



United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

1. Name of Property

Historic name New Zion Historic District

Other name/site number NA

2. Location

Street & town 4972 Newtown Pike through 5200 Newtown Pike, and 103-135 New Zion Road NA not for public

city or town Georgetown X vicinity

state Kentucky code KY county Fayette code 067 zip code 42276
county Scott code 209

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Mark Dennen 10/21/08
Signature of certifying official/Title Mark Dennen, Acting SHPO Date

Kentucky Heritage Council/State Historic Preservation Office
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title _____ Date _____

State or Federal agency and bureau _____

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:

- entered in the National Register. See continuation sheet.
- determined eligible for the National Register See continuation sheet.
- determined not eligible for the National Register.
- removed from the National Register.
- other, (explain:)

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

Patrick Andrews 12/4/2008

New Zion Historic District
Name of Property

Scott and Fayette Counties, KY
County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(check as many boxes as apply)

Category of Property
(check only one box)

Number of Resources within Property
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	Number of Resources within Property		
		Contributing	Noncontributing	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)	27	27	buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> X district	10	5	sites
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site	1		structures
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure			objects
	<input type="checkbox"/> object	38	32	Total

Name of related multiple property listing
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)
NA

Number of contributing resources previously listed
in the National Register
NA

6. Function or Use

Historic Function
(Enter only categories from instructions)
DOMESTIC/ single dwelling
AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTENCE/agricultural field
RECREATION AND CULTURE/outdoor recreation
RELIGION/religious facility
COMMERCE/TRADE/business
LANDSCAPE/unoccupied land
FUNERARY/cemetery

Current Function
(Enter only categories from instructions)
DOMESTIC/ single dwelling
VACANT/NOT IN USE
RECREATION AND CULTURE/outdoor recreation
RELIGION/religious facility
FUNERARY/cemetery
LANDSCAPE/unoccupied land

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter only categories from instructions)
Bungalow/Craftsman
Other: shotgun
Other: single pen

Materials
(Enter only categories from instructions)
foundation concrete, brick
walls weatherboard, brick,
roof tin, aluminum
other

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

See continuation sheet(s) for Section No. 7

**United States Department of the Interior
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CONTINUATION SHEET**New Zion Historic District
Scott and Fayette Counties, KYSection 7 Page 1**Description**

New Zion is a small rural community historically populated by African Americans, and contains mostly homes and small farms, and is located near the border of Scott and Fayette Counties, Kentucky. The place lies along State Route 922 (Lexington-Newtown Pike), residing mostly in Scott County. New Zion sits 5 miles southeast of Georgetown, seat of Scott County, and 9 miles north of Lexington, seat of Fayette County. The properties associated with the community are found along two roads—the U-shaped New Zion Road, and along Newtown Pike (see map). New Zion is being interpreted here as a particular kind of African American community, one defined by an early 1970s dissertation as a “Negro hamlet,” (a term not embraced by residents of these places, so used sparingly here) a settlement form commonly found in the central Bluegrass region of Kentucky beginning shortly after the Civil War ended. These villages provided one type of setting in which newly freed people of color could erect a community according to their vision and aspirations.

The area proposed for listing extends south from the north property line of the property at 5100 Newtown Pike to the crossing of Newtown Pike by North Elkhorn Creek, incorporating four building lots that fall on the Fayette side of the county line. This area is approximately 37 acres in size, and includes 45 properties. Analyzed according to National Register counting terms, this area includes 27 contributing buildings, 27 non-contributing buildings, 10 contributing sites, 5 non-contributing sites, and 1 contributing structure. Vacant lots that were vacant during the historic period (1872-1958) will be considered contributing sites because open space was part of the historic identity of New Zion, not only outside of the district in the surrounding fields and farmland, but also the undeveloped lots within the community.

New Zion lies along North Elkhorn Creek, just downstream from the historic Lemon’s Mill site and near to three estate farms whose main houses are listed in the National Register: Leatherer-Lemon House on the Lemons Mill and Newtown Roads (SC-360, NR 1977), the Flournoy-Nutter House (SC-9, NR 1977), and John M. Garth House (SC-10, NR 1974). These estates are relevant as historic properties that provided New Zion’s early residents with employment opportunities—important for people transitioning from slave to wage labor.

Early acquisition and development of the land that became New Zion

Local deeds record New Zion’s formal founding of New Zion in 1872, when farm owner Harvey C. Graves sold twenty-three acres of land along North Elkhorn Creek, on the opposite side of Newtown Pike from his 440-acre farm, to former slaves Calvin Hamilton and Primus Keene. Hamilton took possession of sixteen acres, building his two-story hall-parlor brick house on it; Keene received seven acres, and on it located the community well, and provided sites for a church, lodge and two-room school. With the two parcels sitting side-by-side, Hamilton and Keene built a U-shaped loop road through their land, a road that departed from and returned to Newtown Pike. This road provided a development opportunity: Hamilton’s and Keene’s parcels then could be subdivided into multiple smaller lots of about an acre apiece. This loop road gave future residents of New Zion equal access to Newtown Pike, a major roadway that connected them to regional trade and travel networks. This contrasts with the situation for other such communities, which lay buried within their county’s hinterlands, at the end of a dead-end path reached on a progressively narrowing network of minor roads.¹⁸

¹⁸ Deed Book 147, 148. Willa Relford Gentry, “Condensed New Zion History” and “Map Guide,” *Community, Church, Family: New Zion, Kentucky*, “souvenir publication for New Zion Festivals, August 24, 1996. Luther Figgs, May 10, 1990, recalled Hamilton has

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New Zion's Early Development and Character

According to oral history, the village of Briar Hill, later named New Zion, was first settled in 1868. The 23-acre tract was purchased November 23, 1872 by Primus Keene and Calvin Hamilton. In the early days of the village most of the men worked as pike laborers, they broke rock to construct Newtown Pike. When the road work ran out the men found work on nearby farms working with horses. The women of the village also worked as maids, cooks, etc on nearby farms.

In the early 1900s, the population of the village was approximately 165, with another fifty or sixty people living on nearby farms. Today there are 75 people, with 30 living on nearby farms. In the early 1920s there was a dry goods store (Smith's Grocery), an ice cream parlor (Buddy's Inn) where Miss. Clara sold homemade ice cream. Both of these stores were a main part of the village for three generations of historian Willa Relford Gentry's family. There was also a mechanic's garage (Cecil's Garage) which was owned and operated by Primus Keene's grandson Cecil Coleman; a front room parlor barber shop, a beer joint (Saul Field's Place); a lodge, church, and a two room school. Until the late 1960s, the greater community also included several nearby farms which were within a five-mile radius of the village. These included George Adams', Marion Smith's, and John Will Sidney's farms, along with those of John Ross and Onnie Jewett. The Ross farm was called Ross's Park. African American families from Lexington and Georgetown would come to Ross's Park during the summer for picnics, ball games, and other social activities. In the early 1950s the Jewett farm was used as a summer camp for boys. Boys from the city would come out to the farm to learn about fishing, boating, camping, and other outdoor activities.

There was a lodge located near the church. The UBO Lodge provide a place for social gatherings. The members paid dues, which included a burial fund. The burial fund provided a plot in the cemetery located behind the church (Inventory # 22), a headstone, and a small check toward the member's burial expenses. The cemetery still contains a few headstones with UBO Lodge insignia on them.

There were also two small schools, both two rooms in size. The first was located on the corner of New Zion Road to the South. Calvin Hamilton, one of the co-founders of New Zion, built the house for his son, Benjamin Hamilton, who was one of New Zion's first school teachers. That building has been incorporated into the home of Evelyn Williams, and is still occupied. The second school was located at the north end of New Zion. It was closed in the late 1950s when Scott County schools were integrated; that building has been demolished.

In addition to the church, the community in the present day has a community center (The Dome) which has several computers for the children of the community to use for their studies and computer games. The Dome is also used for community events, such as family reunions, weddings receptions, and parties. There is also an outdoor park located on the creek behind our church; the park is known as the New Zion Pavilion. The Pavilion is used for outdoor events in the summer such as picnics, ballgames, parties, fish fries, and family reunions.

being a dark skinned large very tall man and Primus Keene as tall and light skinned. Keene built and lived in a two-story frame house with five rooms.

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Physical Character of the Community

The bend of North Elkhorn Creek that incorporates New Zion as well as some surrounding farmland lies basically level along the Newtown Pike, sloping gently to sharply toward the creek. Mrs. Lydia Talbert, who died recently, recalled earlier years when on Sundays the men of the village would walk to the creek and carry water from the creek for the women to use to do weekly washings on Monday morning. The creek also was used for both casual and organized recreation. A portion of the land lying between New Zion proper and the creek is being prepared for house construction, promising future growth of this historic village.

Five types of properties have been prevalent throughout the life of the community. Of these, **residences** have been the most prevalent and long lasting. Most of the historic housing follows basic vernacular house patterns common throughout Kentucky, such as T- and L-plan houses, saddlebag plans. Over time, many of New Zion's home owners, determined to keep their community alive, have added on to existing houses, by appending room additions, or through the application of newer siding. A few people have constructed new and larger dwellings for their families, but the predominant housing stock still is modest in size. About the typical array of buildings on a residential lot, late-local-resident Luther Figgs recalled that "nearly everyone had a stable." Other frequently-occurring residential outbuildings have included outhouses, smokehouses, barns, and chicken houses.

Commercial buildings characteristically did not follow the designs of urban commercial buildings. In New Zion, commerce took place in buildings that were formerly dwellings which had been converted to a commercial purpose. Commercial activity also could take place in a multi-use structure—a dwelling adapted for or with an addition specifically built for that commercial purpose.

New Zion had a small group of **public** or **institutional buildings** whose designs clearly distinguished them as non-residential structures. The present church site was an early location of both the village school and the lodge. The first church stood on the east side of the present church lot and a second church stood northeast of the present church. A school was conducted in the first church. These public buildings would often be identifiable by their non-residential form, and by their employment of traditional school or church design.

