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## State Street Baptist Church - Bowling Green, Kentucky (MSS 75)

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Manuscripts & Folklife Archives  
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Western Kentucky University  
Bowling Green, KY 42101-1092

*Descriptive Inventory*

**MSS 75      STATE Street Baptist Church – Bowling Green, Kentucky**

½ box. 3 folders. 3 items. 1932-1942. Original and photocopy.

1981.70.1

**ORGANIZATIONAL HISTORY**

From 1819 to 1837 enslaved people were baptized and received as members of Bowling Green Baptist Church (now First Baptist Church), although they had no vote in business meetings, were required to sit in the gallery, and entered only through the rear door. In 1838 enslaved worshippers were given permission to organize their own church and conduct their own worship services. The First African Baptist Church, under the leadership of Rev. Nelson Loving, met the first Sunday afternoon of each month in the First Baptist auditorium. In 1844 First Baptist purchased a lot at the corner of Chestnut and Short Streets for its formerly enslaved members and a building was constructed in 1845. Following the Civil War the church experienced tremendous growth and in 1869 became one of the charter members of the General Association of Colored Baptists in Kentucky. In the 1870s the membership built a new building at the church's present location, the corner of Fourth and State Streets, and changed its name to the First Colored Baptist Church. In 1885 the name was changed to the current State Street Baptist Church. When the church building burned in 1898 a new sanctuary was constructed which was described "as a robust, turn-of-the century example of Gothic-Romanesque Revival styling." Tragically, a May 2000 fire destroyed this structure. In August 2003 a new building was dedicated on the State Street site with the participation of members of its "mother" church, First Baptist.

**COLLECTION NOTES**

This collection consists of a record book kept by the State Street Baptist Church, Bowling Green, Kentucky from 4 January 1932 to 5 May 1942. It includes financial reports and minutes of business meetings. The church's clerk was Mrs. C.D. Gillum.

### ***SHELF LIST***

<b>BOX 1</b>	<b>State Street Baptist Church</b>	<b>1932-1942</b>	<b>3 items</b>
Folder 1a	Inventory		1 item
Folder 1	Record book (Original)	Jan. 4, 1932- May 5, 1942	1 item
Folder 2	Record book (Photocopy)	Jan. 4, 1932- May 5, 1942	1 item

### ***BIBLIOGRAPHIC RECORD***

MSS 75 STATE Street Baptist Church – 1932-1942  
Bowling Green, Kentucky

Business record book of the State Street Baptist Church, Bowling Green, Kentucky, 1932-1942. Includes monthly financial reports and minutes.

Clerk: Mrs. C.D. Gillum.

½ box. 3 folders. 3 items. Original (191 p.) and photocopy (191 p.)  
1981.70.1

### ***SUBJECT ANALYTICS***

Account books, 1932-1942  
Baptists – African Americans  
Baptists – Bowling Green  
Churches – Bowling Green  
Churches – Warren County  
Minute books

Lile/Jeffrey 06/26/2008