Bible school had been held in a variety of spaces in the neighborhood, including classrooms in remodeled houses, and Aspen Knolls Baptist Church. In this era, the minister was Rev. Lefon Campbell, a Southern Baptist minister.⁸ Members of the congregation contributed to furnishing and outfitting the church. William Melton designed and built the cross and pulpit. Fred Hartman built the communion table. (Figure 20)

Vosbeck-Ward & Associates, Architects

Vosbeck-Ward & Associates designed the education wing in 1961. (Figure 27) Organized in 1957, by partners William Frederick Vosbeck, Jr. and George Truman Ward, the firm operated until 1962. Both Vosbeck and Ward were elected Fellows of the American Institute of Architects, an honor bestowed upon only 4% of the AIA membership in this era. Most of the firm's projects were in Alexandria where their office was located. Both Vosbeck and Ward had both worked for Joseph H. Saunders & from 1952 to 1957 Saunders received a M. Arch from Harvard in 1939, traveled extensively in Europe as a graduate student from 1937-39, and was a draftsman for Gropius & Breuer. He established his own firm in 1942. Vosbeck and Saunders both list the headquarters building for the National Education Association in 1957 as a project. (Figure 25) Vosbeck designed a subsequent addition in 1964.⁹

William Frederick Vosbeck, Jr., a Minnesota native born 1924, was trained at University of Minnesota, University of Notre Dame and Cornell University. He was later president of the Virginia Chapter of the AIA (1971), and received a National Capital Award for Achievement in Architecture from the Washington Academy of Science. Vosbeck became a Fellow at the American Institute of Architects in 1971.

George Truman Ward was born in Washington, DC, in 1927. He received his BS and MS from Virginia Polytechnic Institute (now Virginia Tech). Both Vosbeck and Ward were accepted into membership of the American Institute of Architects in 1955, and soon after, formed their partnership. Ward became an AIA Fellow in 1993.

For the Georgia Avenue Baptist Church project, Vosbeck-Ward & Associates worked with the engineering firm Kendrick & Redinger of Arlington. Vosbeck would later form a partnership with the engineering firm.

⁸Washington Post: August 21, 1954; September 15, 1962

⁹Directory of American Architects, 1956 and 1962.

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In 1963, Vosbeck-Ward was advertising for assistance from architectural designers and draftsman. By the year's end, the firm had dissolved. The Vosbeck-Ward partnership ended amicably. Vosbeck formed a partnership, Vosbeck-Vosbeck & Associates, with his brother Robert Randall Vosbeck, who had been a principal at Vosbeck-Ward. The firm expanded in 1967 with engineering services and became Vosbeck, Vosbeck, Kendrick & Redinger of Alexandria, VA.¹⁰ In 1964, Ward formed the partnership Ward & Hall & Associates of Springfield, Virginia, with architect Charles Ellis Hall, Jr.

Other projects in Montgomery County designed by Vosbeck-Ward & Associates are:

- Montrose Baptist Church (1958), 5100 Randolph Road, Rockville
- Colesville Baptist Church (1960), 13100 Andrew Drive, Silver Spring
- Clifton Park Baptist Church Addition (1961), , 8818 Piney Branch Road, Silver Spring
- First Baptist Church of Gaithersburg auditorium and education wing (1961), 200 W. Diamond Avenue, Gaithersburg
- American Speech and Hearing (1965), Bethesda

Mid-Century Modern Churches

In the early 1950s, the nation was engaged in the greatest boom in church building in the country's history. Contributing factors were a backlog of projects caused by economic hardship of the Great Depression, followed by shortage of materials during World War II. In addition, new suburban communities arose from farmland as developers provided housing for returning veterans, made affordable with low-interest government loans. Situated outside the nation's capital, with a booming population, Montgomery County was particularly well-primed for a wave of church construction. Churches were typically the first community buildings constructed among the new subdivisions. Architects of churches in Montgomery County recall that in this era they had little family life, as they were attending a church committee meeting nearly every day of the week.¹¹

The Georgia Avenue Baptist Church auditorium reflects the influence of modernist architects popular in the mid-century. Exposed skeleton and exposed glass on the front façade, and color blocked stained glass with a white wood skeleton frame on the vestibule wall are reminiscent of Charles Goodman's esthetic. In the auditorium, oversize shaped steel purlins and exposed wood ceiling framing recall the work of landmark church design of modernist architect Pietro Belluschi, including his Zion Lutheran Church in Portland (1950). (Figure 24)

Known for church design that was simple and unmistakably modern, Belluschi was well known among architects for his regional approach to design that respected local terrain and used handcrafted or natural materials. He was the keynote speaker at the AIA's 1953 convention, and he wrote an influential article on his approach to modern architecture published in *Architectural Record*, December 1955. In this era, Belluschi, a Portland, Oregon native, was Dean of MIT's

¹⁰After 1988, Vosbeck was president of Vosbeck Associates, Inc, an architectural planning and development firm.

¹¹Interviews with architects William Vosbeck and G.T. Ward, September 2012. Discussion of mid-century church construction in Patrick Allitt, *Religion in America Since 1945* (2003), p33; and Meredith Clausen, *Pietro Belluschi: Modern American Architect* (1994), p224.

