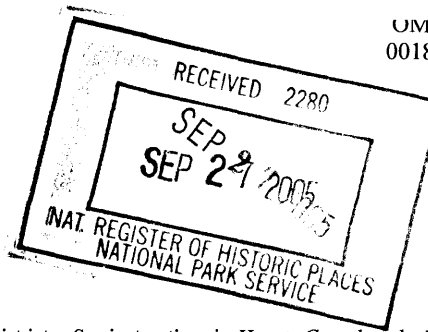


(Oct. 1990)

1221

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Registration Form



This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Christ Temple AME Zion Church

other names/site number Belmont Annex Fellowship Hall

2. Location

street & number 235 East Meeting Street

N/A  not for publication

city or town Dandridge

N/A  vicinity

state Tennessee code TN county Jefferson code 089 zip code 37725

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 for 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.)

Signature of certifying official/Title

Date

Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer, Tennessee Historical Commission

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

Edson H. Beall

11.9.05

Christ Temple AME Zion Church  
Name of Property

Jefferson County, TN  
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 count.)

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

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

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1	0	buildings
_____	_____	sites
_____	_____	structures
_____	_____	objects
1	0	Total

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

Historic Rural African-American Churches in Tennessee, 1860-1970

**Number of Contributing resources previously listed in the National Register**

0

**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions)

RELIGIOUS: church building  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Current Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions)

RELIGIOUS: church building  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**7. Description**

**Architectural Classification**

(Enter categories from instructions)

Vernacular: Gable-front  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Materials**

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Brick  
walls Weatherboard  
\_\_\_\_\_  
roof Metal  
other Glass; Metal  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Narrative Description**

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

See Attached Sheets.

Christ Temple AME Zion Church  
Name of Property

Jefferson County, TN  
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 the National Register.)

- 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.

**Areas of Significance**

(Enter categories from instructions)

Ethnic Heritage: African American

Social History

**Period of Significance**

1935-1955

**Significant Dates**

1935

**Significant Person**

(Complete if Criterion B is marked)

N/A

**Cultural Affiliation**

N/A

**Architect/Builder**

Unknown

**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** moved from its original location.
- 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**

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

**Previous documentation on file (NPS):** N/A

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register (church)
- 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:  
MTSU Center for Historic Preservation

Christ Temple AME Zion Church  
Name of Property

Jefferson County, TN  
County and State

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**10. Geographical Data**

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**Acreeage of Property** Less Than One Acre Jefferson City, Tenn. 163 SW

**UTM References**

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	<u>17</u>	<u>282918</u>	<u>3988869</u>	3	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
2	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>	4	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>

See continuation sheet

**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.)

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**11. Form Prepared By**

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name/title Carroll Van West  
organization Center for Historic Preservation date April 2, 2005  
street & number Middle Tennessee State University, Box 80 telephone 615-898-2947  
city or town Murfreesboro state TN zip code 37132

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**Additional Documentation**

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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.)

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**Property Owner**

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

name Rev. Josephine Bryson, Pastor, Belmont AME Zion Church (contact person)  
street & number 235 East Meeting Street telephone 828-452-5299  
city or town Dandridge state TN zip code 37725

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**Paperwork Reduction Act Statement:** This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listing. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 *et seq.*)

**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P. O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20303.

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

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 7 Page 1

Christ Temple AME Zion Church  
Jefferson County, TN

**VII. Description**

Christ Temple AME Zion Church is at 235 East Meeting Street, Dandridge (pop 2078), Jefferson County, Tennessee. It is located on a rectangular lot northeast of downtown facing a busy road with a mixture of commercial and residential properties. Moved and rebuilt on this location in 1935, the nominated property is a one-story gable-front weatherboard building that rests on a brick foundation with a shed metal roof rear wing. The gable roof is covered with metal.

The west facade has a recessed central entrance set in an arched opening, flanked by fixed two-pane square windows. There are double five-paneled wooden doors with original hardware. A cast iron railing, installed c. 1970, flanks either side of four concrete steps that lead to the entrance. At the gable point of the facade is a wood ventilation grille. A dedication stone is located in the brick foundation and reads "Christ Temple AME Zion Church 1912."

The south elevation has three symmetrical bays, with two-over-two double-hung sash windows. Positioned between the second and third bay is an exterior brick chimney. Also visible on this elevation is a shed roof rear wing, which contains room for a pastor's office. The rear wing rests on a concrete foundation. The plain wood door dates c. 1990. Between the door and the chimney is a metal cylinder propane gas tank.