Central to community organization and located in the northeast corner of New Zion's northern leg of its U-shaped lane are New Zion United Methodist Church (#22) and its historic cemetery. The meeting house is a brick veneer classical revival style building with stone trim. It has a projecting anteroom lit by a Palladian window above which is an enclosed pediment with a circular window. The main block of the building is entered through double doors with transoms on either side, while the education annex extends on either side and has stepped entrances into its two ends. Round-arched windows with stained glass lights illuminate the sanctuary. Its original pressed tin ceilings survive. Under the church is a full basement that members dug by hand. The congregation built its present parsonage, a brick ranch style house, in 1968.

Some of the New Zion lots were large enough to provide adequate land for operating what today would be identified as a small **farm**. Other New Zion area residents operated farms on small tracts of land nearby. A few barns remain, such as the Chester White barn (Property #2). The presence of agricultural work buildings in this community not only indicated New Zion's rural setting, but shows the self-sufficiency of the residents. Many people of the community had wage-paying jobs on nearby large farms, so adding agricultural outbuildings to their home lots was a way to increase the utility of their property.

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Vacant lots invited recreational activities prior to being developed for homes, and others that became vacant served similar purposes. Over time, the loss of houses had led to an increase in the number of vacant lots in the community. Some vacant lots will be re-occupied by new housing; others will be left open as lawns for quiet recreation, or expanded landscaping, the parking of cars, and use as gardens. Those vacant lots that have been without a building for more than 50 years will be considered contributing in the inventory, below.

One important lot without a building is the community cemetery. A semi-circular drive leads to the cemetery, which sits behind the church on land that slopes toward North Elkhorn Creek. Graves date from around 1892. The cemetery is an important feature of the community and something of a tourist attraction, with its graves of Buffalo Soldiers—i.e., black men who served in the U.S. Army following the Civil War—as well as graves of veterans of other major conflicts.

Integrity Considerations

The New Zion Historic District meets the National Register Criterion A and is historically significant within the context of evaluation “African-American Communities in Scott County, Kentucky, 1865-1965.” This evaluation of integrity defines registration requirements first for the nominated resource, a historic district, and then to individual properties within. The individually-owned and documented parcels each play a part in the calculation of the district’s overall integrity. The status of either contributing or non-contributing is given for each feature, but the basic question of integrity is one of determining whether *the entire district* still retains sufficient physical information on the landscape to tell the important story of the African American communities in Scott County. An individual feature’s contribution will be made insofar as it reinforces the overall integrity of the district’s association with the important historic theme. Integrity of association will extend to the district, and it will thus be eligible, insofar as a sufficient number of individual properties retain integrity of location, setting, and modest amounts of material and/or design.

The New Zion Historic District will retain integrity of **location** because it occupies the place in Scott County that has been identified as a major African American community and is one of a small number of Scott County places that have been classified as a rural hamlets (Smith, 1972). New Zion became desirable for housing construction shortly after the Civil War, when slavery had been abolished and established Bluegrass farms still needed a larger workforce. As is common with many African American communities, the location of New Zion gave made it advantageous to continue a relationship of mutual dependence between black workers and the white owners of the nearby farms that employed them.

As long as a house resides on its original site, in any condition, it too will give physical evidence of the story of this community. While a number of New Zion’s houses have been demolished, the clear sense of a community *place* remains. The proximity of house lots to each other gives the New Zion Historic District its strong sense of identity as a historically rural black community. It is that sense of community that defines and gave strength to the African American experience during the century after the Civil War, before the advent of Civil Rights achievements.

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The historic district will be said to have integrity of **setting** if it continues to have enough of the arrangement of physical features on its lots that existed at the close of the Period of Significance. The relatively compact nature of this community belies its rural situation, giving the viewer the impression of a more urban than rural settlement. New Zion once was home to several businesses and social institutions such as school and church. These important social institutions established a setting within the district that told a visitor which places within the community were its social anchors. Even though most of these business buildings have disappeared, their former place in the larger landscape often has not been obscured by the construction of a replacement building. In a few instances, vacant lots of formerly well-known businesses have been given the status of contributing sites within this nomination. Only a few properties have been built since 1958 on combined lots, with a large residence that clearly disrupts the historic sense of setting. In these ways, even vacant lots and new construction respect the historic spatial setting that has prevailed in New Zion for over a century.

The New Zion Historic District will possess **integrity of materials and/or design** with each historic residence and public building retains. The historic landscape of this neighborhood was one of relatively dense collection of residences surrounded by farms and open land, an African American community that included churches, businesses, and civic buildings. While the people of this community were self-supporting and presumably less subject to the social pressures from an adjacent white community, these people experienced less affluence than members of the white community did. While housing improvements outside of African American communities in Scott County occurred, New Zion's residents continued living in conditions that were current within the early 20th century, somewhat insulated from increases in living standards that came to the white community. For instance, piped-in water did not become available until 1962. This economic situation led residents to choose materials of construction that were, sometimes, of less enduring structural quality. The lower economic attainment of the district's residents led to years of deferred maintenance in some cases, as well. This economic and social climate led to a weakened building stock overall. The majority of building loss within the district occurred within the recent past, i.e., after 1958. In more affluent neighborhoods, constructed buildings, if maintain, are expected to last several human lifetimes. Within the New Zion Historic District, as in many African American neighborhoods, those expectations cannot be seen as realistic, or even appropriate. The loss of individual historic buildings can be seen more as part of the normal historic evolution of the neighborhood.

Many of the historic buildings have been renovated to include new siding, porch additions and external aesthetic renovation, to meet the needs and taste of the homeowners who added them. Regardless, most historic residential structures still show the single-pen, L- plan, or bungalow forms that the house had historically. The determination of an individual property's contributing status places a greater weight upon whether that building was standing during the historic period, than upon its current exterior materials.

As long as the lots remain vacant, or as long as post-1958 housing retains the character of historic housing, these losses/changes can be defined as non-contributing but greatly compatible. The judgment that the district retains integrity of materials and design is an evaluation based on recognizing both the presence of historic buildings and the compatibility of non-historic ones. Currently there are 27 historic buildings vs. 27 non-historic ones.

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The New Zion Historic District will be determined to have integrity of **association** because it retains the integrity factors listed above. Residential buildings included in this proposed district clearly reflect the building forms and styles of the late-19th and early-20th centuries. Many properties contain historic houses that have remained in the same families for several generations, some still bearing the name of community members who founded the area. These are seen by the community as containing important associations. The longstanding connection between these houses and their historic residents underlines positive associations between the district and African-American community life in Scott County.

The New Zion Historic District grew into a community for African Americans throughout rural Scott County, and we can certainly see this written on the landscape today. After the end of slavery, a great number of freed slaves from Scott County moved to nearby Lexington, or even to Louisville, to find jobs and begin more urban lives. However, not everyone could leave or wanted to leave. Some found a refuge in stand-alone communities inhabited by African Americans only, where certain freedoms existed that did not exist for African Americans whose neighborhoods stood within the larger white community.

Perhaps nothing speaks more to the district's **integrity of feeling** than its continued use by people who live in the community. The New Zion is a rare town among the several dozen African American communities studied in central Kentucky in the early 1970s—it survives, and its historic aspects are recognizable. New Zion remains predominantly an African American community. The land lots, the houses, the church and the known locations of previous community life are recalled by local residents, and represent not only New Zion's history, but a desire to have that history continue as a living part of the community today.

District Inventory

Prop. #	Address	Survey #	Name	PVA #	Description (All Buildings unless stated otherwise)	Eval.
1	5002 Newtown Road		Jonathan and Sallie Figgs house; site of earlier Theophilus Smith house	#1A	1982 rectangular contemporary ranch type house with vinyl garage and room above garage addition	NC
2	5004 Newtown Road	SC602	Calvin Hamilton House	#1	c. 1872-1873 hall-parlor plan two story brick house on stone foundation with ell, occupying a five acre lot owned by the family/estate of the late Lydia Talbert. Originally owned by Calvin Hamilton, one of two founders of New Zion. Fire damage resulting from a fire that broke out in the upper story early in 2008 is to be repaired by the family of the late owner. Hamilton's two story hall-parlor plan brick house	C

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					<p>serves as an important landmark in the thriving community of New Zion. Walls are 3 bricks thick and are laid in 7-course common bond with interior end chimneys, slightly splayed brick arches, a segmental arch over the centered entry, a bricked-in upstairs door over the centered first story entryway suggesting a balcony. The change occurred when the large upstairs room was divided. The dry stone foundation was repointed in the early 20th century with a raised squared joint. The ell has similar foundation treatment and is sided in vinyl, and a portion with asbestos shingles. The window sash is replacement metal. In 1935 Chester A. White added the front porch and the barn. The brick house that Calvin and Margaret Hamilton had built was their called home during their lifetimes, Mrs. Talbert became the owner in 1955 when the master commissioner of Fayette County deeded her as a descendant of Calvin Hamilton the five acre tract. The land lies both in Fayette and Scott Counties.</p> <p>Chester A. White barn, built in 1935, from materials salvaged from a fire in the Georgetown vicinity, located behind Calvin Hamilton House</p> <p>small historic wood-frame smokehouse</p> <p>Concrete block storage building approximately 7 by 7 feet</p> <p>Concrete block one-car garage</p>	
3	5008 Newtown Road	SC601	Clark-Persley house	#2	<p>c. 1898 T-shaped frame one-story house on drylaid stone foundation with milled trim and turned posts, the lower portions of which have been replaced by square stone masonry blocks supporting front porch. Original two-over-two pane sash replaced recently with facsimile nine-over-six vinyl windows. House was constructed for Thomas and Mary Clark, great grandfather of present owner, Thomas Persley.</p>	C