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School of Architecture and Planning, and designed projects throughout the East Coast. Belluschi was known locally for his Church of the Redeemer, Baltimore (1954) and Cedar Lane Unitarian Church, Bethesda (1955). Belluschi's local support included Washington, DC, architectural critic Frederick Gutheim who recommended Belluschi for the Baltimore commission. A signature feature of Belluschi was his woodwork—evidenced in his church interior woodwork and exposed trusses, including such projects as Zion Lutheran Church (1950) and the Church of the Redeemer (1954).¹²

TECFAB Panels

A pioneering type of prefabricated concrete panels, TECFAB was the result of collaboration between architect Charles Goodman and businessman Harry A. Berliner. TECFAB panels consist of corrugated steel core embedded in precast perlite concrete. According to contemporary accounts, Berliner conceived of the concept in 1945 and, in 1954, organized the TECFAB Company, engaging Goodman to design the product. By this time, Charles Goodman had established himself as the Washington area's preeminent modernist architect. He came to local attention for his Hollin Hills (1946), and, in Montgomery County his projects include Hammond Wood (1950) and Rock Creek Woods (1958), both listed in the National Register of Historic Places. Goodman designed a prototype school in 1956 using TECFAB panels. Before working for Berliner, Charles Goodman had made a name as a pioneer of prefabricated houses as designer for the National Homes Corporation in 1953.¹³

TECFAB concrete panels represent the innovation of concrete building materials in suburban Maryland in the early 20th century. Earlier in the century, John J. Earley had pioneered polychrome concrete panels in his Silver Spring houses, now the Polychrome Historic District (listed in the National Register of Historic Places and the Montgomery County Master Plan for Historic Preservation). In the Carderock area of Bethesda, the David Taylor Model Basin (1938), listed on the National Register of Historic Places, was an early example of cast-in-place concrete for permanent cladding.¹⁴

In 1956, Berliner opened a factory in Beltsville to manufacture TECFAB panels. Charles Goodman designed the factory building to showcase TECFAB panels. (Figure 26) Located in Beltsville, the building was featured in *Progressive Architecture* and receiving a local award, yet was later demolished.¹⁵ A major TECFAB project of this era was the Washington Hilton (1965). The Brutalist style building used 2,000 pieces of sculptured precast concrete manufactured by TECFAB.¹⁶

¹²Clausen, *Pietro Belluschi*, pp224-242.

¹³Source of information on Charles Goodman and TECFAB, Elizabeth Jo Lampl, Charles Goodman report, 2004, E-32. An article on TECFAB panels appeared in the 1956 industry publication *Rock Products*, Vol 59, p.181. In addition to designing the TECFAB panels, the factory building, Goodman designed the logo, furniture and appliances for the company, 1954-55. Goodman papers, Library of Congress.

¹⁴Sidney Freedman, "Architectural Precast Concrete," in Thomas Jester (Ed), *Twentieth-Century Building Materials*, pp108-110.

¹⁵*Progressive Architecture*, November 1957, p.38. The TECFAB factory was featured in the *AIA Guide to Architecture in Washington DC* (1965) and also the Charles M. Goodman firm's prospectus of notable projects.

¹⁶The TECFAB Company needed at least 3 acres of yard to manufacture concrete for the Washington Hilton. *Construction Methods & Equipment*, Vol 47:1-6, 1965.

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Later Years

At the same time that the auditorium was completed, in 1956, the congregation acquired a house and lot to the southeast, known as the Hill property (for the family that had owned it). The acquisition was made possible by a \$15,000 loan from Rev. Shreeve's father. The Hill House was used for Intermediate Sunday School before the education wing was constructed in 1962. This land was later acquired from the church for construction of the Metro. The congregation had originally planned to construct a larger auditorium on the southern portion of their complex. Circumstances changed when plans for the Metro unfolded.

A steeple was built in 1977, giving the auditorium structure recognition as the primary worship space. According to a founding member, a steeple had always planned for the facility.

In 1987, a kitchen renovation project was designed by Jeffermel Architects and Planners of 1521 Kalmia Road, NW DC. The project, completed in 1988, replaced the existing kitchen near the fellowship hall with a dressing room and a stage. The kitchen was created from space formerly housing nursery classrooms and a kitchenette.¹⁷ The project did not change the exterior appearance of the building.

The Georgia Avenue Baptist Church retains a high level of integrity.

Pastors at Georgia Avenue Baptist Church (Chronological order)

Rev. J. C. Ledbetter (mission pastor)
Rev. Shreeve
Rev. Levon Campbell
Rev. Michael Cox
Rev. Ellis Moore, 2003-present

¹⁷The kitchen renovation plans, in the archives of the church, are dated May 12, 1987.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Inventory No. 31-46

See continuation sheet.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of surveyed property 2.37 ac

Acreage of historical setting _____

Quadrangle name _____

Quadrangle scale: _____

Verbal boundary description and justification

11. Form Prepared by

name/title	Clare Lise Kelly		
organization	M-NCPPC, Montgomery County Planning Department	date	October 2012
street & number	8787 Georgia Avenue	telephone	301-563-3402
city or town	Silver Spring	state	MD

The Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust
Maryland Department of Planning
100 Community Place
Crownsville, MD 21032-2023
410-514-7600

Maryland Historical Trust

Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

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Name Georgia Avenue Baptist Church
Continuation Sheet

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Name Georgia Avenue Baptist Church
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