

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

For NPS use only

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

received JUL 11 1985
date entered AUG 8 1985

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic MT. MORIAH BAPTIST CHURCH

and/or common

2. Location

street & number 314 North Main Street not for publication

city, town Middlesboro vicinity of

state Kentucky code county Bell code

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NA in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> NA being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Trustees, Mt. Moriah Baptist Church

street & number 314 North Main Street

city, town Middlesboro vicinity of state Kentucky

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Bell County Courthouse

street & number Pine Street

city, town Pineville state Kentucky

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title KY Historic Resources Inventory has this property been determined eligible? ___ yes no

date 1984 ___ federal state ___ county ___ local

depository for survey records Kentucky Heritage Council

city, town Frankfort state Kentucky

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Mt. Moriah Baptist Church is located on the west side of North Main Street in Middlesboro, Bell County, Kentucky. The building is located one block from the boundary of the Middlesboro Downtown District, which was listed in the National Register of Historic Places on January 10, 1983. The church is located on its original site and has experienced very few changes since its construction in 1921. Other National Register properties in Middlesboro include St. Mary's Episcopal Church, listed November 15, 1984, and the American Association, Limited, Office Building, listed December 29, 1978.

The church is built of brick laid in common bond. It is entered through a low elliptical, faintly romanesque arched opening approached from a wide set of concrete stairs. To either side of the entrance are square towers. The tower to the left is three stories while the one to the right is two stories with the upper story of each being covered in shingles. The roofs of the two towers are of medium pitch as is the roof of the church itself, thereby emphasizing the horizontal lines of the building.

The interior of the sanctuary is divided into three sections and utilizes the original pews and pulpit area details. The original pressed metal ceiling and lighting fixtures remain. The sanctuary is divided into five bays on either side with the second bay containing three stained glass windows. The bays to either side of it contain two windows and the fourth and fifth bays contain one opening each. The original tongue and groove wainscotting is found on all four walls but a modern paneling has been applied on the wall behind the pulpit above the wainscotting.

To the rear of the auditorium is a small education annex which is a part of the original building. Eight Gothic window openings are found across the rear of the education building. The top sashes of all eight have been boarded up. The educational annex is covered with a low-hipped roof. The church sets on a raised basement which has had many of its window openings bricked up over the years. A stone belt course articulates the line between main floor and basement on all four sides.

Although, some of the secondary windows (rear and basement level) have been changed and asphalt shingles have replaced the original roof and the shingles found on the towers, the church retains most of its original plan and architectural details.

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/ humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other (specify) Black History
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

Specific dates 1918 - 1921 **Builder/Architect** Unknown

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Mt. Moriah Baptist Church is significant in the history of Middlesboro and Southeast Kentucky. The church building has played an important role in the history of the black community of Middlesboro and is a visible expression of the important role blacks have played in the settlement and later development of planned communities such as Middlesboro.

Middlesboro is the largest planned community in Southeast Kentucky. Conceived in the 1880s as an iron smelting center, with a projected population of over 100,000, Middlesboro eventually developed into a city with one-fifth the projected population. Its economy was based on coal rather than iron. It has been the most populous city in Southeast Kentucky for eighty years.

Prior to the development of planned iron and coal producing communities in the late 19th and early 20th century, very few blacks lived in East Kentucky, an area where the institution of slavery had rarely been seen. Many counties in the area had no black population in the 19th century. The recruitment of miners by large coal mining concerns resulted in the settlement of large numbers of immigrants and blacks in an area whose population had been almost entirely native American of English and Scotch Irish descent.

Mt. Moriah Church beginnings date from 1891, a few years after the first settlement of Middlesboro, when services were first held in Edmond Watkins' stable on 14th Street. Within the year, a small church was built, a Sunday school was organized and the first choir was organized. Reverend Wade Thompson provided the leadership for the early efforts. In 1898, the church under the leadership of Reverend George Moore was able to purchase the site of the present church. A small structure was built on the site during Reverend Moore's tenure. A long-range project to build the current structure began in the 1910s with the congregation moving into the completed basement in 1918 and into the completed auditorium in 1921.

Since 1921, Mt. Moriah Baptist Church has served as a religious and community center for the black community of Middlesboro.

9. Major Bibliographical References

The Bell County Story, Bell County Centennial Commission, Pineville, 1967.
Harris, Dr. H.B., "History of Mt. Moriah Baptist Church" undated.
Middlesboro Downtown Historic District National Register Nomination.
Tipton, J.C., The Cumberland Coalfield and Its Creators, Middlesboro, 1905.

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property less than one
Quadrangle name Middlesboro-South, KY-VA-Tenn.

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References

A

1	7	2	5	7	3	2	0	4	0	5	4	9	2	0
Zone		Easting						Northing						

B

Zone		Easting						Northing						

C

Zone		Easting						Northing						

D

Zone		Easting						Northing						

E

Zone		Easting						Northing						

F

Zone		Easting						Northing						

G

Zone		Easting						Northing						

H

Zone		Easting						Northing						

Verbal boundary description and justification Lots 7, 8, and 9 in Section 212 of the plat of Middlesboro.

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state code county code

state code county code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Robert M. Polsgrove, Historic Sites Program Manager

organization Kentucky Heritage Council date May, 1985

street & number 12th Fl., Capital Plaza Tower telephone 564-7005

city or town Frankfort state Kentucky

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national state local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

title State Historic Preservation Officer date June 24, 1985

For NPS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

Keeper of the National Register

Entered in the
National Register

date

8/8/85

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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State Historic Preservation Officer signature

David L. Morgan
title State Historic Preservation Officer date June 24, 1985

For NPS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

for [Signature]
Keeper of the National Register

Entered in the
National Register

date

8/8/85

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration