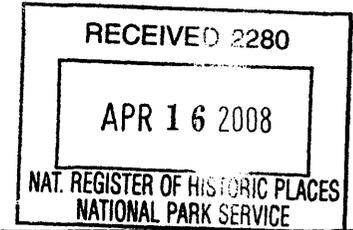


United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service



NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES REGISTRATION FORM

1. Name of Property

historic name Mt. Olive Missionary Baptist Church No. 1
other names/site number N/A

2. Location

street & number 409 Lexington Avenue not for publication N/A
city or town Mobile vicinity N/A
state Alabama code AL county Mobile code 97 zip code 36603

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, 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.)

JR W. White 4/11/08

Signature of certifying official/Title

Date

Alabama Historical Commission (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 commenting or other official

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby certify that this 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): _____

Edward B. Beall 5-29-08

for
Signature of Keeper

Date of Action

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

Category of Property
(Check only one box)

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing	Noncontributing
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u> buildings
_____	_____ sites
_____	_____ structures
_____	_____ objects
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u> Total

Name of related multiple property listing

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

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register:

N/A

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: Religion Sub: Religious facility

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: Religion Sub: Religious facility

7. Description

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)

No Style

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

foundation: Brick piers

roof: Asphalt shingles

walls: Brick

other: _____

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

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.)

- A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B removed from its original location.
- C a birthplace or a 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.

Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions)

Ethnic Heritage: Black
Architecture

Period of Significance 1916 - 1957

Significant Dates 1916; 1952

Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked above) N/A

Cultural Affiliation N/A

Architect/Builder N/A

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

9. Major Bibliographical References

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more 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 # _____

- Primary Location of Additional Data:
- State Historic Preservation Office
 - Other State agency
 - Federal agency
 - Local government
 - University
 - Other
- Name of repository: Mobile Historic Development Commission

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property less than 1 acre

UTM References (Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

	Zone	Easting	Northing	Zone	Easting	Northing
1	<u>16</u>	<u>397640</u>	<u>3396660</u>	4	_____	_____
2	_____	_____	_____	5	_____	_____
3	_____	_____	_____	6	_____	_____

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Shaun Wilson/Preservation Consultant

organization Mobile Historic Development Commission date 10-11-07

street & number P.O. Box 1827 telephone 251-208-7281

city or town Mobile state AL zip code 36633-1827

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets**Maps**

- A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- A sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative black and white photographs of the property.

Additional items (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

name Mt. Olive Missionary Baptist Church No. 1

street & number 409 Lexington Avenue telephone 251-438-3166

city or town Mobile state AL zip code 36603

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 7 Page 1 name of property Mt. Olive Missionary Baptist Church No. 1
county and State Mobile County, AL

7. Narrative Description

The Mt. Olive Missionary Baptist Church No. 1 is located at 409 Lexington Avenue, in the north part of Mobile. The property, located on the west side of Lexington Avenue, is relatively flat with parking lots to either side of the building. The church is a one-story, brick and frame structure that is oriented along an east-west axis. It has an asphalt shingle roof and rests on brick piers that are now hidden behind a continuous brick foundation wall. The front-gabled, wood-framed structure was originally constructed in 1916, but it was altered significantly by the addition of a two-story ell on the north elevation, in 1952. At the same time, the exterior walls of the entire building were sheathed in bricks. In 1962, an educational building was also added; it was attached at the rear of the church.

The east facade features two projecting towers with asphalt-shingled pyramidal roofs. The front face of each tower has a single, individual awning window at the sanctuary level and a slatted rectangular vent below the eave of the tower roof. A brick and concrete staircase, with metal railings, rises from the sidewalk to the entrance. The brick and concrete staircase was added in 1952. A ramp has been added to the south elevation (circa 1990). The entrance is fitted with glass doors. A centered, round window completes the features of the east facade.

The north side elevation features five more evenly-spaced awning window units, which are each comprised of five horizontally-oriented, louvered panes of slag glass. The two-story ell features a raised entrance and awning windows that match those of the main body of the building. The south elevation is similar to the north; however, seven individual awning window units are present, with the rear two set lower and consisting of only four horizontal lights. Along both the north and south side elevations, the individual windows are centered in bays that are framed and defined by brick buttresses. There are now four of these simple brick pilasters on the north side and six along the south elevation, all with sloped concrete water tables on top.

The sanctuary is entered from the vestibule by a set of double doors. A single aisle leads to the dais and central pulpit. The choir seats are slightly elevated behind the pulpit. A gallery is located above and behind the choir. The sanctuary's interior wall finishes are plaster with wood paneled dado, and its ceiling is of beaded board. The floors are carpeted; this carpet was last replaced circa 1980. The church furniture, i.e. pews, choir seats, etc., were also replaced circa 1980. However, the replacement furniture matches the originals in appearance and material. Lighting is original. Side halls at the rear, outboard of the pulpit, lead to adjacent offices, pastor's study, and restroom.

The educational extension is a rectangular, two-story brick structure, which is built on a concrete foundation and attached to the rear of the sanctuary. Its windows closely match those of the original building. The addition now features a rearward sloping shed roof, which is a modification from the original. It is entered by way of the above mentioned side halls. A large meeting hall/classroom is located on the first floor, while a staircase leads to additional classrooms on the second floor. Exits are located on the first floor of the north and south side elevations.

