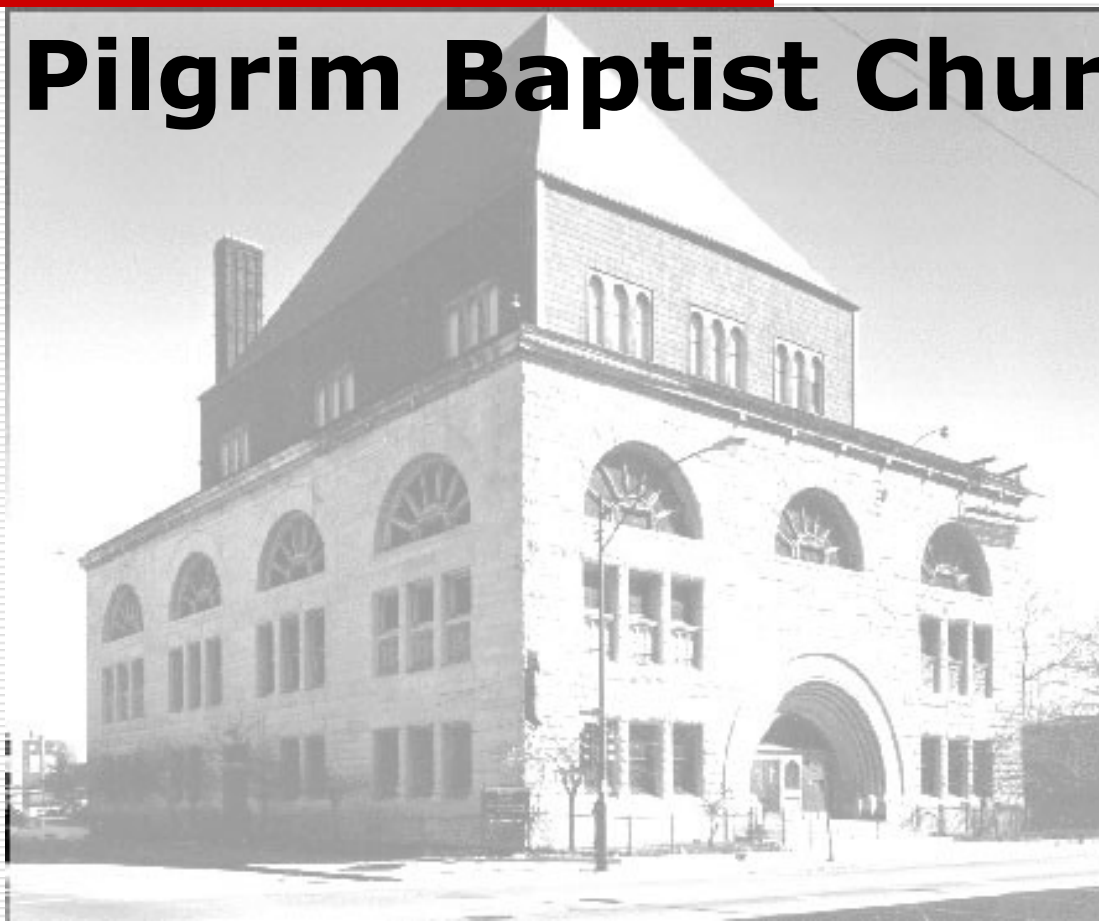


IPRO #334

Oral History of Pilgrim Baptist Church



Outline

- Purposes
- Objectives
 - Oral History
 - Bronzeville
 - Music
 - Pilgrim Baptist Church
- Future Goals
- Conclusions

Purposes

- Preserve the history of Pilgrim Baptist Church
- Enhance relationship between IIT and surrounding community

Objectives:

- ❑ Interview members of the Church
- ❑ Develop an annotated bibliography
- ❑ Develop a website
- ❑ Produce digital, video, and print versions of the interviews
- ❑ Write an article on PBC for publication