The east elevation is comprised of a solid weatherboard wall on both the rear shed wing and the gable end of the church.

The north elevation has three symmetrical bays, with two-over-two double-hung sash windows. An air-conditioner was installed in the lower half of the easternmost bay circa 1980. A wood door at the brick foundation level provides access to the crawlspace underneath the church.

The interior contains a large sanctuary with a raised platform for the pulpit at the east end of the room. On either side of the main entrance are two small rooms, which are entered from the sanctuary by way of five panel wood doors that date to 1935. The south room is a cloakroom; it has not been changed since 1935. The north room is a small restroom with one porcelain toilet. It was renovated circa 1980. The church's interior was renovated circa 1970 with the addition of faux pine paneling and carpeting and the installation of a dropped ceiling. The baseboard and wood trim around doors and windows date to 1935. Present restoration plans call for the removal of the carpet and the paneling, both of which are tacked on. Underneath the carpeting are the building's original wood floors. The wood paneling survives intact underneath the faux pine paneling, as indicated by the interior walls of the cloakroom, which was not covered in the faux pine paneling. The pulpit platform and railing with blank panels and square corner posts are original to 1935 and the pews also date to 1935. At the southeast corner of the interior is a small room that was used as a minister's study and church office.

The church meets the registration requirements for church buildings in the Historic Rural African-American Churches in Tennessee, 1860-1970 MPS. It retains a high degree of integrity in setting, location, association, design, and materials. Although some changes in the materials and workmanship have occurred in the interior spaces, these changes have not overwhelmed the original design, materials, and craftsmanship of the interior. The interior changes of the carpeting and the faux pine paneling are also easily reversible and present restoration plans call for their removal.

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

**National Register of Historic Places**  
Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 2

Christ Temple AME Zion Church  
Jefferson County, TN

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**VIII. Statement of Significance**

Christ Temple AME Zion Church, built in 1935, is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A for its locally significant associations with African American ethnic identity in Dandridge as a key social institution. It meets the registration requirements for Criterion A significance for historic churches in the Historic Rural African American Churches in Tennessee, 1860-1970 MPS.

Background

The congregation initially worshipped in a frame gable-front building on the southwest end of town, adjacent to and immediately behind Bethel Presbyterian Church. The building dated c. 1888, and had been acquired by the local AME Zion congregation from C. C. Miller.<sup>1</sup> The trustees of the church in 1888 were Lea Davis, James Fain, Mack Graham, and Andrew Fain. A leading minister of the church was Rev. G. W. Rose, who in 1912 rededicated the congregation as Christ Temple AME Zion and had a rectangular marble dedication stone with the new church name installed in the foundation of the church. This dedication stone was moved and reinstalled in the foundation in 1935.

In 1935, in order to have additional room for a new New Deal-funded public school at that location (the school still stands, but is now vacant), the Jefferson County Board of Education made two different property acquisitions that eventually impacted all three historic African American congregations in the town. The school board first bought the property of an existing Missionary Baptist Church, at the corner of East Meeting Street and Lake Drive. The school board then on June 3, 1935 exchanged this property with Christ Temple AME Zion for the coveted lot next to Bethel Presbyterian Church. Thus, to provide adequate room for the modern New Deal school (which was segregated white), the county school board displaced an African American Missionary Baptist congregation, moved an AME Zion congregation from close proximity to the square to several blocks north of the square, and isolated Bethel Presbyterian Church to a tiny lot.<sup>2</sup>

The Church after 1935

Best evidence, consisting of a physical examination of the building by Robert Jarnagin of the Dandridge Historic District Commission and by Van West of the MTSU Center for Historic Preservation in 2005, and the recollections of elderly members of the congregation, is that the nominated property probably contains parts of the original church building that were moved to the new building location. These parts include most of the walls (some repair was made); the recessed entrance, and most of the roof (again some repairs were made). The builders also added the shed addition to the east end of the building. The trustees of the church in 1935 were James C. Harris, Frank Allen, Sterial Neal, and Robert Breedlove.<sup>3</sup> Their agreement with the county school board specified that the school board would “remove Church property from the present location to this location [235 East Meeting]” and that the school board agreed “to rebuild and put in first class condition as per plans agreed on by both parties.”<sup>4</sup> This legal language also buttresses the assumption that the nominated property incorporates parts of the original church building of 1888, but that the moved building was “put in first class condition.”

