

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

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Section number \_\_\_\_\_ Page \_\_\_\_\_

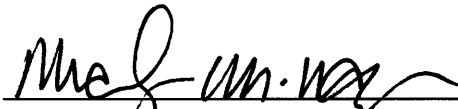
SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING RECORD

NRIS Reference Number: 00000731                      Date Listed: 7/6/00

Mount Zion Missionary Baptist Church    Lincoln            TENNESSEE  
Property Name                                      County            State

Rural African-American Churches in Tennessee MPS  
Multiple Name

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This property is listed in the National Register of Historic Places in accordance with the attached nomination documentation subject to the following exceptions, exclusions, or amendments, notwithstanding the National Park Service certification included in the nomination documentation.

for   
Signature of the Keeper

7/10/00  
Date of Action

=====  
Amended Items in Nomination:

Section No. 8

This nomination is amended to delete Religion as an Area of Significance. Although the church is used for religious purposes and religion was important in African-American life, there is no evidence that this church played an important role in the religious history of the community.

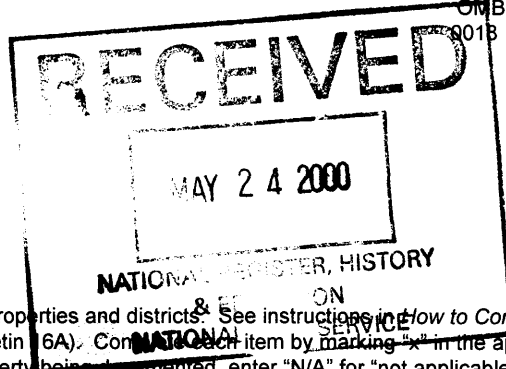
This amendment has been confirmed with the Tennessee SHPO.

**DISTRIBUTION:**

- National Register property file
- Nominating Authority (without nomination attachment)

(Oct. 1990)

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 6A). 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 Mount Zion Missionary Baptist Church

other names/site number N/A

2. Location

street & number 305 West Maple Street

N/A not for publication

city or town Fayetteville

N/A vicinity

state Tennessee code TN county Lincoln code 103 zip code 37334

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.)

Herbert L. Hayes / RST  
Signature of certifying official/Title

5/18/00  
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

Caree O. Skell

7-6-00

Mt. Zion Missionary Baptist Church  
Name of Property

Lincoln 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		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 TN

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

0

**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

RELIGION; religious facility

**Current Functions**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

RELIGION; religious facility

**7. Description**

**Architectural Classification**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

Gothic Revival

**Materials**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation STONE  
walls BRICK; WOOD  
roof ASPHALT  
other GLASS, WOOD

**Narrative Description**

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

See 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.)

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.

**Areas of Significance**

(Enter categories from instructions)

ETHNIC HERITAGE; African-American  
SOCIAL HISTORY  
RELIGION

**Period of Significance**

1902 - 1964

**Significant Dates**

1902-1964

**Significant Person**

(Complete if Criterion B is marked)

N/A

**Cultural Affiliation**

N/A

**Architect/Builder**

Unknown

**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
- 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

Mt. Zion Missionary Baptist Church  
Name of Property

Lincoln County, TN  
County and State

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**10. Geographical Data**

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**Acreeage of Property** less than one acre

**UTM References**

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

Fayetteville, TN, 73 NE

1 16 538820 3889550  
Zone Easting Northing  
2 \_\_\_\_\_

3 \_\_\_\_\_  
Zone Easting Northing  
4 \_\_\_\_\_

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 Teresa Douglass  
organization MTSU Center for Historic Preservation date September 1, 1998  
street & number PO Box 80, MTSU 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 Mt. Zion Missionary Baptist Church (Robert Eady, contact person)  
street & number 305 West Maple Street telephone 615 433-3271  
city or town Fayetteville state TN zip code 37334

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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

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Mt. Zion Missionary Baptist Church  
Lincoln County, Tennessee

## 7. DESCRIPTION

The Mount Zion Missionary Baptist Church is located at 305 West Maple Street in Fayetteville, the seat of Lincoln County, Tennessee. Originally constructed at this location in 1873, the one-story stretcher bond brick building has a cut stone foundation and a steep front gable asphalt shingle roof. The church sustained severe damage after an extensive fire in the late 1890s and was largely rebuilt on its original site in 1902. Portions of the limestone foundation remain from the 1873 building; the majority of the church dates from 1902. The church's vernacular architecture contains strong elements of Late Victorian Gothic Revival style, which influenced vernacular and church architecture throughout the South in the late nineteenth century. The presence of an identified architectural style - in this case Gothic Revival - reflects a pattern found in prominent churches built during the Jim Crow Era and located in county seats, as noted in the Rural African-American Church Project MPN Cover Sheet.