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4	5012 Newtown Road		Billy F. Williams house	#3	1961 frame modular house, rectangular in shape, vinyl clad, one story. Should be considered contributor in 2011. Small prefabricated barn, built after 2000	NC NC
5	5016 Newtown Road	SC596	Benjamin Hamilton house; 1918-1927 school	#4	c. 1880 frame house, present form is square with wing on center of south side, earlier form was L-shaped with added c. 1918 discernable one-room schoolhouse shape; vinyl sided circa 2000, building on block foundation replacing original stone piers; was built as home of Benjamin Hamilton, son of New Zion founder; was purchased and expanded by the county school board and used as a school between 1918 and 1928. Original tooled stone chimney with brick stacks dating from Hamilton era. Schoolhouse form is apparent. Tied together with front porch supported by decorative iron posts.	C
6	106 New Zion Road	SC595	Talbert house #2; Ernest Talbert house	#5	c. 1900 frame house, T-shaped, one story plus attic, tooled chimney on back, decorative iron posts supporting porch; indeterminate foundation materials; remodeled c. 1950; c. 2000 was reclad and replacement windows added; contemporary iron posts replacing turned porch supports. This house was the location of the now legendary barbershop where Dick Claybourne "cut your hair as he pleased." Modern block 1 car garage; gabled roof Pre-1958 wooden storage shed, wide vertical siding, oversize walk-in door	C NC NC
7	108 New Zion Road	SC594	Talbert house #1; Rufus Talbert house	#6	c. 1880 frame L-shaped one-and-one-half-story house with c. 2000 added vestibule onto main block, front porch deck, vinyl siding by 1988. Earlier owners include Bill and Lou Williams and Sidney and Walter Wilson Modern concrete block gabled roof one-car garage with shed-roofed block storage shed attached	C NC
8	110 New Zion Road	SC593	Sidney-Lighter house	#7	L-plan 1½-story house with additions and extensive exterior remodeling circa 1950. Originally a one-story T-plan house on lot bought by Charlie Lighter in 1899 and sold to Joseph Sidney in 1906; has vinyl siding, exterior shouldered chimney. Vinyl extends to grade. Modern storage shed with gambrel roof, oversize walk-in door	C NC

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9	112 New Zion Road	SC592	William Roberts house; Ananias Sidney house	#8	c. 1894 tw- story three-bay house with central gable, stone foundation, interior end chimneys with tooled brick stacks, shed roof porch sheltering front door with iron post supports, some 2/2 pane sash, vinyl siding, plank fence along front boundary. William Roberts bought lot in 1894 from Calvin Hamilton. Roberts was a fence builder. A plank fence surrounds the front yard, having been in place at least 60 years..	C C structure
10	114 New Zion Road		Sally Smith house site; Yolanda Williams house	#9	c. 1958 three-bay one-story concrete block house, two interior chimneys on site of home of Sally Smith, New Zion storekeeper. Earlier house burned in 1950s. Rectangular-plan concrete block building built before 1958	C C
11	116 New Zion Road		Billy Williams storage lot	#9A	This lot was owned by Billy Williams for storage of vehicles used in septic cleaning business. Now contains brick ranch house built in the last 20 years. Prefab gambrel roof storage on edge of lot	NC NC
12	5048 Newtown Road		Raymond and Sarah Relford house; site of John Holloway house and town well behind dwelling	#10	1966 ranch type house, wide plank siding, painted green, block foundation, picture window, home of local columnist Sarah Relford and historian Willa Relford. Will become eligible in 2016. Village well was located in depression in back yard of earlier home of John Holloway.	NC C site
13	5042 Newtown Road		Site of Eli Sidney house, vacant for over 50 years		Vacant lot on north side of house at 5042 Newtown Road; site of Eli Sidney house. Site is north lawn of property. Lot has been vacant for more than 50 years	C site
14	5042 Newtown Road		Charles and Barbara Talbert house	#11	1977 rectangular one-story brick ranch type house	NC
15	103 New Zion Road	SC597	Ernestine Harris house on site of Charles Sidney house	#12	1990 ranch type house with sliding windows on site of c. 1893, a two front gabled house extremely deteriorated at time of 1988 survey. Lot was sold 7/17/1893 to Charles Sidney by Calvin Hamilton.	NC

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16	105 New Zion Road	SC598	Abraham Madison house	#13	<p>c. 1918-1928 square one-story house with stepped main façade with smokehouse and outhouse standing in 1988. House was aluminum sided c. 1950; historic features of the house include tower, stone foundation, window with tracery. In recent years the house's main facade was altered through the application of brick and installation of new windows; brick posts added to porch.</p> <p>Behind the house is a historic wood framed garage with rusty overhead door and walk-in door on side, built before 1958 by Robert Clark.</p> <p>A filled-in community well is located under the deck of the house.</p>	C C C site
17	107 New Zion Road	SC599	Robert Sidney house	#14	<p>c. 1900 or earlier T-shaped house with stone foundation; c. 2000 changes include vinyl siding, replacement 1/1 windows, decorative iron porch posts. Occupies lot sold by Calvin Hamilton to Robert Sidney in 1893. Robert died in 1901, his wife Sallie in 1931. Their son and his wife Lourinda inherited the property.</p> <p>Wood-frame outbuilding with entry door appears to date to late-19th century.</p>	C C
18	109 New Zion Road	SC600	Ananias Sidney house site	#15	<p>vacant lot; site of Ananias Sidney house, a c. 1890 dwelling with 1930 & 1950 additions, demolished after major deterioration/collapse in recent years</p>	NC site
19	115 New Zion Road		Luther and Lydia Figgs house	#16	<p>More-than-a-century old house that began with two rooms to which owners Luther and Lydia Figgs made continuing additions. Mr. Figgs hand-dug the basement. Present appearance is of a three bay house on corner with wide cut vinyl siding, hip roof, iron posts mounted on square brick piers supporting roof</p>	C
20	117 New Zion Road	SC591	Tom and Sophia Morton house	#17	<p>c. 1899, three-bay center passage frame house with central gable, brick pier foundation; tooled central chimney, two over two pane sash, ell on south side, brick piers supporting remnants of turned posts supporting flat roofed porch, diamond shaped window in pediment. Believed to be second oldest house in New Zion, built on lot purchased in 1899 by Tom Morton from William Sidney who bought lot from Calvin Hamilton in 1894.</p>	C

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21	118 New Zion Road		Clark Moore house	#18	Modern brick veneer ranch type house	NC
22	120 New Zion Road	SC583	New Zion Methodist Church and cemetery	#19	c. 1923 brick with stone trim classical revival style church structure on full basement foundation on 1.027 acre lot. Enclosing the anteroom is a projection featuring a Palladian window and capped with an enclosed pediment containing a circular window. 1968 brick ranch parsonage Extending east from the church and south behind central village is the historic cemetery which as an historic property, separately surveyed.	C NC C site
23	124 New Zion Road		Sammy Williams house	#20	c. 1963 rectangular modular vinyl clad house on block foundation, permastone facing applied to main façade to sill level, sliding windows, small outbuilding. Will accrue eligibility in 2013.	NC
24	Vacant		Vacant lot	#21 A	Vacant lot	NC site
25	126 New Zion Road		Veronica and Holman Marshall Hs.	#21	1987 two story house with low gabled roof, wide vinyl siding, deep overhanging eaves, block foundation.	NC
26	128 New Zion Road	SC584	Grandfather Marshall Holman House	#22 A	c. 1900 T-shaped boxed frame house, centered tooled chimney, wooden siding, two doors leading into each of two front rooms from porch, turned posts supporting porch and also applied to façade.	C
27	130 New Zion Road	SC585	Margaret Figgs homeplace	#22	c. 1900, T-shaped frame house, corner square post mounted on square brick pier, vinyl siding	C
28	132 New Zion Road	SC586	Holloway house; Zack Sidney house	#23	Built before 1920, two-pile three-bay boxed house on block foundation next to vacant lot, painted blue. Local historical figure Sarah Relford grew up here.	C
29	134 New Zion Road		Vacant lot: Site of Walter Holman house and second village well	24	Local historical figure Sarah Relford grew up here; house was L-shaped with pyramidal roof covering projecting block. Site of second well used by village residents.	C-site C-site
30a	Vacant lot at 5070 Newtown Road		Site of Primus Keene House	#25	Location of long demolished Primus Keene (founder with Calvin Hamilton of New Zion) House.	C site

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30b	5070 Newtown Road	SC603	Gordon Berry house	#25	Large brick modern ranch house.	NC
31	Vacant lot at 5070 Newtown Road		Site, Cecil Coleman garage	#25B	Vacant lot, incorporated into 5070 Newtown Road. Important as site of historic business and has been vacant for more than 50 years	C site
32	Vacant lot at 5070 Newtown Road		Site, Smith grocery	#25 A	Vacant lot, incorporated into 5070 Newtown Road Important as site of historic business and has been vacant for more than 50 years	C site
33	5050 Newtown Road	SC587	site of Mr. Buddy's Store/presently Ray Relford house and "The Dome"	Map 82C #26	"The Dome," a 1989 house used as a village recreation house for provided by owner Ray Relford for both youth and elderly. Occupies site of Mr. Buddy's store. This is a rectangular vinyl sided contemporary house.	NC
34a	133 New Zion Road		Rose Holman house	82C-27	2001, 3-bay rectangular-plan vinyl-sided house with plank fence enclosing yard.	NC
34b	135 New Zion Road		site of Samuel Fields house		The west side of the lot is vacant and was the site of the Saul Fields house. Has been vacant for more than 50 years. Recalled as popular entertainment spot.	C Site
35	129 New Zion Road	SC588	Luther Figgs house	82C-28	c. 1910-1920 L-shaped, stone foundation, arts and crafts style porch with tapered posts on brick piers, vinyl sided	C
36	127 New Zion Road	SC589	Site, Willis and Gonzella White house	82C-29	Vacant site of house on lot sold in 1935 by George and Katie Scott to Willis and Gonzella White. The Whites' house was torn down after being vacant for 10 years.	NC site
37	125 New Zion Road	SC590	Site of Baty-Dishman house	82C-30	Vacant site of William Dishman house, demolished circa 2000.	NC site
38	5072 Newtown Road	SC604	Willie Weaver Smith house	Map 82 # 22	c. 1923 aluminum sided bungalow on 15.75-acre farm. House sits on stone foundation, good brick shouldered chimney, 6/1 sash, two single hung windows in gable roofed dormer. Property sold in 1942 by John Ross to James K. Fisher. House remodeled c. 1950. Property included a tobacco barn that burned in 2007. Hipped-roof wood-frame garage	C NC
39	5090 Newtown Road		Gregory and Gayle Figgs House	Map 82 #22A	1979 house, two large ells of brick, occupying site of Willie Weaver Smith's apple orchard	NC