At the approximate time of the moving of the church, Fisk University sociologist Charles S. Johnson, with the support of the Julius Rosenwald Fund, undertook a statistical survey of Tennessee counties. Johnson found that only 7.1 percent of the Jefferson County population was African American, and that number had decreased 10% since the 1920s. There were 471 blacks between the ages of 5 and 17 in the county. Although built at the time that the African American population was decreasing in Jefferson County and being relocated to the margins of Dandridge, the church

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<sup>1</sup> Jefferson County Deed Book 20 (1888), page 298, Jefferson County Courthouse, Dandridge.

<sup>2</sup> Jefferson County Deed Book 78 (1935), pages 199-200, Jefferson County Courthouse, Dandridge.

<sup>3</sup> Memo by Robert Jarnagin to Angie Carrier, Dandridge Town Administrator, March 2, 2005. Copy in Christ Temple AME Zion Church, Jefferson County file, Rural African American Church Survey Files, MTSU Center for Historic Preservation.

<sup>4</sup> Jefferson County Deed Book 78 (1935), page 200, Jefferson County Courthouse, Dandridge.

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

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 8 Page 3

Christ Temple AME Zion Church  
Jefferson County, TN

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survived the turbulent 1930s largely because it was moved. Its separation from Bethel gave the congregation its own space and identity. It also provided the congregation with a large lot that could host several types of community events. Christ Temple AME Zion, thus, enhanced its role in African American religious and social life. The church held homecomings, revivals, and quarterly conferences. It was part of an AME Zion circuit that included the previously nominated Henderson Chapel AME Zion in Rutledge, Grainger County (NR 06/22/2000). In its new location, Christ Temple expanded its religious outreach, establishing a Women's Day program, a Missionary program, and hosting a District program, where members from other congregations in the region would attend a special day of services.<sup>5</sup> It also served social functions, serving as a meeting place for community fund-raisers and picnics. Indeed, the current restoration is aimed at returning the building to its community purpose, providing education programming and providing a venue for other social/cultural events in Dandridge.

By the beginning of the twenty-first century, the congregation had dwindled to five regular members, all women. The church closed regular operations in 2002 and became an annex of Belmont AME Zion Church, on Swannsylvania Road in Jefferson County. Under the direction of Rev. Josephine Bryson, the joint congregation at Belmont is currently planning a restoration of the historic church building, removing its carpeting and faux pine paneling from the 1970s, in order to maintain a community presence in Dandridge, the Jefferson County seat.

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<sup>5</sup> "Christ Temple A.M.E. Zion Church, Dandridge, Tennessee," memo prepared from interviews of elderly church members carried out by Rev. Josephine Bryson, March 2005, Christ Temple AME Zion church file, Rural African American Church Survey Files; Charles S. Johnson, *Statistical Atlas of Southern Counties* (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 1941), 214.

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

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Continuation Sheet

Section number   9   Page   4  

Christ Temple AM E Zion Church  
Jefferson County, TN

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- Bryson, Rev. Josephine. Interview with Carroll Van West at Christ Temple AME Zion Church, February 2005.
- Jarnagin, Robert. "Christ Temple AME Zion Church, Dandridge, TN." Memo to Angie Carrier, Dandridge Town Administrator, March 2, 2005. Rural African American Church Survey Files, MTSU Center for Historic Preservation.
- Jefferson County Deed Books, 20 (1888) and 78 (1935). Jefferson County Courthouse, Dandridge.
- Johnson, Charles S. *Statistical Atlas of Southern Counties*. Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 1941.
- West, Carroll Van, et. al. *Powerful Artifacts: Documenting Rural African-American Churches*. Murfreesboro: MTSU Center for Historic Preservation and National Trust for Historic Preservation, 2000.



United States Department of the Interior  
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Continuation Sheet

