

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES **NATIONAL REGISTER** **REGISTRATION FORM**

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in "Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms" (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

historic name Zion Baptist Church
other names/site number Old Zion Baptist Church

2. Location

street & number 149 Haynes St.
city, town Marietta (N/A) vicinity of
county Cobb code GA 067
state Georgia code GA zip code 30060

(N/A) not for publication

3. Classification

Ownership of Property:

- private
- public-local
- public-state
- public-federal

Category of Property

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

Number of Resources within Property:

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

Contributing resources previously listed in the National Register: 0

Name of related multiple property listing: N/A

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination 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 the National Register criteria. () See continuation sheet.

Elizabeth A. Lyon
Signature of certifying official

5/24/90
Date

Elizabeth A. Lyon
Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer,
Georgia Department of Natural Resources

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

Signature of commenting or other official

Date

State or Federal agency or bureau

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register
- determined eligible for the National Register
- determined not eligible for the National Register
- removed from the National Register
- other, explain:
- see continuation sheet

Amy Federman 7/11/90

Signature, Keeper of the National Register Date

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions:

RELIGION/religious structure

Current Functions:

RELIGION/religious structure

7. Description

Architectural Classification:

LATE VICTORIAN/Gothic

Materials:

foundation	brick and rock
walls	brick
roof	fiberglass shingles
other	N/A

Description of present and historic physical appearance:

The Zion Baptist Church is located in Marietta, Georgia, a block north of the county government complex. It is a red-brick edifice with a central entrance-end bell tower/steeple over the narthex/vestibule.

The pulpit is near the center of the sanctuary with the choir behind. Behind the choir seating is a baptismal pool. There is a very narrow, shed-like addition on the back of the church which houses the choir area and is the rear entry of the church. This was added in approximately 1951.

The church has a longitudinal gable roof. There is a forty foot bell tower at the center of the front facade which is constructed of brick to the roof lines and is wood shingled above. The bell tower was completed in 1897.

The hand-molded brick work is made of an irregular bond but is composed into articulated window bays on the facades. The windows are double-hung windows of hand-poured glass with wood frames. The base of the church is brick with a thin layer of concrete applied which gives a visual solidarity on the base. The roof line is finished with a wood molding and then fiberglass shingles cover the roof. A thin brick chimney penetrates through the roof at the rear of the church between the main building and the narrow addition. This is said to be existing from the earlier wooden church on the site. There are stove heating openings still present on the facades which have been covered over with metal covers. There is a rock foundation with brick on either side of the rock.

The church has Gothic overtones with the use of narrow windows with triangular windows at the top. They vary from one window to another. Brickwork is also used to create a pilaster effect which composes the window bays. Ornament on the bell tower is modest wood shingle

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application with small brackets used at the roof lines. There are small louvered vent areas on two sides of the tower and a weather-vane/lightning rod as a steeple, added in approximately 1951. The main gabled roof cuts through the bell tower which breaks down its tall scale. A small triangular, recessed niche, framed in brick, is also used to give articulation on the tower.

The interior of the church consists of plaster walls and wood plank floors. The ceiling is vaulted with a wood slat finish. The windows are framed in wood with round ornamental elements in the corners of the frames. The pulpit is raised on a wood structure with light molding detail. The choir seating is also raised higher by a wood platform with rail. There is a slightly arched opening with wood trim which articulates the opening for the baptismal pool. A reflective arch is at the entrance into the sanctuary from the entry vestibule. This doorway was added in 1913. The choir was moved to the center of the church at this time from the left corner. The doors, which enter into the back choir room and go to the rear exit from the main sanctuary, are framed to reflect the window shape. Hand-carved pews with circular ornaments are arranged into three main seating areas with two aisles symmetrical with the pulpit. The pulpit furniture is solid wood with gold upholstery. The light fixtures are drop lights from the ceiling.

The church contains brick load-bearing walls on rock and brick foundations and corbeled rubble footings. There is evidence of a fire which caused the original frame church to be covered over with a brick veneer around the wooden structure. The roof is constructed of wood trusses. There is no sign of tie-rod brackets on the exterior of the building, but there are several cracks near the roof line which suggest certain stresses on the rods. The plank floor is supported on wood floor joists.