The south facade has a single bay recessed central entrance with a pedimented roof portico, which the congregation added circa 1920. On either side of the portico are concrete flights of steps that lead to the original wood paneled doors, now protected by 1980 storm doors. Above the original wood doors is a Gothic-influenced fanlight, the tip of which is covered by the pediment. A dedication stone marking the 1902 construction of the building lies just east of the entrance. The portico has two square pilasters on the stone wall that encloses the concrete steps. The portico pediment is shingle with plain eaves trim. A rectangular ventilation grill is located in the center of the facade, near the point of the gable roof. A single square tower with a pyramidal asphalt shingle roof with a box cornice is west of the central entrance. The tower has an original six-over-six double-hung sash Gothic-influenced window, with surround and a stone sill. Directly above the window is a ventilation grill with a brick relieving arch. The tower has brick corner buttresses on its three exposed corners.

The east elevation has five bays of six-over-six double-hung sash Gothic windows divided by four brick buttresses and corner brick buttresses, creating a vernacular Gothic Revival effect. A basement door is located in the southeast corner. Three plain basement windows with stone sills are situated under three of the four brick buttresses. A brick end-wall chimney is situated between the two rooflines of the east and north elevation.

The north elevation has a separate low pitched hipped asphalt shingle roof that extends from the upper center of the gable roof section. A ventilation grill is situated in the center of the gable pediment. A flight of stone steps and a handrail wrap around the northeast corner to a rear door entrance with a stone lintel. Two four-paned windows with stone lintels and sills are located in the center of the north elevation, and an air-conditioning unit, circa 1986, sits on the ground below them.

The west elevation has six bays of five six-over-six double-hung sash Gothic windows. Between the last two windows at the northwest corner, four stone steps lead to an original nine-light glass and wood door with a stone lintel and covered by a storm door. Similar to the east elevation, brick buttresses divide the windows, except just north of the elevation's center where an exterior brick chimney buttress is located. South of the chimney are three four-paned basement windows.

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Mt. Zion Missionary Baptist Church  
Lincoln County, Tennessee

At the front entrance is a small vestibule. A set of centrally located double paneled doors along with two single paneled doors to the east and west lead into the large sanctuary. Sets of 1902 wooden pews face north with a center and side aisles between them. Two rows of 1902 pews also face east and west near the pulpit area. Carpeting lies down the aisles and in the pulpit area; the original hardwood floors are exposed beneath the pews. The rear of the sanctuary is raised on an original wood platform, which has been carpeted. The platform contains the choir and pulpit area. At the rear are double paneled wooden doorways, which lead to two more original spaces, the pastor's study and the cloakroom. The basement was largely an under-utilized space (for storage) until it was remodeled in 1986. It currently serves as the church's dining and fellowship area.

The interior of the church was remodeled in 1986 when the congregation installed faux pine paneling over the original plaster walls and hung ceiling tiles from the original ceiling. No significant amount of original material was removed during the remodeling, according to church members. Members spent \$3,800 on the renovations. The work took place in order for the building to achieve more efficient climate control. Six ceiling fans and new overhead lights were also added while carpet was placed over portions of the historic hardwood floors. Left intact were the original spaces of the interior and several historic architectural features: wooden door frames, wooden window frames, the wood platform for the pulpit and the choir, hardwood flooring, and interior wooden doors.

Although interior changes occurred in 1986, Mt. Zion Missionary Baptist Church meets the integrity registration requirements for individual church buildings listed in the Historic Rural African-American Churches in Tennessee, 1850-1970 MPN. The property retains a high degree of integrity in its association, setting, feeling, and location. In fact, a Black Baptist church has stood on this lot since 1873; the present building dates to 1902. The setting of the church building is extant. Located at 305 Maple Street, just two blocks west of the town square, the church lot marks the beginning of the historic African-American community in Fayetteville. Next door is a historic African-American barbershop, another institution marking the line between White and Black Fayetteville in the Jim Crow Era. Behind the church once stood the Rosenwald-funded segregated public school for African-American children in Fayetteville. This building was demolished circa 1960.

The property also retains a high degree of exterior integrity in its design, materials, and workmanship. As a brick and stone church from 1902, the building is a significant example of African-American masonry craftsmanship in Lincoln County from the early Jim Crow Era. The interior also exhibits important details of design, materials, and workmanship such as the wood floors, wood window frames, and wood door frames. The original spaces of the interior are intact except in the basement where a kitchen was built in 1986.

