



Preservation
North
Carolina

WARSAW FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH



AVAILABLE FOR SALE & REHAB

Built in 1888, the Historic Warsaw First Baptist Church stands as a rare and beautifully preserved example of late 19th-century ecclesiastical architecture, featuring Beadboard ceilings and stained glass windows.

**36 W. HILL STREET
WARSAW, NC 28398
DUPLIN COUNTY**

FEATURES

- 4,094 Sq.ft.
- Lot Size: 1 Acre
- Zoning: Commercial

PRICE: \$75,000

WARSAW FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

GENERAL INFORMATION



ABOUT THIS PROPERTY

Tucked in the heart of Warsaw, North Carolina, the Historic Warsaw First Baptist Church stands as a rare and beautifully preserved example of late 19th-century ecclesiastical architecture. Originally known as Bear Swamp Baptist Church, this structure—built in 1888—is not only a place of worship but also a monument to resilience, leadership, and African American heritage in the post-Civil War South.

The church's brick-veneered Gothic Revival design follows a cruciform plan, and features a square bell tower which anchors the front façade, crowned with a distinctive low pyramidal roof that adds both height and character to the structure.

Inside, the church retains a remarkable degree of historical integrity. The main sanctuary is open and symmetrical, with the sanctuary placed beneath a graceful, arched opening. The high ceilings are finished in diagonally laid beadboard, while natural light pours in through the 1947 stained glass windows. Perhaps most striking are the two balconies, accessible by discreet interior staircases, which sit above the sanctuary.

HISTORIC INFORMATION

This church's founding pastor, Rev. Thomas Parker, was born into slavery and rose to become one of North Carolina's most influential Black religious leaders, helping to establish the Kenansville Eastern Missionary Baptist Association and contributing to the founding of three African American schools. Parker also was a key figure in the early history of the General Baptist State Convention of North Carolina, founded in 1867 as the General Association of the Colored Baptists of North Carolina. Elected vice president of the convention in 1881, he also presided over its Foreign Mission Board. For his work, a highway marker dedicated to Parker's memory was placed on the grounds of The Historic First Baptist Church Warsaw in 2023.

REHABILITATION

The property will require repairs to the historic standing seam roof, and updates to electric, plumbing and HVAC, along with repair and restoration of its stained glass windows.