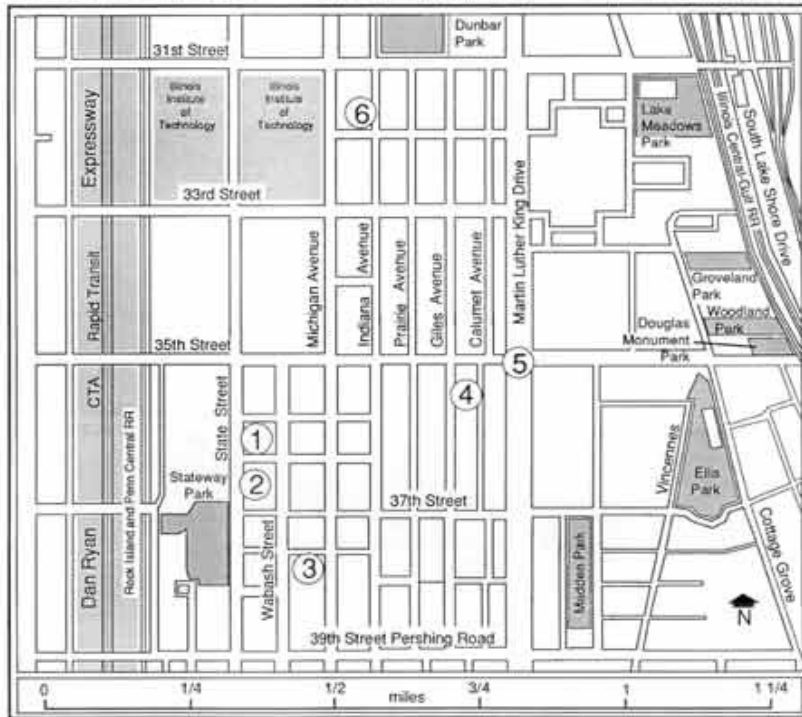
Oral History

- Definition: The spoken narrative of past events of one's own experiences

- Looked at:
 - Technique
 - Advantages
 - Disadvantages

Bronzeville

- ① Overton Hygienic Building
3619-27 S. State Street
- ② Chicago Bee Building
3647-55 S. State Street
- ③ Wabash Avenue Y. M. C. A.
3763 S. Wabash Avenue
- ④ Eighth Regiment Armory
3517-33 S. Giles Avenue
- ⑤ Victory Sculpture
35th Street at King Drive
- ⑥ Unity Hall
3140 S. Indiana Avenue



□ The neighborhood in the South Side of Chicago consisting of Douglas, Grand Boulevard, Washington Park

Bronzeville

- In order to become familiar with the history of the area:
 - We visited many museums and historical sites
 - We researched articles and books



Thomas A. Dorsey

- Considered the Father of Gospel Music



Thomas A. Dorsey

- Performed in vaudeville, blues, and jazz as “Georgia Tom”



Thomas A. Dorsey

- Became music director at Pilgrim Baptist Church in 1932



Thomas A. Dorsey

- Helped Mahalia Jackson and Aretha Franklin's father get their start in gospel



Pilgrim Baptist Church

- ❑ Located on Corner of 33rd and Indiana
- ❑ Originally a Jewish Synagogue
- ❑ Awarded Landmark Status in 1981
- ❑ Culture of the PBC has changed drastically over the past 60-70 years



Timeline of Events

- 1890 Louis Sullivan designed the Kehilath Anshe Ma'Ariv Synagogue
- 1915 Deacon J.A. Finney held the first prayer meeting group of the future PBC
- 1922 PBC began services in its present location
- 1932 Thomas A. Dorsey became choir director at PBC and founded the gospel choir
- 2001 PBC named 1 of 10 sacred places in U.S. to be saved and Rev. Hycel Taylor became senior pastor

Pilgrim Baptist Church: The Church in the Past

- Rev. Anthony speaks about the first full-time pastor.



Pilgrim Baptist Church: The Church in the Present



- Wanza Parker shares her thoughts on Rev. Taylor and youth in the church.

Pilgrim Baptist Church: The Church in the Future



- Dora Taylor expresses her vision for the future of the church.

The Church's Response to IIT



Donations to the Thomas A. Dorsey Cultural Center

- A video was compiled about the history and future of PBC

- A brochure was put together describing the Church, Community, and our IPRO

Future Work

- Conduct more interviews
 - Expand the video
 - Publish a longer brochure
 - Future IPRO's
 - Establish mentoring programs
-

Conclusions

- We achieved our objectives by producing a video, brochure, website, and annotated resource material.
- The relationship between IIT and the surrounding community was strengthened through this IPRO.

