

First African Baptist Church

264-272 East Short Street

Lexington

Built around 1850, the First African Baptist Church is the first African Baptist church to be founded in Kentucky and perhaps the third oldest African Baptist church in the country. The pastors of this congregation, from its beginnings in about 1790, have been men influential in the lives of the black population throughout the state. This tradition of influence began with the first pastor Peter Durrett, a slave who came to Kentucky with his master from Virginia. Durrett's inspirational preaching brought new hope to African Americans in the harsh Kentucky wilderness. More recently, pastors such as Homer Nutter guided many in the African American community through the civil rights struggle of the 1960s. [CA 4/24/86, 86000854]