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40	5092 Newtown Road	SC604	Kivvi Figgs house Historic garage	Map 82 # 21	c. 1910-1920 small L-shaped house on .959 acres, Arts and Crafts piers supporting round posts, two chimneys. Original owner was Jerry Davis. A historic wood-frame garage is located on the property.	C C
41	5100 Newtown Road		Site of Camby Clay house	Map 82C #20	Plank-fence enclosed yard that contained home built by Buffalo soldier Zebeda Bolder and later by Camby Clay; house burned and was subsequently torn down in 1978.	NC site
42	5100 Newtown Road	SC606	site of last New Zion public school	Map 82 # 19	2 acre site includes the Johnnie Jones frame ranch house on block foundation Modern concrete-block two-car garage Modern tan metal barn that occupies the site of the last New Zion public school, funded through the Rosenwald foundation. The school had two rooms with large folding door providing interior separation. Demolished c. 1958.	C NC NC
43	4972 Newtown Road	FA-	Robert Persley House		less than 10 years old, frame L-shaped six-bays-long house with four bays sheltered by classical porch, Fayette County site just north of North Elkhorn Creek	NC
44	4986 Newtown Road	FA-	Anthony Figgs House		less than 10 years old, brick ranch type house with attached garage on north end replacing earlier house that burned	NC
45	5000 Newtown Road	FA-	Margaret Poyntz house		c. 1880 frame house, one room wide, with additions	C

New Zion Historic District
Name of Property

Scott and Fayette Counties, KY
County and State

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B removed from its original location.
- C a birthplace or grave.
- D a cemetery.
- E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F a commemorative property.
- G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography (See continuation sheets).

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

Areas of Significance

(enter categories from instructions)

Ethnic Heritage: African American

Period of Significance

1872-1958

Significant Dates

1872, 1918, 1924, 1927, 1928

Significant Person (only if Criterion B selected)

NA

Cultural Affiliation

NA

Architect/Builder (use last names first for individuals)

Unknown

See continuation sheet(s) for Section No. 8

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other Name of repository:

West Kentucky African American Heritage Museum

See continuation sheet(s) for Section No. 9

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New Zion Statement of Significance

New Zion meets National Register Criterion A and is significant within the context of African American communities in Scott County, Kentucky. The establishment of a new African American social system in Scott County, and elsewhere in Kentucky, became a very vital and important activity statewide in 1865. A population of freed blacks existed in Kentucky prior to 1865, but certainly not on any universal scale. Once the Civil War ended the enslavement of African Americans, blacks had several options from which to initiate a new life. Some remained in familiar places, either on the farms where they had been slaves, working as paid laborers; others moved into established towns, encountering Jim Crow laws and other social backlashes. For many, leaving the state altogether was the only solution. However, in central Kentucky, a number of rural African American communities emerged in isolation from any previously established city or town. These places frequently occupied a site at the perimeter of a large farm, though stood visually separate from the farm's residential complex. These places began as small parcels of land, usually between five and twenty acres, which were in some cases gifted by the adjacent estate owner to their African American employees, or sold to them at favorable rates. Nearly two-dozen of these communities in central Kentucky were identified, studied, and documented by cultural geographers, and New Zion remains as one of the most intact of that group.

The general importance of African American communities arises from the theme of this cultural group's struggle from 1865-1965 to achieve the basic opportunities guaranteed to American citizens, and also within the theme of community development. Collectively, the African American communities in Scott County help tell the various stories of how blacks won freedoms that state and federal laws nominally provided. We can see New Zion as historically significant as a place where one black population achieved its most fully-developed, autonomous, and self-determined African American community in Scott County. It functioned not as an adjunct to a larger entity, but as a self-sustaining village. The settlement is important because it continues to retain its identity as an African American community and maintains its viability as such, at a time when few of these historic communities have.

Historic Context: African American Communities in Scott County, Kentucky, 1865-1965

The history of African American Communities in Scott County has been assembled for this nomination from a variety of sources. Those include:

One useful source is Peter Craig Smith's dissertation, "Negro Hamlets and Gentlemen Farms: A Dichotomous Rural Settlement Pattern in Kentucky's Bluegrass Region" (University of Kentucky, 1972). Smith identified "scattered among the Bluegrass estates . . . about thirty small, nucleated, Negro settlements or hamlets" each containing no more than fifty residences. Most by the time of Smith's writing were in decline, owners of many of the component properties having moved away, leaving older residents to care for those properties, while younger family members choosing to continue to live in the ancestral settings have constructed houses with contemporary designs and materials. Smith predicted that most such communities would continue to decline and "eventually . . . die, a fate many have already met." That pattern continues, though a few rare survivors among the small group of communities identified in Smith's dissertation carry on.

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A number of factors can explain the disappearance of these communities. As blacks found greater ability to integrate into mainstream society throughout the 1960s, there would be less need for autonomous African American communities. Further, as blacks found housing in traditional towns and cities, such as Georgetown, towns which provided residents with amenities that were absent from the rural communities, those rural villages could look less inviting, by comparison. Perhaps the isolated situation of a rural community, while freeing, still connoted an outsider status for some people who wished a greater participation in wider society. For these and other reasons, African American communities in Scott County, as well as those places in central Kentucky studied by Smith, survived beyond the 1960s only through a great commitment by the inhabitants to keep their neighborhoods alive. Many owners have chosen to replace historic homes with new dwellings in current styles, such as ranch houses. Others have enlarged their historic house, changing its basic appearance to conform to contemporary interpretations of desirable design. Many have covered or replaced historic materials and features with those of modern manufacture, including vinyl replacement windows and vinyl siding.¹

Smith mapped for his 1972 dissertation 22 then existing Inner Bluegrass African American rural communities and cited their possible origins. His list and accompanying map (pages 62, 63) included the Scott County communities of Zion Hill, Pea Ridge, New Zion, and Watkinville. His list of the new owners' sources reported that Zion Hill's land was purchased in lots from local landowner Hill Robinson: "The date of establishment is unclear; however, the Negro church was established in 1872." New Zion, according to that list, stood where "land was apparently given to two ex-slaves, Promis King and Calvin Hampton, by a Mr. Gough (or Gulf, or Goult). Hampton and King later sold lots to other Negroes."²

These sources collectively portray the county's African American communities with many similarities. At a minimum, these places provided settings where groupings of African American families could establish homes, subsistence gardens, small patches for growing cash crops such as tobacco, and space for domestic animals such as chickens, a cow, and possibly pigs or sheep. The larger communities, such as New Zion, contained socio-economic structures that would be found in most hamlets and villages in Kentucky, such as a church, lodge, school, one or more stores, and perhaps a restaurant. Many of the residents might work near but outside of these communities, receiving employment in the fields or in the home of a nearby farm. By entering into the wage economy, residents of these communities began building their own financial capital, which became steps in providing a more secure existence.

¹ Peter Craig Smith, "Negro Hamlets and Gentlemen Farms: A Dichotomous Rural Settlement Pattern in Kentucky's Bluegrass Region," Dissertation, Department of Geography, University of Kentucky, Lexington, 1972), pp. 1, 4, 5; see also Peter C. Smith and Karl B. Raitz, "Negro Hamlets and Agricultural Estates in Kentucky's Inner Bluegrass," *Geographical Review*, v. 64 (April 1964), pp. 218-219, 226-228.

² Peter Craig Smith, "Negro Hamlets and Gentleman Farms," pp. 54-55. The inaccuracy of details regarding these acquisitions strongly suggests that legal records be consulted when the various communities are studied in the future.

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Because this history still needs much study on a consistent range of factors, this historic context will confine its discussion of each individual community to the name of the place, early owners, and dates of establishment (when known). These places exist in various states of decline. They may continue as viable neighborhoods in 2008, as New Zion does. They may retain much less of their built resources. Or, they may be in an advanced state of ruin, even remain only as a historical archaeological site.

Scott County's African American Communities

Zion Hill. The first recorded deeds to lot holders in the developing Levenson/Zion's Hill neighborhood were dated September 1, 1868, when William and Mary E. Payne sold tracts to Willis Wheeler (\$250 for 5 acres 1 rod 11 poles). Marcellus Miller (\$125 for three acres 31 ¼ poles), and Thomas Combs (\$125 for three acres 31 ¼ poles). Zion Hill, like New Zion, is an excellent twenty-first century example of the surviving African American rural community. It still retains approximately thirteen historic houses among a total of twenty-five residences that comprise the village.

Paynes Depot. Paynes Depot developed as a railroad support community with the completion of the Lexington, Frankfort, and Louisville Railroad at the point where the railroad crossed the north-south road to South Elkhorn. A successfully operated locomotive was operating between Lexington and Frankfort by 1835. Workers housing including dwellings for African Americans were built along the railroad and highway right of way. Surviving in the community are a dozen houses of this type and a later country store. One example, which has a stone foundation and its weatherboard covered with vinyl, is reputed to have been a store and post office. A portion of the boyhood home of African American educator Whitney M. Young may survive in the house facing the highway just south of the railroad track. Landowner and farmer Asa Payne sold the lot to Taylor Young, Whitney Young's father, in 1885.