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Mt. Zion Missionary Baptist Church  
Lincoln County, Tennessee

## 8. STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Mount Zion Missionary Baptist Church, located at 305 West Maple Street, Fayetteville, Tennessee, is eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A for its local significance in the ethnic heritage of Fayetteville's African-American community, especially in the areas of religion and social history. Established in 1873, the church continues to play an important role in the cultural identity of its members and the surrounding Black community. The church building is the oldest extant African-American church building in Lincoln County. For its early construction date during the Jim Crow Era and its local exceptional significance in the Civil Rights movement in Lincoln County during the Modern Era, the nominated property meets the registration requirements set forth in the Historic Rural African-American Churches in Tennessee, 1850-1970 MPN Cover Sheet for both periods.

The congregation of Mount Zion Missionary Baptist Church is the second oldest African-American congregation in Fayetteville, Tennessee, and is the oldest Missionary Baptist congregation in the county. Founded by former slaves and their families in 1873, the church was a substantial step in exercising their newly gained hard-won rights. African Americans originally had come to the area primarily as slaves. Located in the Central Basin of Middle Tennessee, a land of rich, fertile soil, the region supported many farms, and with nearby rivers and railroads, local farmers concentrated on large commercial markets. Producing extensive quantities of tobacco, corn, wheat, and livestock, farmers used slave labor significantly. At the eve of the Civil War over one-third of the region's farm households owned slaves.<sup>1</sup>

In the years following emancipation, the region's African-American population worked toward building a new life of freedom and independence. A large part of obtaining this objective was the establishment of their own religious institutions. Establishing a church meant much more to recently freed African Americans than simply having their own place to worship; it was a crucial step in defining their freedom and identity. As historian William E. Montgomery points out "control of their churches was as much a part of being self-reliant as owning their own land and exercising legal and political rights."<sup>2</sup> In an area heavily committed to slavery such as Lincoln County was, building these supportive community organizations took on an especially symbolic meaning. It also took hard work and determination.

The fledgling Mt. Zion congregation raised two hundred and fifty dollars, a substantial sum at the time, to purchase the land on which the structure now stands. Construction must have been difficult as well since the street was then named Mud Street due to its poor condition. The original trustees included Charles Taylor, Jack Williams, and James Rogers, who purchased the lot from D. P. Holman.

The original church building burned in the late 1890s (the exact date is not known) causing extensive damage. It was over five years before the congregation was able to finance the construction of a new

<sup>1</sup> Robert Tracy McKenzie, "Civil War and Socioeconomic Change in the Upper South: The Survival of Local Agricultural Elites in Tennessee, 1850-1870," in *Tennessee History: The Land, the People, and the Culture*, Carroll Van West, ed. (Knoxville: The University of Tennessee Press, 1998), 205.

<sup>2</sup> William E. Montgomery, *Under Their Own Vine and Fig Tree: The African-American Church in the South, 1865-1900*, (Baton Rouge: Louisiana State University Press, 1993), 52.



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Mt. Zion Missionary Baptist Church  
Lincoln County, Tennessee

church. They met instead outdoors throughout this lengthy period, proving their commitment and the importance of the church to their lives. Under the leadership of Reverend D. T. Carroway, efforts were made to raise funds not just from members, but from the entire community. After finally negotiating a contract with a builder, Carroway issued an open letter to the public requesting donations for the rebuilding of the church. "We are struggling to meet necessary (sic) payments," he wrote, "Being poor we . . . appeal to a generous (sic) public to help us . . . The church must be built."<sup>3</sup> The statement invited everyone to attend a day-long church dinner and prayer meeting and asked that they bring fifty cents or a dollar to contribute to the cause.

In 1902, the congregation met its goal and the new church was completed. The congregation's oral tradition affirms that the structure was rebuilt as close to the original version as possible. In 1902 its appearance and stature sent a direct message from the African-American community to the Fayetteville public, and the handsome brick structure retains a commanding presence to this day. Its large size, solid brick walls, and cut stone foundation convey a sense of permanence and authority while its height, intentionally achieved with the tall elevated base, and prominent position in the center of the Black district insures that it will be seen. Erecting this building in an era of growing racism and social injustice, Fayetteville African-Americans were informing the White public that they were an enduring, prosperous, and vital community which demanded respect. Gothic detailing and elements, popular architectural treatments often associated with Christianity in middle-class housing, signified that blacks were equally as Christian as whites and perhaps served as a subtle lesson in morality. As noted in the MPN Cover Sheet, Gothic Revival also was a style popular with small-town congregations in the Jim Crow Era. These messages were reiterated in the 1920s when the congregation added a large front portico and a rear addition.