The existing mechanical system has been out of use since 1979. There are 8" CMU (concrete masonry unit) walls surrounding the furnace pit. It is an old furnace which blew air into the sanctuary from floor grates. As stated earlier, there were stove heaters inside the sanctuary but they were removed around 1929 for the installation of the present furnace. The church was wired for electricity in 1913. The existing electrical light fixtures are still being used.

The church is situated on a corner lot with the sidewalk butting against the building on the north and east sides. There is a parking lot, which the church owns, on the west side of the building, and on the south side, off the church property, there is a small landscaped lot. The church was built originally in a residential neighborhood with houses flanking its west and south sides. The church originally just owned a 40' x 60' lot but this was expanded to include the

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parking lot (not being nominated) which the church added in approximately 1960. Now the church stands alone on the corner within a neighborhood of mixed uses. The residential area is still present on the north side, and the new Zion Baptist Church building is also located on two of these lots across Lemon Street to the west. A high-rise elderly home is across the street on its east side. Also, the Marietta and Cobb County government buildings are two blocks south of the church. This has led to the church being surrounded by parking lots on the west and south sides except for the small lot of green space mentioned above.

There could be some archaeological potential at this site due to the two church buildings which were used until the brick church was finished. However, this has not been investigated.

Changes to the church include the bricking of the entire structure in 1888; addition of the bell tower in 1897; and interior adjustments including creating the vestibule in 1913 and moving the choir to the center of the pulpit area. A rear shed addition containing a rear entrance and a choir area was added around 1951. Restoration is planned which would create a museum room, add restrooms, and more access.

8. Statement of Significance

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

nationally statewide locally

Applicable National Register Criteria:

A B C D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions): N/A

A B C D E F G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions):

ARCHITECTURE
RELIGION
ETHNIC HERITAGE/BLACK

Period of Significance:

1888-1940

Significant Dates:

1888

Significant Person(s):

N/A

Cultural Affiliation:

N/A

Architect(s)/Builder(s):

Unknown

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Significance of property, justification of criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above:

Narrative statement of significance (areas of significance)

The Zion Baptist Church is significant in architecture because it is a good example of a church which began as a wooden structure which was bricked over, nearly a century ago, to create the brick, Gothic-inspired building today. The pointed-arched windows reflect the Gothic style. It is important also as a surviving early brick church structure and because it contains a baptismal pool, a faith-specific feature found only in Baptist churches. The church is significant in religion and black history because it was built within the first two decades after the Civil War as a meeting place for newly-freed blacks who petitioned to leave a white congregation to establish this congregation in 1866. They bricked in an earlier wooden church to create this in 1888 as a permanent meeting house for the black Baptists of Marietta. The church has remained active although a new church building was built in 1978. It is the oldest black Baptist church building in Marietta.

National Register Criteria

The Zion Baptist Church meets National Register Criterion A, "broad patterns of our history", because it was created, and the current building built, within the first two decades after the Civil War and the Emancipation of the church's membership. As the oldest black Baptist congregation in Marietta, it represents the first form of a social institution formed after freedom by the new freedmen and women. The church was a major institution around which the new community could associate and in that capacity has remained such throughout its history.

The church meets National Register Criterion C, "distinctive characteristics of a type, etc.", because it reflects the most basic form of a Baptist church with the built-in baptismal pool, a feature that is faith-specific to this religion. This church contains the basic features for a religious edifice: a vestibule, sanctuary, pulpit, and choir area. These features have been identified with late 19th century urban black churches in Georgia's Historic Black Resources handbook. Its windows reflect the Gothic style with their pointed arches, the only real stylistic architectural feature.

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Criteria Considerations (if applicable)

This property meets National Register Criteria Consideration A "a religious property deriving primary significance from architectural or artistic distinction or historical importance" because it is significant within the community as the oldest surviving black Baptist church building representing the oldest black Baptist congregation within the city of Marietta; and for its architectural significance as an example of a simple, but functional, Baptist church with its built-in baptismal pool, original form of sanctuary, pulpit and choir, and bell tower. Its windows reflect inspiration from the Gothic style due to their pointed arches.