Great Crossings. Shea and McCarty, who owned the Johnson factory property on the west side of North Elkhorn Creek in Great Crossings between 1870 and 1878, sold small lots north of the industrial property to African Americans. The little community has a church that remains active. In 1987 there were seventeen lots remaining in the linear neighborhood strung out along a bank of North Elkhorn Creek. At that time there were seven one-story T-plan houses and three hall-parlor plan dwellings with several later house types, including a bungalow, cape cod, mobile home, and ranch type dwellings. The 2008 count is ten houses in various states of repair that could be classified as historic, two vacant lots, two contemporary ranch type houses, and the two brick faced church buildings.

Sadieville. Extending on the north side of the Sadieville-Connersville Road (KY 32) east of Sadieville's commercial center is a linear row of houses that relate to the Pleasant Point Baptist Church and the Sadieville school that was built 1917-1920 with financing from the Julius Rosenwald Fund. The historic church and the former school building survive. One older house has been replaced with a rectangular modular example.

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Stamping Ground Woodlake Pike Community. Extending south from Stamping Ground along the Woodlake Pike is a linear African American community that had its origin circa 1871 when William McMillin, owner of the woolen mill/distillery and adjacent farmland, sold lots to the "Benevolent Society" and to African Americans Edmond Fox, Granville Smith, Fannie Roy, Jane Troy, Merritt Bradford, Mariah Bradford, and Cubit Bradford.³ Today four older houses remain in the neighborhood, along with the historic cemetery and the First Baptist Church building constructed by a Mennonite group following a series of tornadoes that destroyed much of historic Stamping Ground on April 3, 1974.

Trottertown. On September 14, 1875, Eleanor C. Offutt, in consideration "of the love and kind feeling she bears to the . . . party of the second part, (they having once been her slaves), and for the further consideration of \$400 unless I the said party of the first part should depart this life before the money shall be paid in which event I forgive the debt," transferred title in 20 acres on the Paynes Depot Pike to eight persons. The eight new owners were Mary T. Thomas, Lucy J. Bailey, Sidney Trotter, Caroline O. Trotter, Nancy E. Trotter, Clifton Trotter, Nora G. Trotter, and Virginia Trotter. Trottertown continued to exist as a group of small agricultural tracts well into the 21st century. Today two houses remain in a ruinous state.⁴

McIntyre Settlement. One of the most historically important African American neighborhoods is the community on the Stamping Ground Road relating to Andrew and Susan Lightfoot McIntyre and former vice president Richard M. Johnson and Johnson's grandson, Robert M. Lee. In 1910 the Lees deeded a portion of the farm to Andrew McIntyre. That land abutted farmland already owned by the McIntyres, including the property that Hatley Lightfoot gave in 1882 to daughter Susan; this may have been the same land that D. Franklin Pence sold in 1871 to Lightfoot for \$800. Five properties survive in this attractive linear settlement.⁵

Hummonstown. Hummonstown was created from lots formed from small dog-leg-shaped pieces of land following straightening of the Yarnallton-Donerail Turnpike in 1887. Henry S. and Alice B. Halley owned a farm on the west side of the earlier road configuration and A.J. Collins, on the east side. In July 1888 the Halleys sold small lots to Luther Hummons and Peter Spotts. The little neighborhood grew from these two lots, and in 1894 George and Annie Mountjoy parceled off plots for the Little Flock Baptist Church and a schoolhouse. Only the lots survive today.⁶

Threlkeld's Mill/ Pea Ridge. The name Pea Ridge applies to the general area of Threlkeld's/Reynolds Mill, Blackburn Town, and Watkinville. Isaac Boots, who lived near the creek crossing near the mill owned at successive times by Threlkeld, Thomasson, and Reynolds, bought six acres in 1878 for \$171 from estate farm owner Margaret Featherston. Boots has been frequently quoted as having given Pea Ridge its name because "the land was so poor it would not even grow black peas." He died in 1899, leaving his wife Lucy "the place in which we reside on North Elkhorn."⁷ Today one house survives on Pea Ridge Road and the ruins on another dwelling is located well off the road in an interior setting.

³ Deed Book 11-414, 418; 12-3, 13-427, 204, 425, 427; 16-476.

⁴ D.B. 14-158, 66-425.

⁵ D.B. 4-215, 38-594, 41-89, 93, 96; 31-77, 98.

⁶ D.B. 23-449, 23-469, 23-448, 29-191, 39-112, 36-102, 31-621.

⁷ *Echoes of the Past* (Stamping Ground: Stamping Ground Woman's Club), v 1., p. 95; Will Book T-171; Deed Book 54-233, 26-434, 33-252.

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Watkinsville. Watkinsville was one of Scott County's earliest African American communities, having its origin as early as 1869 when H. Lee Watkins of Franklin County sold lots on Woodlake Pike to Griffin Miller (one acre, \$65) and Fanny Tully, "a woman of color of Texas" (seven acres, \$350). Watkins's sales of lots in the vicinity to African Americans eventually swelled to approximately 35 acres. In 1888 he deeded a right of way of about three acres for a total of \$60 jointly to abutting landowners, "for the purpose of giving to each one every one a full and joint passway to the Stamping Ground turnpike road." By 1879, Watkinsville was one of the more densely populated African American communities.⁸ Today's only survivor is the Watkinsville Baptist Church.

Stonetown. North of Stamping Ground off Locust Fork Pike is Stonetown, a community which derived most of its residential and small farm lots from Kinzea Stone, Georgetown businessman and industrialist who owned and operated Buffalo Springs Distillery in Stamping Ground. Stone bought the 74 acre farm on which Stonetown was developed in 1881 from the heirs of Mildred Scroggins. Among the individuals to whom he sold land at the rate of \$15 an acre were Jack Brown, five acres, 1883; Steve Blackburn, 1881, ten acres; Charles Fenix [or Phoenix], 1884, ten acres; Mary Eliza Bell, wife of Thomas Bell, 1886, eight acres; Jack Brown, 1883, five acres; and John T. Porter, 1890, seven acres.⁹ Stonetown today contains one excellent example of an unaltered very early house, two houses in a ruinous state, all located behind the contemporary community which retains nine vacant lots, three buildings that could be classified as historic, and eight non-contributing buildings.

Black. Near the Scott- Harrison county line on both sides of the Cynthiana Road are two pieces of land that William Innis devised to his former slaves, Dick Innes/Innis and Mary Black. William Innis died in 1850. Mary Black and her family formed a community called "Black" along Black's Lane. The neighborhood had its own social and economic structure, including a school. Mrs. Black died in 1894. William Black purchased a number of parcels on both sides of the Cynthiana Road during the next several years and in 1939 sold Opera and William Happy 19.5 acres. Mrs. Black also left 12 acres and a house on the road leading to Hammond's store to Mrs. Will Mitchell, asking that Gusty Black have a lifetime interest in the house "at or on the property." Black/Happy Lane leads to a rural neighborhood of five-acre-lot properties. Only two houses facing Cynthiana Road survive.¹⁰

Cranetown. Cranetown, a once-thriving African American community, today remains essentially a ghost town. It is nestled well off the Delaplain-Oxford Road. Some of the earliest African American property owners were Al Crane, who purchased four acres in 1881 from Willis and Martha A. Gunnell; John and Edmund Henderson; William Gilkey; John Gilkey; and Joe Mason. Primary estate farm owners were Willis Gunnell and W.N. Atkins.¹¹ Today several picturesque ruins survive on the Cranetown setting.

⁸Deed Books 10-46; 11-257, 258; 13-358, 37-245; *Echoes of the Past*, v. I, p. 111; Beers & Lanagan, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania: Map of Scott County, 1879.

⁹Deed Book 18-295; 19-142; 21-2, 408; 23-39.

¹⁰Will Book L-221, S-434; Deed Book 64-164, L-221.

¹¹Deed Book 20-39; 22-77, 78; 26-308; 33-605.

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Boydton. Boydton, located a short distance to the east of Cranetown on the Oxford-Muddy Ford Road (KY 922), had a Methodist chapel as early as 1869. It relates to the 1875 purchase by African American Wesley Boyd of 17 acres 2 rods from estate farmer William N. Atkins for \$806.25 and two acres from C.J. Ward. In 1877 another area farmer, John H. Barkley, sold Stephen Jones, an African American, twenty acres. During the next two decades the community known as Boydsville grew to contain a number of homes, small farms, a Methodist Church, and a school. In 1921 a new school replaced the 1901 school with financing from the Rosenwald Fund. Boydton's church, though not in use, and the 1921 school building, converted into a residence, survive, along with three other historic era dwellings.¹²

Pleasant Point/Clabber Bottom. A.C. Crumbaugh was the estate farmer who provided lots for sale on southern edge of his farm, along Lemons Mill Road and Crumbaugh Pike. Crumbaugh wrote two deeds for \$420 in 1891 to Reuben Diggs to property "already sold to Diggs and his wife." At that time neighbors were African Americans Philip Jet and Robert Adams. In 1892 Crumbaugh sold another 3.785 acres to Diggs for \$225. In 1925 Sallie and C.E. Alexander and others sold seven acres in the same vicinity to Irene Persley for \$2,000.¹³ New Zion historian Willa Gentry said that the vernacular name "Clabber Bottom" became used because "if you bought milk in the summer at Pleasant Point, it would curdle by the time you got it to New Zion." Today on the Clabber Bottom Road are two historic houses and five of contemporary origin.

New Zion. New Zion is superior among Scott County's African American rural communities that have thrived over the years. Its active Methodist church survives today, but the community once included other institutional enterprises, such as a lodge, school, and several stores.