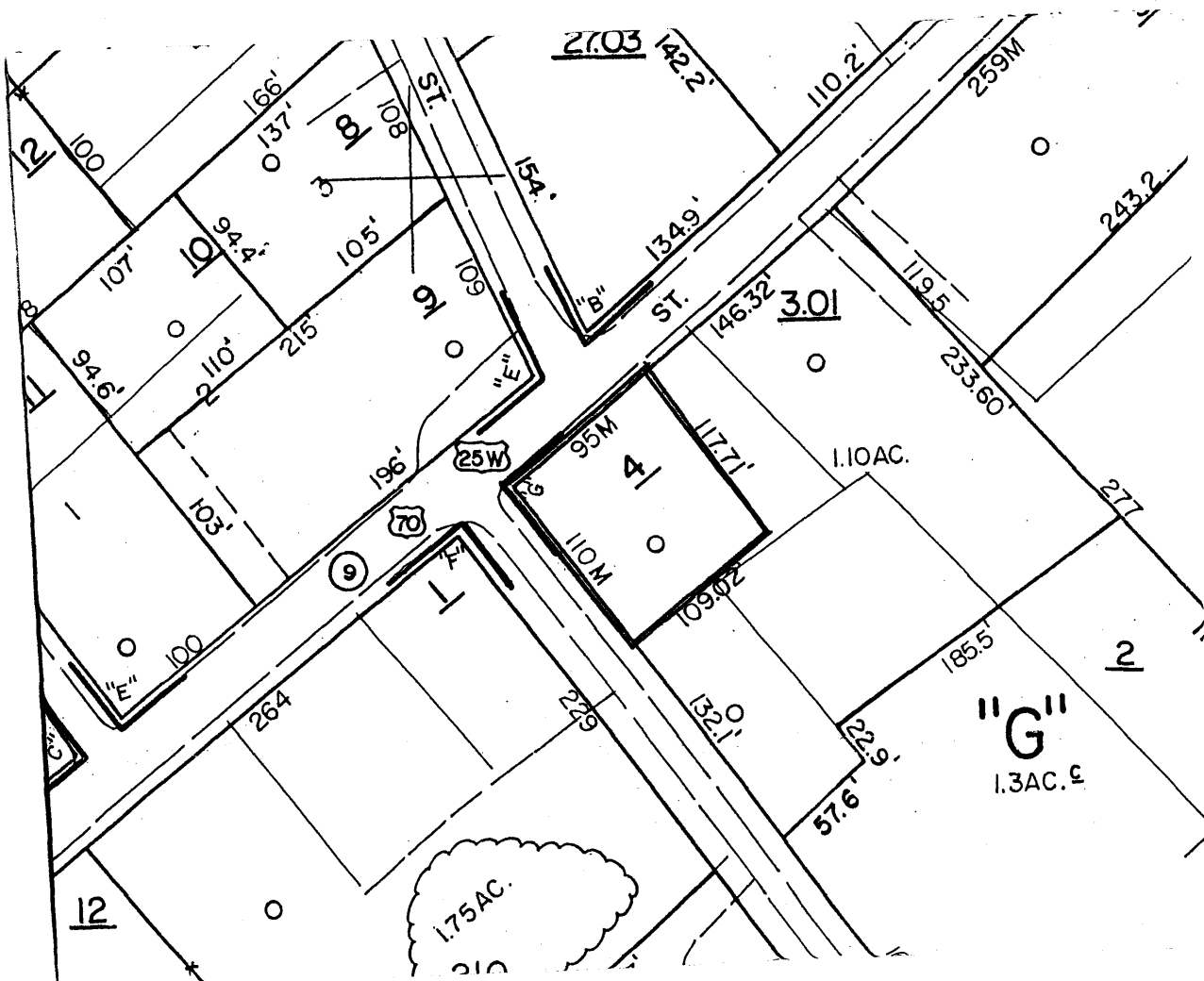
Section number 10 Page 5

Christ Temple AME Zion Church  
Jefferson County, TN

GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

Verbal boundary description and boundary justification:

Christ Temple AME Zion Church is at 235 East Meeting Street in Dandridge, Jefferson County, Tennessee, and is listed as Parcel 4 on Jefferson County Tax Map 68K. The nominated boundaries contain all of the extant historic property associated with the Christ Temple AME Zion Church during its period of significance.



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

**National Register of Historic Places**  
**Continuation Sheet**

Section number PHOTOS Page 6

Christ Temple AME Zion Church  
Jefferson County, TN

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**PHOTOGRAPHS**

Photographs by: Carroll Van West  
Middle Tennessee State University, Center for Historic Preservation  
Murfreesboro, TN 37132

Date: February 2005

Negatives: Tennessee Historical Commission  
2941 Lebanon Road  
Nashville, TN 37243

West facade and south elevation, facing northeast  
1 of 15

West facade, facing east  
2 of 15

Detail of grille, west facade, facing northeast  
3 of 15

South elevation, facing north  
4 of 15

South elevation, facing northwest  
5 of 15

East elevation, facing southwest  
6 of 15

North elevation, facing south  
7 of 15

North elevation and west facade, facing southeast  
8 of 15

Sanctuary, facing east  
9 of 15

Sanctuary, pulpit, facing northeast  
10 of 15

Sanctuary, facing west  
11 of 15

Sanctuary, facing southwest  
12 of 15

Sanctuary, facing north  
13 of 15

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Christ Temple AME Zion Church  
Jefferson County, TN

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Cloakroom, facing north  
14 of 15

Restroom, facing west  
15 of 15