Mount Zion Missionary Baptist Church continued to be a prominent cultural landmark and involved community center throughout the second half of the twentieth century. In 1964, about seventy-five African Americans, most of whom were not members of Mt. Zion, met at the church and organized the county's first NAACP chapter. As noted in the MPN Cover Sheet for the Modern Era, the creation of local NAACP chapters was a significant development for any Black community during the Civil Rights Movement. Thus, for this church, its period of significance for social history and ethnic heritage extends to this creation of the NAACP in Fayetteville in 1964.

Mt. Zion's association with the NAACP can be directly traced to the thirty-year career of Reverend Simmie Sanders, who served as Mt. Zion's pastor for over thirty years. Beginning his tenure as pastor in 1950, Sanders was a leading figure in the town's race relations and civil rights concerns until 1980. He was instrumental in combining Fayetteville's Black and White ministerial associations into one and he served as the organization's first president. Reverend Sanders also had a major role in establishing the local NAACP chapter that met at the church throughout the 1960s. Reverend Sanders also supported the placement of Fayetteville's Human Resource Agency, which provided aid and welfare to many, at the

<sup>3</sup> Reverend D. T. Carroway, "An Open Letter to the Public," (Fayetteville, TN), c. 1900.

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Mt. Zion Missionary Baptist Church  
Lincoln County, Tennessee

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church. It used the building from 1968 to 1982.

Mount Zion continues to grow and flourish with a strong and dedicated congregation and a supportive surrounding community, celebrating its 120th anniversary in 1993. Born of the effort of a few struggling ex-slaves, the church has continuously played an important role in the lives of Fayetteville African Americans for over one hundred years. Today, the impressive brick tower and walls of Mount Zion Missionary Baptist Church remain a landmark of identity, culture, and community.

United States Department of the Interior  
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# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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Mt. Zion Missionary Baptist Church  
Lincoln County, Tennessee

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## 9. BIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Carroway, D. T. "An Open Letter to the Public." Fayetteville, 1902.

Eady, Charles and Eady, Robert. Interview with Susan Patrick at Mt. Zion Missionary Baptist Church, November 1994.

*Lincoln County Deed Books.* Book H-2, July 1873, p. 362.

McKenzie, Robert Tracy. "Civil War and Socioeconomic Change in the Upper South: The Survival of Local Agricultural Elites in Tennessee, 1850-1870." *Tennessee History: The Land, the People, and the Culture.* Carroll Van West, ed. Knoxville: University of Tennessee Press, 1998.

Montgomery, William E. *Under Their Own Vine and Fig Tree: the African-American Church in the South, 1865-1900.* Baton Rouge: Louisiana State University Press, 1993.

"Mt. Zion Missionary Baptist Church." *The Journal of the Lincoln County Historical Society.* Fall 1986.

*Mt. Zion Missionary Baptist Church.* Unpublished booklet by church members, 1992. Copy in Files, Rural African-American Church Project. MTSU Center for Historic Preservation.

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# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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Mt. Zion Missionary Baptist Church  
Lincoln County, Tennessee

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## 10. GEOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION

### Verbal Boundary Description

The nominated property is at 305 West Maple Street and occupies lot 11 in city block "M" as designated in the attached excerpt from the Lincoln County Tax Map 79 E.

### Boundary Justification

The nominated boundaries include the historic city lot associated with the Mt. Zion Missionary Baptist Church.

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Mt. Zion Missionary Baptist Church  
Lincoln County, Tennessee

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# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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Mt. Zion Missionary Baptist Church  
Lincoln County, Tennessee

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## PHOTOGRAPHS

Mount Zion Missionary Baptist Church  
305 West Maple Street  
Fayetteville, Lincoln Co., TN

Photos by:    Carroll Van West  
                  MTSU Center for Historic Preservation  
                  PO Box 80, MTSU  
                  Murfreesboro, TN 37132

Date:            June 1996

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

Dedication stone, facing north  
1 of 16

South facade, facing north  
2 of 16

South facade and east elevation, facing northwest  
3 of 16

East elevation and north elevation, facing southwest  
4 of 16

North elevation, facing south  
5 of 16

North elevation and west elevation, facing southeast  
6 of 16

Detail of west elevation, facing east  
7 of 16

West elevation and south facade, facing northeast  
8 of 16

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Mt. Zion Missionary Baptist Church  
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Sanctuary, facing west  
9 of 16

Sanctuary, facing east  
10 of 16

Pulpit and choir platform, facing north  
11 of 16

Pulpit, facing north  
12 of 16

Basement, facing north  
13 of 16

Basement, facing north  
14 of 16

Cloakroom, facing northwest  
15 of 16

Pastor's study, facing northeast  
16 of 16