Acknowledgements

- We would like to thank:
 - Reverend Anthony
 - William Bynum
 - Randall Johnson
 - Wanza Parker
 - Frances Patterson
 - Dora Taylor
 - Reverend Taylor
 - Sarah Thomas
-

Dora Taylor



Reverend Anthony



William Bynum



Wanza Parker



Randall Johnson



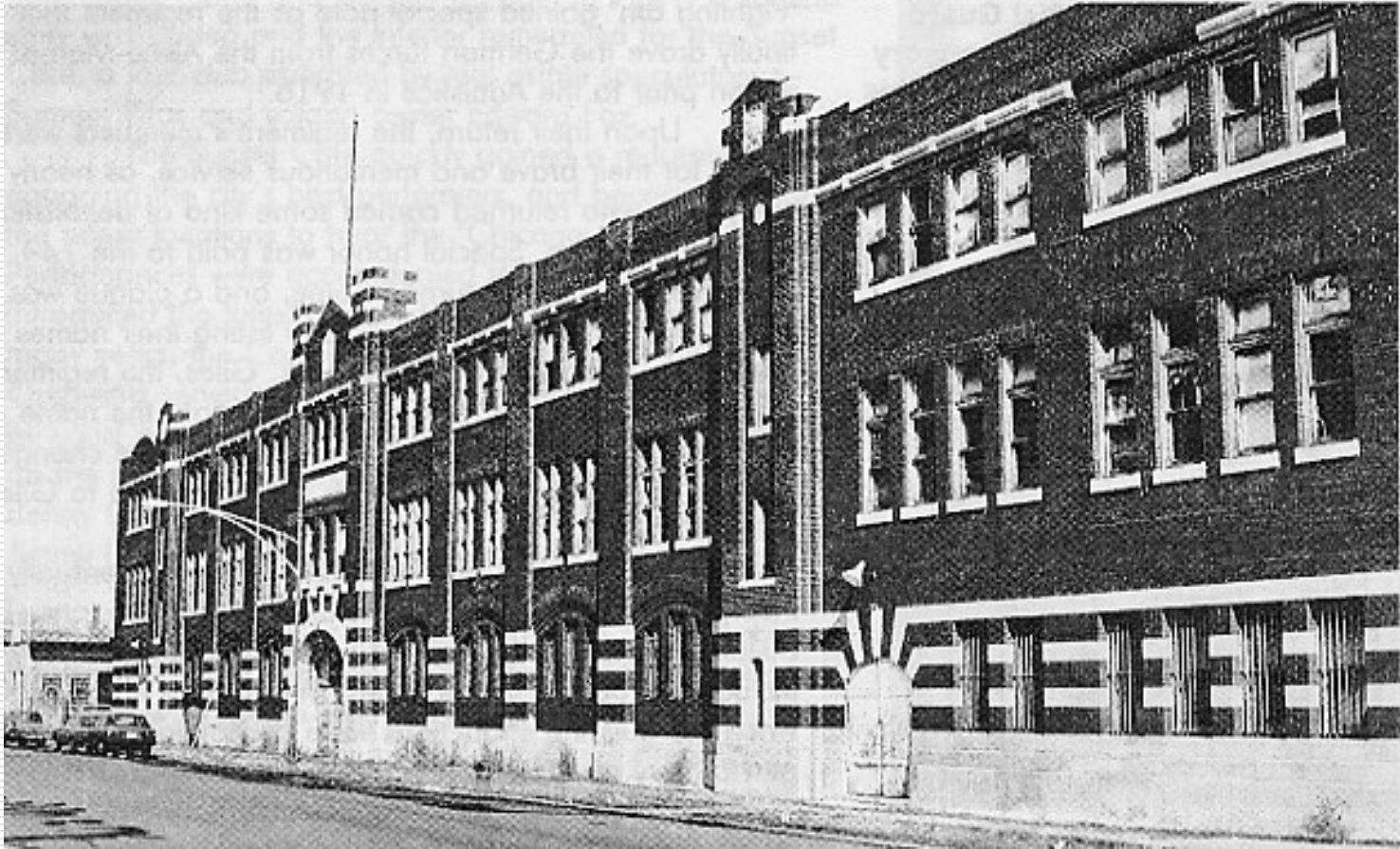
Reverend Hycel Taylor



35th and State- 1953



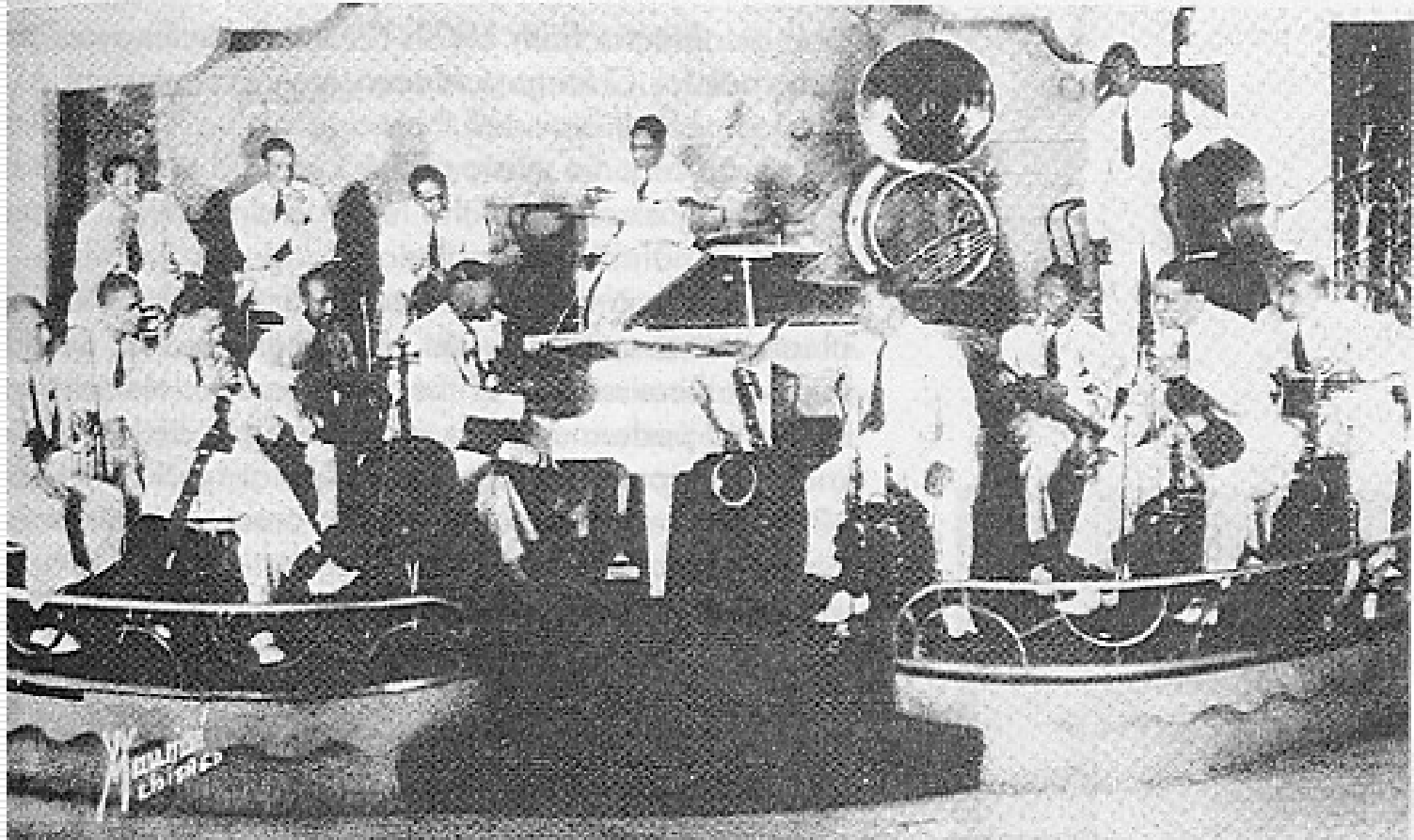