Period of significance (justification, if applicable)

The period runs from the construction of the current, surviving building when the original church was bricked over (1888) to the end of the historic period (1940), since the building continues to be used as a church.

Developmental history/historic context (if applicable)

Zion Baptist Church was established by former black slaves who had previously been worshipping at the First Baptist Church of Marietta with their masters. Throughout the years and into the Civil War days, the black membership grew. By the end of the Civil War, the black members were prepared to break away from the First Baptist Church and create a church of their own, already having a separate meeting facility since 1856. On April 8, 1866, almost a year to the day of the end of the Civil War, letters of dismissal for 88 black members were given and Zion Baptist was established with Brother Ephraim Rucker as their first pastor. On September 3, 1867, six church members signed the deed for the purchase of a 40' x 60' plot of land from Robert Meek of Marietta for seventy dollars. An early "hut" type building was said to have been on the site but was later replaced by a wood church structure. This wooden church, after damage by fire, was eventually bricked over by the church members with a cornerstone date of April 8, 1888, twenty-two years after the original incorporation.

The church membership continued to grow and in the period 1891-1896, the brick walls were completed and a new roof added. On October 1, 1897, the church borrowed forty-eight dollars and seventy-seven cents from Robert Dander to buy a 1600 pound bell for the new bell tower finished earlier. The bell was purchased from an Atlanta iron works company through Deacon Reuben Johnson who worked at the iron works. At the same time, the church bought the pews which are still

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used today. This loan was paid off by August 23, 1899. The baptismal pool and a galvanized roof were installed during the period of 1907-1911. In the 1913-1918 period, the church continued to grow and the first revival was held. Many building projects were undertaken: the vestibule and inside swinging doors were added, the choir loft was moved behind the pulpit and in front of the baptismal pool, the pulpit furniture was bought from the First Baptist Church, the church was wired for electricity, the piano was bought, and the basement was dug for the furnace. The furnace was installed in 1929. During the period of 1942-1953 other building projects were undertaken. The choir room and pastoral study were built on the back of the church (the brick "lean-to" type structure on the back), the pulpit furniture was upholstered, the choir loft was enlarged, the pulpit was moved forward several feet, a church steeple was added, and the church had interior redecoration work done. In 1955, a building fund was established by the church. On August 7, 1960, the new pastor, Reverend R. L. Johnson (still pastor today) was installed. Shortly after this time, Zion Baptist bought the land to the west of the church where residential homes existed. Also, across Lemon Street, they bought two residential lots which were adjacent to the parsonage. At this time, Zion owned a large chunk of the Lemon and Haynes streets area of Marietta. In April of 1975, a new piano, public address system, and carpet were installed in the church along with some redecoration. On March 27, 1977, there was a ground breaking ceremony on the land across Lemon Street for the new Zion Baptist Church, which is not being nominated. The congregation continued to use the old church building for Sunday school until the furnace went out in 1979.

Historic Zion Baptist Church awaits future restoration as a museum and a meeting place.

9. Major Bibliographic References

Higginbotham, Rebecca Fritchley. "Zion Baptist Church." Historic Property Information Form, December 8, 1986. On file at the Historic Preservation Section, Department of Natural Resources, Atlanta, Georgia. This was done as a student project in the College of Architecture at the Georgia Institute of Technology.

Previous documentation on file (NPS): (X) 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:

- (X) State historic preservation office
- () Other State Agency
- () Federal agency
- () Local government
- () University
- () Other, Specify Repository:

Georgia Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned):

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property less than one acre.

UTM References

A) Zone 16 Easting 726640 Northing 3759680

Verbal Boundary Description

The nominated property is the single city lot occupied by the church and is marked on the enclosed site plan as lot number 3.

Boundary Justification

The nominated property is that land which remains associated with the church at this location and is essentially all that has ever been attached to the church exclusive of the modern, adjacent parking lot and adjacent nonhistoric landscaped lot.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Kenneth H. Thomas, Jr., Historian.
organization Historic Preservation Section, Georgia Department of Natural Resources
street & number 205 Butler Street, S.E., Suite 1462
city or town Atlanta **state** Georgia **zip code** 30334
telephone 404-656-2840 **date** April 23, 1990.