New Zion's formal founding took place on November 23, 1872, when farm owner Harvey C. Graves sold twenty-three acres of land along North Elkhorn Creek, on the opposite side of Newtown Pike from his 440 acre hemp, grains, and livestock operation, to former slaves Calvin Hamilton and Primus Keene. Hamilton bought the northernmost sixteen acres for \$1,354.68, or \$84.67 an acre. Keene purchased the southern tract of seven acres for \$827, or \$118.14 an acre. The two parcels existing side by side allowed the development of a U-shaped road providing two outlets from the Newtown Pike, which differed from the dead-end road that frequently served regional all-black communities. Hamilton built a two story hall-parlor plan brick house on his land and sold lots to others. Keene provided from his acreage land for the community well, church, lodge, and a two-room school.¹⁴

Historian and New Zion resident Willa Gentry reports oral stories that tell of the community beginning as early as 1868. New Zion was first called "Briar Hill." Some of the earliest property transactions indicate other names— "Zionsville," "Newzionsville"—until New Zion becomes consistently used.

¹² Apple, Johnston, & Bevins (eds.), *Scott County, Kentucky: A History* (Georgetown: Scott County Historical Society, 1993), pp. 220, 245, 370. Deed books 14-377, 14-6, 18-351, 34-540, 29-304, 34-540, 24-263, 24-25.

¹³ Deed Book 27-103, 307; 56-33.

¹⁴ Deed Book 147, 148. Willa Relford Gentry, "Condensed New Zion History" and "Map Guide," *Community, Church, Family: New Zion, Kentucky*, "souvenir publication for New Zion Festivals, August 24, 1996. Luther Figgs, May 10, 1990, recalled Hamilton has being a dark skinned large very tall man and Primus Keene as tall and light skinned. Keene built and lived in a two-story frame house with five rooms.

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With the village taking a biblical name, the local Methodist church (property inventory #22) assumed a great importance in community life. When New Zion's two-year-old meetinghouse burned in 1874, at the time located across the county line in Fayette, the congregation rebuilt on the Scott side of the line, on a creekside lot that stood southeast of the present church. The trustees purchased the church lot in 1875 from Primus Keene for \$160. This second meeting house also burned. The congregation launched a new building campaign that concluded with construction of the third church building between 1922 and 1924. That building remains standing today and occupies one of the largest lots in New Zion.

Other outlets for civic life emerged not long after the second church building was complete. In 1881, Primus Keene sold Union Benevolent Society # 26 a half-acre lot for \$257. Keene reserved a room for his own use in the building. In 1897 he sold the lodge a second lot \$100; it stood at the corner of the present church cemetery.

Early residents could seek work in a number of places. They could find it on nearby farms, such as those owned by the Graves, Nutter, and Garth families. Possibilities existed at nearby grist and flour mills and a local distillery. Some entrepreneurs opened retail stores within the community. At different times in the past, New Zion has had several dry goods stores, a barber shop, a bakery, and a mechanic's garage. Dick Clayborne had a barber shop in the front room of his house, "where he cut your hair as he pleased." Cecil Coleman's mechanic's shop had a hole dug in the ground from which Coleman observed the workings of community automobiles. Mrs. Fred Smith started an ice cream parlor and froze ice cream to sell on Sunday; the store was popularly known as "Mr. Buddy's" or "Buddy's Inn." Willie Weaver Smith had a grocery and dry goods store that Mrs. Sallie Smith continued to operate until the early 1980s; Mr. Smith was called "the mayor of New Zion;" he presided over discussions taking place in his store where residents gathered to share opinions as well as the news of the day. James Adams had a restaurant. Customers to all the various stores came from within and without the community.¹⁵

Schools and education were components of any African American community in Kentucky that aspired to permanence and growth. New Zion's first school sessions were conducted within the Methodist church building. In 1918 the Scott County board of education bought a house and lot (#4, 5012 Newtown Pike), earlier owned by Calvin Hamilton's son Benjamin, for \$828; this became New Zion's first county-owned one-room school. That school served through much of the 1920s. In 1928, after a new school building had been erected, the school board sold this first schoolhouse to George Williams, whose family continues to make it their home today.

¹⁵ John A. Henderson, March 21, 2001; Ida Figgs, June 13, 1989; Luther Figgs, May 11, 1990; Willa Relford Gentry, "Condensed New Zion History," 1996.

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Scott and Fayette Counties, KY

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New Zion's more recent school, a two room building, was built in 1927 with funds provided by the Julius Rosenwald Fund. Three teachers conducted classes—Maggie White, Martha Sandusky, and Francis Beech Dishman. Although it was New Zion's first newly-built school facility, its outdoor rest rooms indicate that the facility was not opulent. This school was abandoned in 1958, once Scott County's schools began integrating racially as a result of local parents filing suit the previous year to allow their children to attend the formerly whites-only school system. Today, the site of the former school is located behind the house at 5100 Newtown Pike (#41).¹⁶

New Zion was not only a place of hard work, but residents also found time for pleasure activities. Luther Figgs, late horseman associated with Dodge Stables, in 1990 recalled enjoying games of baseball on a spot south of the northern loop of New Zion Road, where the sparseness of construction led locals to turn the lots into an occasional playground. New Zion's team competed with teams from other towns identified by Smith as "Negro hamlets."

By 1900 New Zion had a population of 165. Fifty other African Americans lived and worked on nearby farms. In 1990 twenty-five of the forty buildings in New Zion were considered historic; several have fallen or have been demolished since that time.

New Zion's cemetery has accrued additional significance as the location of the graves of Civil War soldiers Will Young and Benjamin Hamilton. Five New Zion residents served in Buffalo Soldier units—among them Zebedee Bolder, Robert French, and Cornelius Wilson. Hamilton, Young, French, Sidney, and Bolder, are buried in the New Zion cemetery, while New Zion's Buffalo Soldiers buried elsewhere include Walter Smith and Cornelius Wilson.¹⁷

¹⁶ Lindsey Apple, Frederick A. Johnston, and Ann Bolton Bevins, *Scott County, Kentucky: A History* (Georgetown: Scott County Historical Society, 1993), 395, 410; Deed Book 47-491, 46-418, 91-132; Ida Figgs, presentation to Scott County Genealogical Society, June 13, 1989..

¹⁷ Deed Book 18-242, 31-214; John A. Henderson, presentation, Georgetown & Scott County Museum Monday at the Museum event, March 21, 2001; Willa Relford Gentry, "Condensed New Zion History," August 24, 1996; Deed Book 14-10.

New Zion Historic District
Name of Property

Scott and Fayette Counties, KY
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property approximately 37 acres

UTM References
(Place additional boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

USGS Topographic Quad name Centerville

1 16 720 310 4228 640
Zone Easting Northing

2 16 720 170 4228 260
Zone Easting Northing

3 16 720 030 4228 020
Zone Easting Northing

4 16 719 940 4228 730
Zone Easting Northing

Verbal Boundary Description (See continuation sheet)

Boundary Justification (See continuation sheet.)

See continuation sheet(s) for Section No. 10

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Ann Bolton Bevins Willa Gentry L. Martin Perry/National Register Coordinator
organization Kentucky Heritage Council date 7/25/08
address 1175 Lexington Rd. 5050 Newtown Pk 300 Washington Street telephone 502-863-0197
city or town Georgetown New Zion Frankfort state KY zip code 40324
email address abbevins@bellsouth.net newzion1872@yahoo.com

Additional Documentation

The National Register requires each nomination consist of the following beyond this 4-page cover form:

- Continuation Sheets for narrative
- A **USGS topographic quad map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location
- A **Sketch map** for historic districts or properties having large acreage or numerous resources
- A **Photo identification map** for districts; one map can serve both as sketch and photo ID map.
- black and white photographs** of the property. See policy statement for acceptable use of digital photographs

The Kentucky Heritage Council requires the following for all nominations:

- An **additional set of black and white photographs** that remains at the KHC
- Floor plans** of properties whose significance is based on their plans
- Color slides or PowerPoint images** and presentation of the property to the Kentucky State Review Board

Property Owner

name/title multiple owners
street & number telephone
city or town state zip code
email address (if available)

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

New Zion Historic District
Scott and Fayette Counties, KY

Section 10 Page 1

Verbal Boundary Description

The proposed boundary of the New Zion Historic District includes properties on the east side of Newtown Pike, from 4972 Newtown Pike through 5100 Newtown Pike, along with the properties along the U-shaped New Zion Road. See the enclosed district map.

Boundary Justification

The area proposed for listing contains the properties that are most recognizable as the African American community known as New Zion, in Scott County, Kentucky. The boundary selected contains the densest concentration of historic resources and collectively present the historic identity of the community. The southern and eastern reach of the boundary extends to the North Branch of the Elkhorn Creek, which was the historic limit of the town. A major north-south road forms the western boundary, which matches the historic western limit, as well. The northern boundary is less well-defined, as more residents who identified themselves with the community lived on properties north beyond the district's northern limit. Thus, density of historic resources determined that northern boundary, even though the community at times in the past extended somewhat further to the north of that proposed boundary.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

New Zion Historic District
Scott and Fayette Counties, KY

Section Photo Identification Page 1

Same information for all Photographs:

Name of Resource: New Zion Historic District

Location: Scott and Fayette Counties, Kentucky

Date of Photograph: Spring, 2008

Photographer: Ann Bolton Bevins

Location of digital media: Kentucky Heritage Council, Frankfort KY

Information specific to particular photographs:

Photo # Subject

1. 110 New Zion Road, camera facing southeast
2. 108-112 New Zion Road, camera facing east southeast
3. 108 New Zion Road, camera facing southeast
4. 114 New Zion Road, camera facing southeast
5. 116 New Zion Road, camera facing southeast
6. 117 New Zion Road, camera facing northwest
7. 128 New Zion Road, camera facing northwest
8. 129, 126, 128, and 130 New Zion Road, camera facing northwest
9. 129 New Zion Road, camera facing southwest
10. 129, 124, 126, and 128 New Zion Road, camera facing west
11. 5002 Newtown Road, camera faces east
12. 5070 Newtown Road (Sc603), camera facing east
13. 5092 Newtown Road Sc605., camera facing east
14. New Zion Cemetery, 120 New Zion Road, camera facing northeast
15. United Methodist Church, 120 New Zion Road, camera facing east