Armory Building



Binga Arcade Building



Jazz and Blues



Jazz and Blues



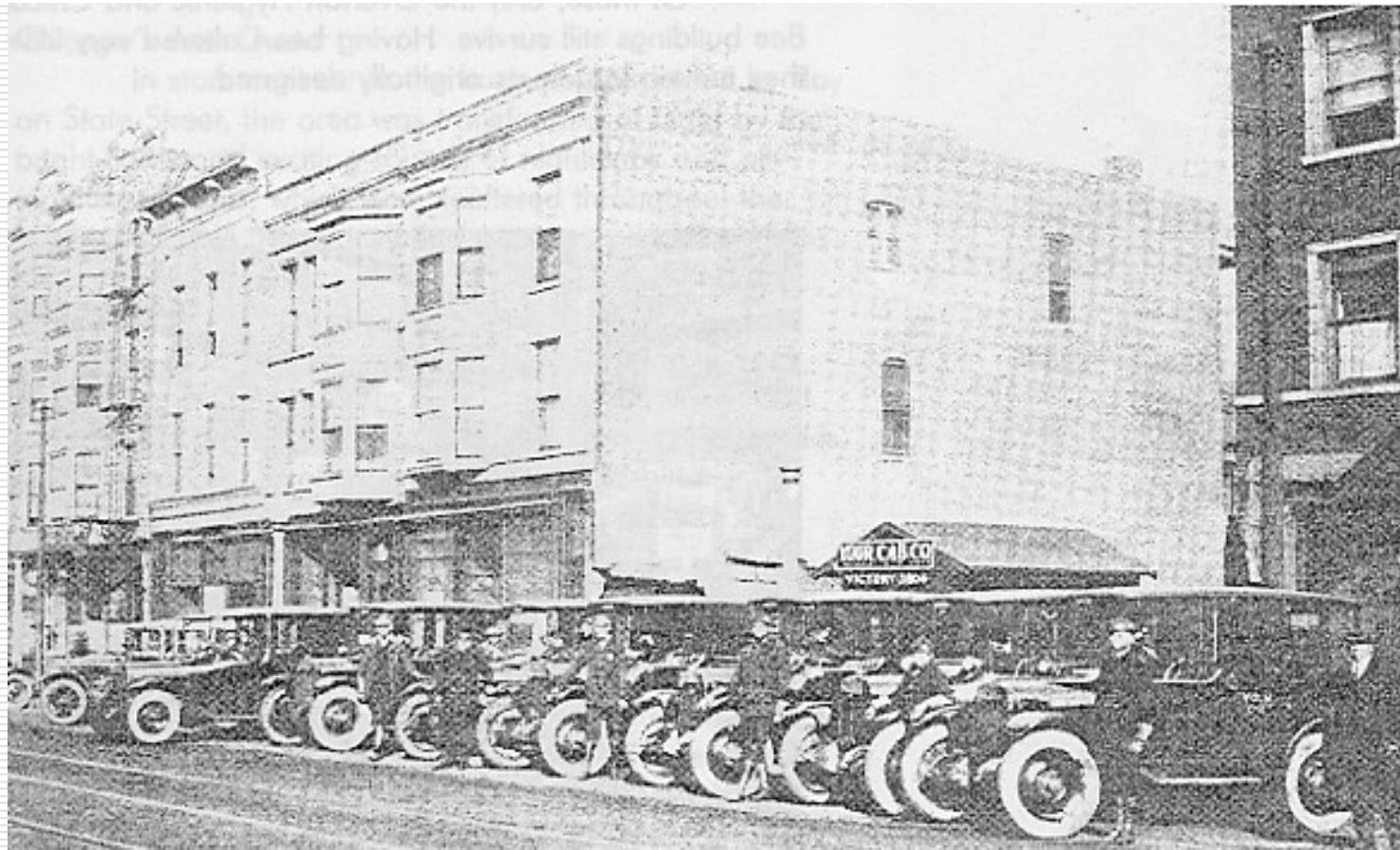
Unity Hall



Victory Statue



Old Cab Company



Pilgrim Baptist Church