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CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 7 Page 2 name of property Mt. Olive Missionary Baptist Church No. 1
county and State Mobile County, AL

The church retains full integrity of setting and location and a high degree of integrity of design, materials, and workmanship, as the alterations of 1952 are now historic in their own right. The massing, style, and materials of the added educational building at the rear of the church do not detract significantly from the integrity and intactness of the original building.

Archaeological Component

Although no formal archaeological survey has been made of this area, there is potential for subsurface remains. Buried portions may contain significant information that may be useful in interpreting the entire area.

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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

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8. Statement of Significance

The Mt. Olive Missionary Baptist Church No. 1 is significant under Criterion A, in the area of African-American ethnic heritage. The church is not only reflective of the establishment of racially separate institutions in the African-American community that developed in the northwestern section of Mobile during segregation, it is also representative of the physical development and growth of the community as it expanded along Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Avenue. The Mt. Olive Missionary Baptist Church No. 1 is further significant for housing the congregation's contributions to the local community by way of its local missionary department, poor ministry, daycare services, and educational programs.

Furthermore, the church building is significant under National Register Criteria C for its architecture, as it constitutes a good, intact example of the state of African-American church design in the urban South during the early and middle parts of the 20th century. The Mt. Olive Missionary Baptist Church No. 1 displays many features, including offset towers and central entrances, which were common to early African-American rural churches. These design features were often carried over into an urban setting, but were carried out with more elaborate designs and substantial materials. The Mt. Olive Missionary Baptist Church No. 1 is an example of this practice.

Historical Summary

During slavery, African-American religious life was centered, for the most part, around the "invisible institution", which was comprised of the distinctive forms of slave song, dance, prayer, and oratory that developed on the praying grounds, in brush arbors, and in slave houses. However, the first independent, nationally organized African-American church was the African Methodist Episcopal Church, founded in 1816 by Richard Allen and located in Philadelphia. In Mobile, the first African Methodist Episcopal congregation was that of the State Street A.M.E. Zion Church (NR listing 9/6/1978), founded in 1829. This church, which was built circa 1850, is located outside the Avenue community, but would have included residents from the area. The earliest African-American Baptist church in Mobile was Stone Street Baptist Church, founded circa 1843 (NR listing 8/8/1985) and located at 311 Tunstall Street, just off Stone Street/Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Avenue. Baptists estimated that, nationally, nearly 400,000 African-Americans belonged to their churches by 1860 (Merritt 1984, 26).

Following emancipation, most African-Americans not yet affiliated with churches such as the above withdrew from white congregations to found their own churches (Savage 1994, 95). The church was often the first building constructed in the newly-created African-American communities that developed after the Civil War (Merritt 1984, 26). These early post-war churches were most often simple, one-room frame structures of rectangular shape, with gable roofs. Central or offset towers were a common feature, while entrances were usually centered (Merritt 1984, 29). The first churches constructed in the Avenue community follow this pattern.

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Section 9 Page 5 name of property Mt. Olive Missionary Baptist Church No. 1
county and State Mobile County, AL

9. Major Bibliographical References

City Directories, Municipal Archives. Mobile, Alabama.

Merritt, Carol. Historic Black Resources. Historic Preservation Section, Georgia Department of Natural Resources, 1984.

Mt. Olive Missionary Baptist Church No. 1, obtained from the Mt. Olive Missionary Baptist Church Archives; January 13, 2005; manuscript; Mobile, Alabama.

Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps of Mobile, Alabama, Municipal Archives. Mobile, Alabama.

Savage, Beth L., ed. African-American Historic Places. Washington, D.C.: The Preservation Press, 1994.

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		county and State	<u>Mobile County, AL</u>

10. Verbal Boundary Description

The nominated National Register boundaries for the Mt. Olive Missionary Baptist Church No. 1 church are represented by Lot 11 of Wilson's 9th Addition, according to a map of said addition recorded in Deed Book No. 156, page 119, Mobile County records.

Boundary Justification

The nominated property includes the entire parcel, which has been historically associated with Mt. Olive Missionary Baptist Church No. 1 since its construction.

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Photographic Key

Mt. Olive Missionary Baptist Church No. 1
Mobile, Mobile County, Alabama
Shaun Wilson, photographer
February-April 2005
MHDC Negative File- MLK/MPS Rolls 1 and 2

Photo#	Description
1.	Mt. Olive Baptist No. 1, exterior, camera facing northwest (MLK/MPS 1/13)
2.	same, exterior, camera facing northeast (MLK/MPS 1/ 16)
3.	same, exterior, camera facing northwest (MLK/MPS 1/ 15)
4.	same, exterior, camera facing southwest (MLK/MPS 1/ 17)
5.	same, interior, sanctuary, camera facing northeast (MLK/MPS 2/ 14)
6.	same, interior, sanctuary, camera facing west (MLK/MPS 2/ 17)
7.	same, interior, 1 st floor/ addition, camera facing northwest (MLK/MPS 2/ 19)
8.	same, interior, 2 nd floor/ addition, camera facing south (MLK/MPS 2/ 20)