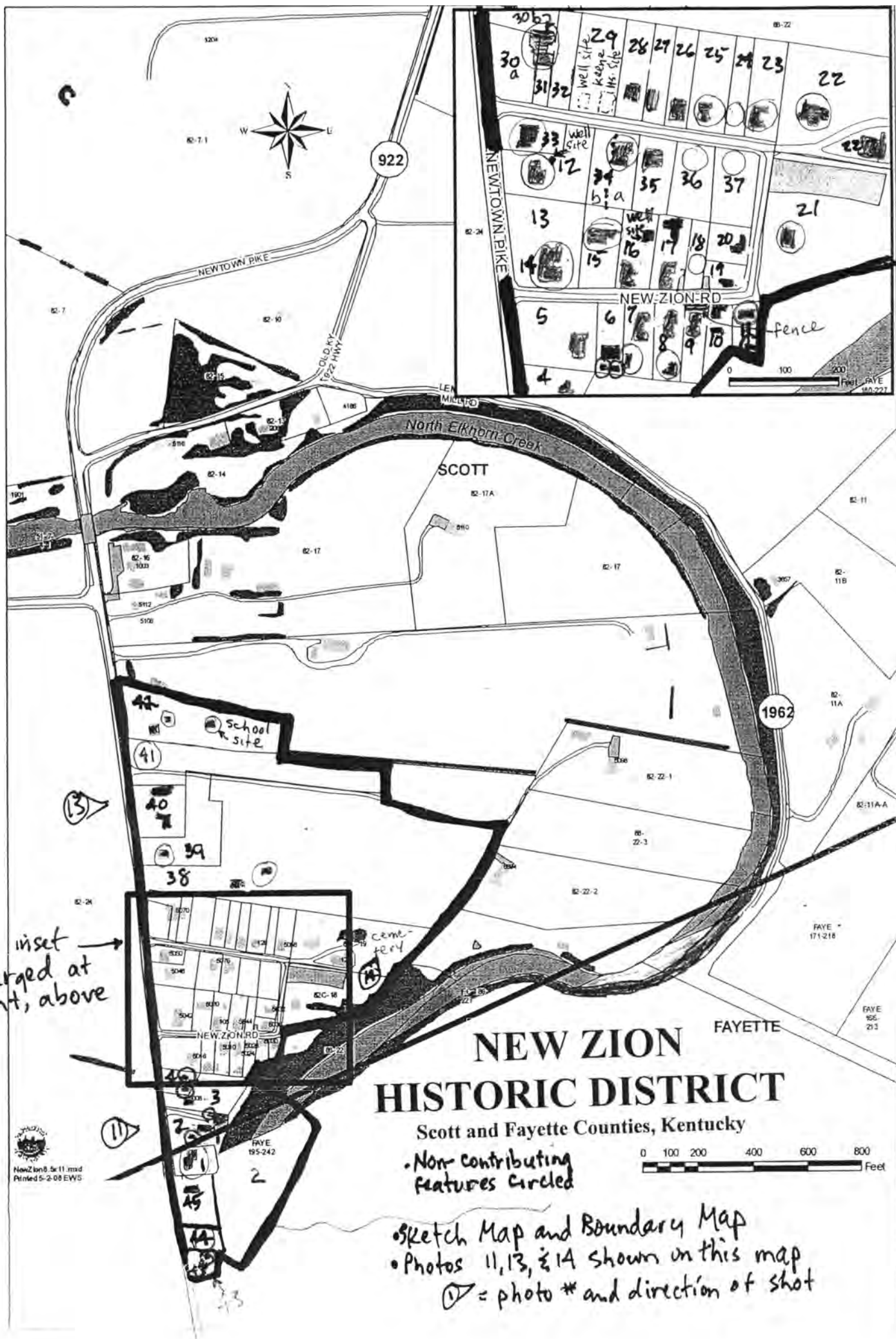
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

New Zion Historic District
Scott and Fayette Counties, KY

Section 9 Page 1

Bibliography

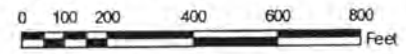
- Apple, Johnston and Ann Bevins, editors
1993 *Scott County, Kentucky: A History*. Georgetown, Kentucky: Scott County Historical Society
- Beers & Lanagan, publisher
1979 *Map of Scott County, Kentucky*. Philadelphia
- Figgs, Ida
1989 Presentation to the Scott County Genealogical Society. June 13.
- Gentry, Willa Relford
1996 Condensed New Zion History and Map Guide. *Community, Church, Family: New Zion, Kentucky*. Souvenir publication for the New Zion Festivals, August 24, 1996
- Scott County Deed and Will books
- Stamping Ground Women's Club, editors
1975 *Echoes of the Past in the Western Part of Scott County*. Stamping Ground, Kentucky
- Smith, Peter Craig
1972 Negro Hamlets and Gentlemen Farms: A Dichotomous Rural Settlement Pattern in Kentucky's Bluegrass Region. Lexington: University of Kentucky, Department of Geography dissertation.
- Smith, Peter C. and Karl Raitz
1964 Negro Hamlets and Agricultural Estates in Kentucky's Inner Bluegrass. *Geographical Review*, vol. 64 (April), pp 218-228.



NEW ZION HISTORIC DISTRICT

Scott and Fayette Counties, Kentucky

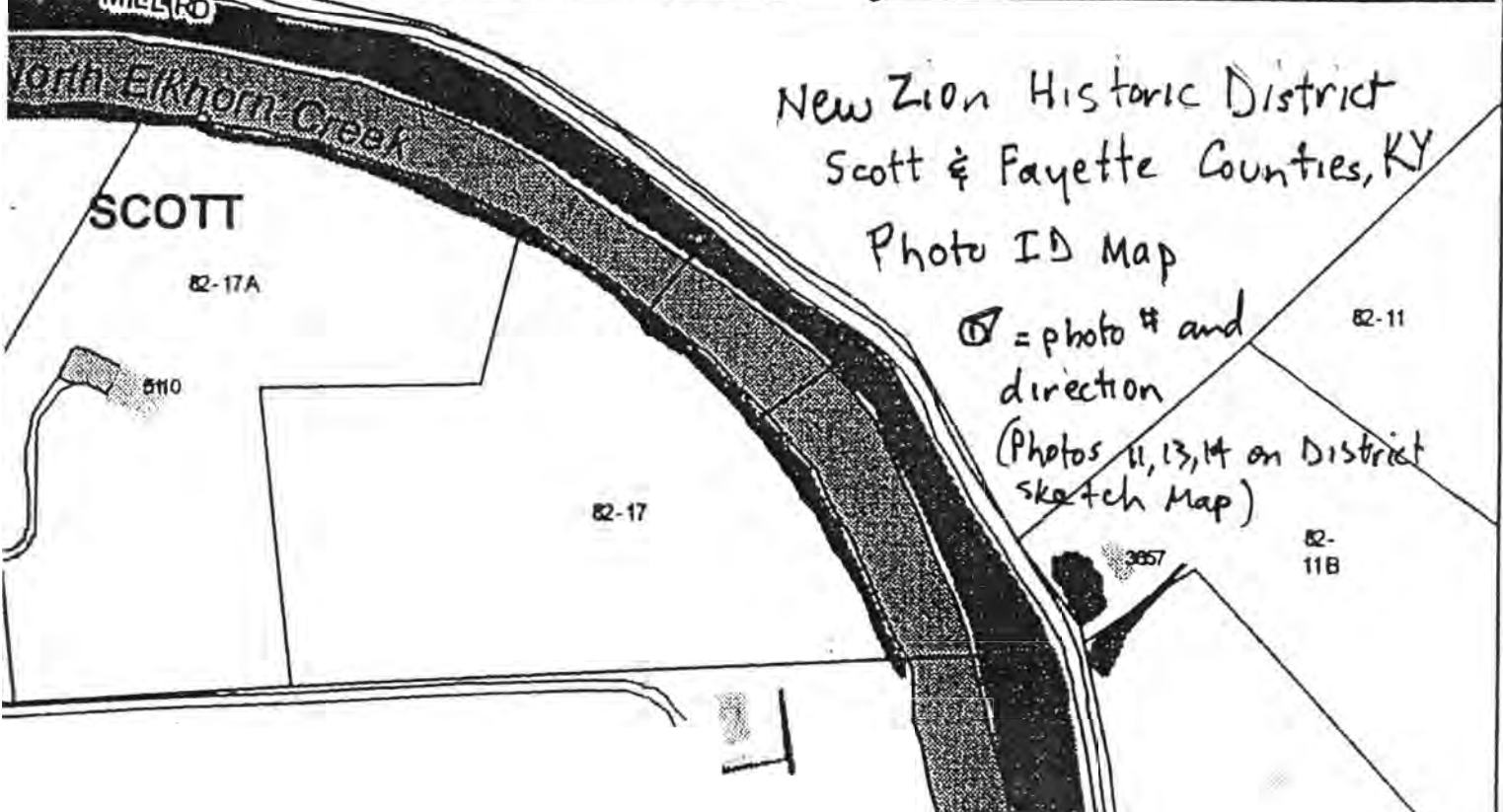
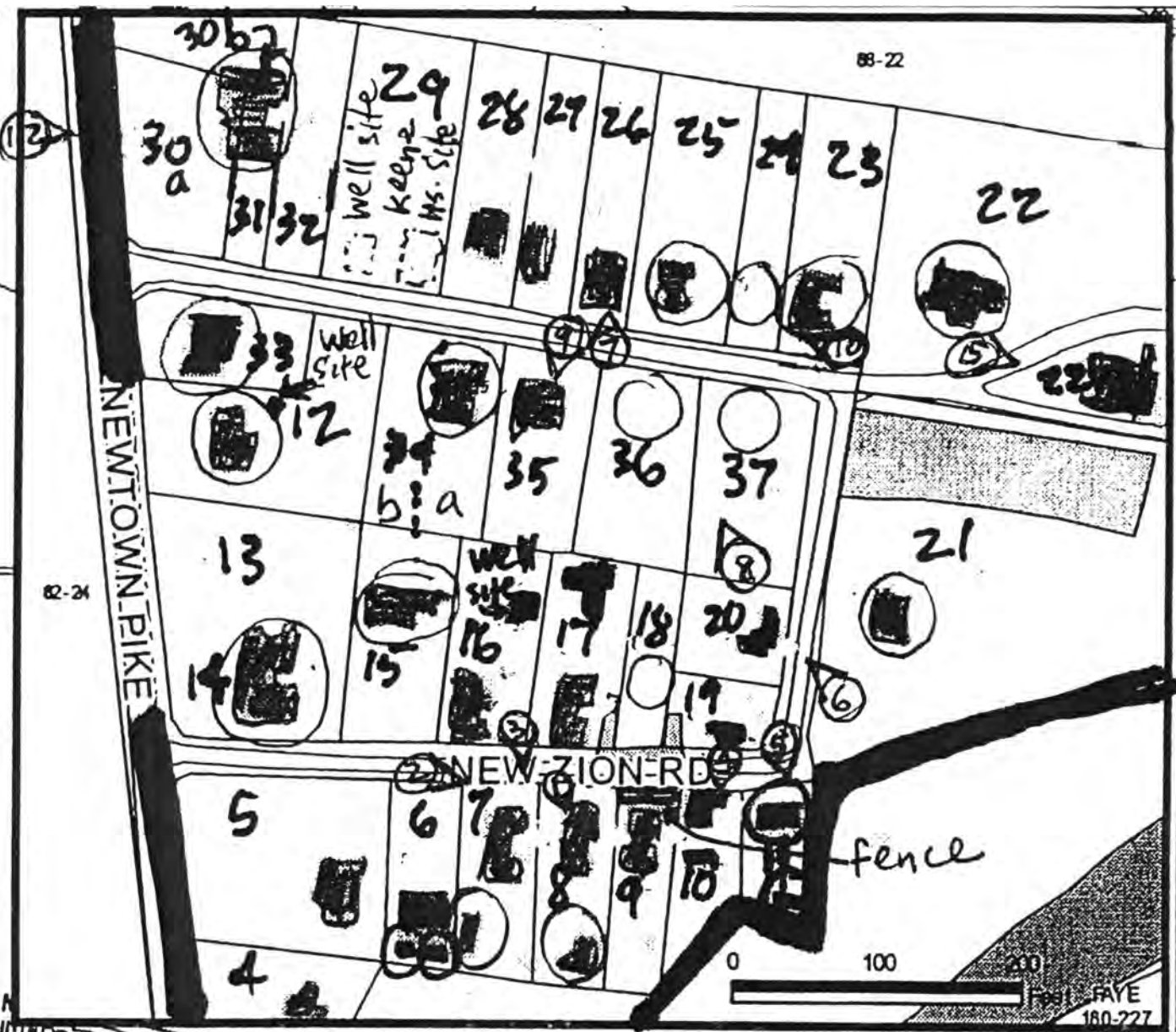
• Non-contributing features circled



• Sketch Map and Boundary Map
 • Photos 11, 13, & 14 shown on this map
 Ⓛ = photo # and direction of shot

inset enlarged at right, above

NewZion8_Sr11.mxd
 Printed 5-2-08 EWS



New Zion Historic District
 Scott & Fayette Counties, KY

Photo ID Map

⊙ = photo # and direction

(Photos 11, 13, 14 on District sketch Map)

SCOTT

82-17A

5110

82-17

82-11

82-11B

3657

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY NAME: New Zion Historic District

MULTIPLE NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: KENTUCKY, Fayette

DATE RECEIVED: 10/24/08 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 11/10/08
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 11/25/08 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 12/07/08
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 08001118

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

APPEAL: N DATA PROBLEM: N LANDSCAPE: N LESS THAN 50 YEARS: N
OTHER: N PDIL: N PERIOD: N PROGRAM UNAPPROVED: N
REQUEST: Y SAMPLE: N SLR DRAFT: N NATIONAL: N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

ACCEPT RETURN REJECT 12/4/08 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

New Zion is an African American settlement representing the post Civil War era reorganization of social norms and organizations in the community. The hamlet served as home for social + commercial activities while the occupants sought economic opportunity as wage earners in the area. The close knit community began to fray, ironically, with the end of segregated schools. Although not noted in the nomination, this district possesses historic archeological potential.

RECOM./CRITERIA Accept Crit A

REVIEWER J. Gilbert DISCIPLINE Historic

TELEPHONE _____ DATE 12/4/2008

DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y/ see attached SLR Y/

If a nomination is returned to the nominating authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the NPS.























NEW ZION

On Nov. 23, 1872, former slaves Calvin Hamilton and Primus Keene purchased 23 acres. They sold plots to other freedmen and formed black community of Belz Hill. It was later named New Zion. Keene sold land for community well school and church. Calvin Hamilton's home survives. Descendants of founders still live in New Zion.

Installed by West Virginia Historical Society





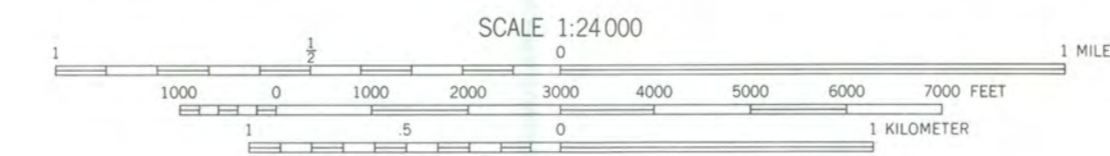
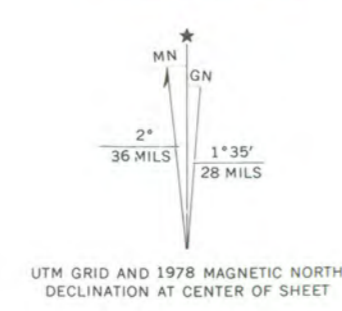




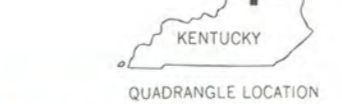
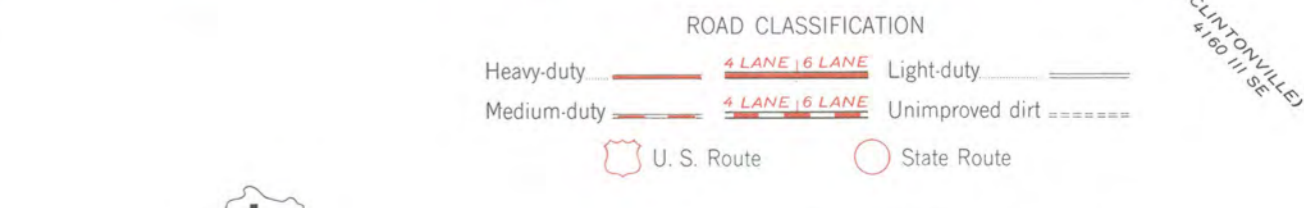
New Zion Historic District
Scott County, KY
Centerville Quad
All points Zone 16
Easting/Northing
① 720 310 / 4228 640
② 720 170 / 4228 260
③ 720 030 / 4228 020
④ 719 940 / 4228 730



Maped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey
Control by USGS and USC&GS
Topography from aerial photographs by stereophotogrammetric methods. Aerial photographs taken 1952. Field check 1954
Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum
10,000-foot grid based on Kentucky coordinate system, north zone
1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks, zone 16, shown in blue
There may be private inholdings within the boundaries of the National or State reservations shown on this map
Revisions shown in purple and woodland compiled from aerial photographs taken 1976 and other source data. Contours adjusted adjacent to certain photorevised hydrographic features.
This information not field checked. Map edited 1978



SCALE 1:24000
CONTOUR INTERVAL 10 FEET
NATIONAL GEODETIC VERTICAL DATUM OF 1929
THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS
FOR SALE BY U. S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, DENVER, COLORADO 80225, OR RESTON, VIRGINIA 22092
KENTUCKY GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, LEXINGTON, KENTUCKY 40506
AND KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, FRANKFORT, KENTUCKY 40601
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST



CENTERVILLE, KY.

N3807.5-W8422.5/7.5
PHOTOINSPECTED 1984
1954
PHOTOREVISED 1978
AMS 4160 III NW-SERIES V855



COMMERCE CABINET
KENTUCKY HERITAGE COUNCIL



Steven L. Beshear
Governor

The State Historic Preservation Office
300 Washington Street
Frankfort, Kentucky 40601
Phone (502) 564-7005
Fax (502) 564-5820
www.kentucky.gov
October 20, 2008

Marcheta Sparrow
Secretary

Jan Snyder Matthews, Ph.D., Keeper
National Park Service 2280
National Register of Historic Places
1201 "I" (Eye) Street, NW 8th Floor
Washington DC 20005

Dear Dr. Matthews:

Enclosed are nominations approved at the August 27, 2008 Review Board meeting. We are submitting these Kentucky properties for listing in the National Register:

- Wurtland Union Church, Greenup County
- Cherokee State Park, Marshall County
- Battle of Mill Spings Historic Areas (Boundary Increase), Pulaski and Wayne Counties
- New Zion Historic District, Scott and Fayette Counties

The following nomination was returned, and have been revised according to comments provided by the National Register staff reviewer. We are resubmitting these Kentucky properties for reconsideration and listing:

- Dr. Edwards House, Garrard County NR ID: 08000650

The following properties are submitted for listing. Their owners previously had objected to their listing, so these properties currently have Determined Eligible status. Included are notarized letters from owners withdrawing any objections to listing:

- Stoddard Johnston Elementary School, Jefferson County NR ID: 82005031
- Creel, Elijah, House (Green County MRA), Green County NR ID: 85003589

We appreciate your consideration of these nominations.

Sincerely,

Mark Dennen, Acting Executive Director
Kentucky Heritage Council and
State Historic Preservation Officer