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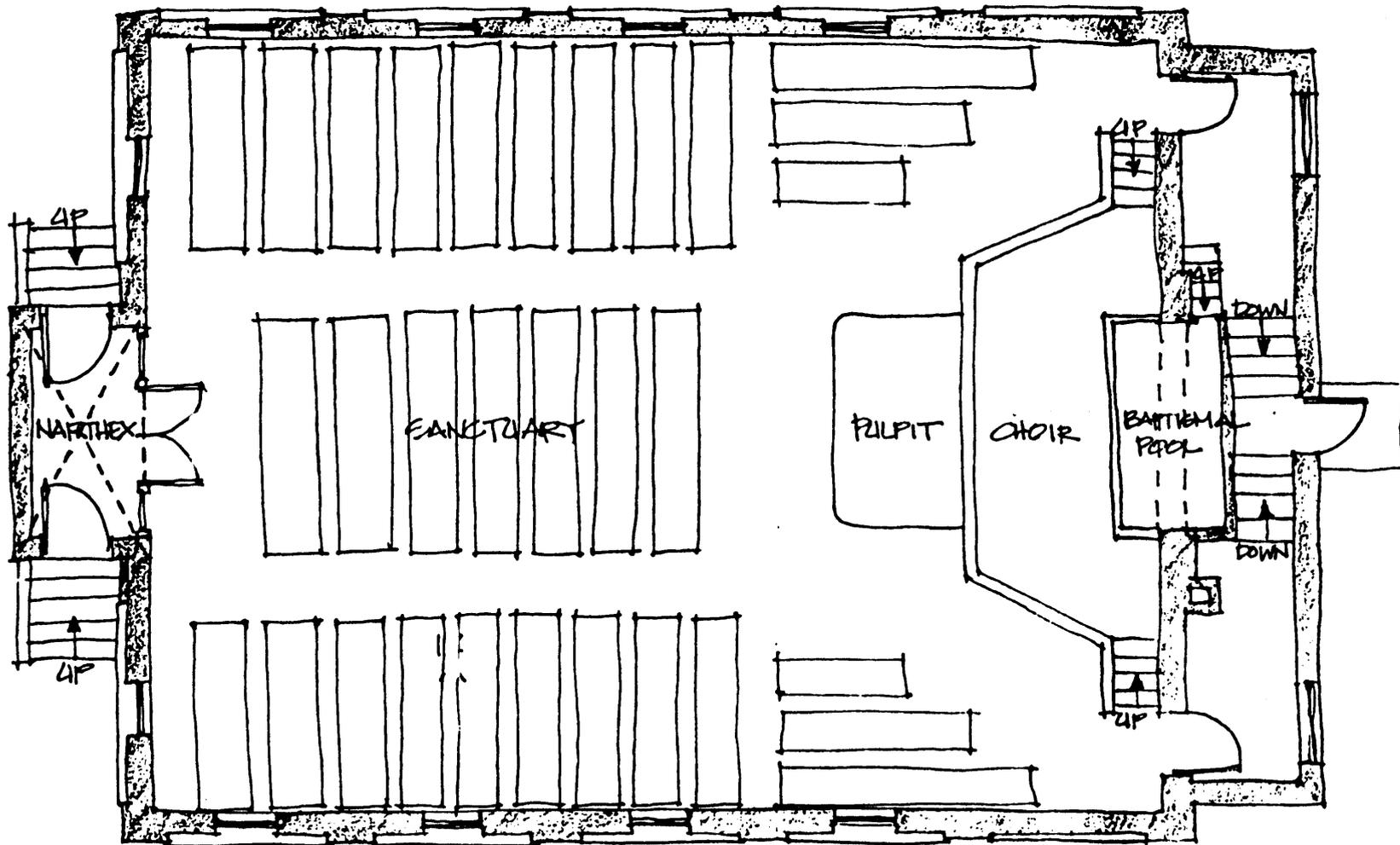
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Photographs

Name of Property: Zion Baptist Church
City or Vicinity: Marietta
County: Cobb
State: Georgia
Photographer: James R. Lockhart
Negative Filed: Georgia Department of Natural Resources
Date Photographed: April, 1990

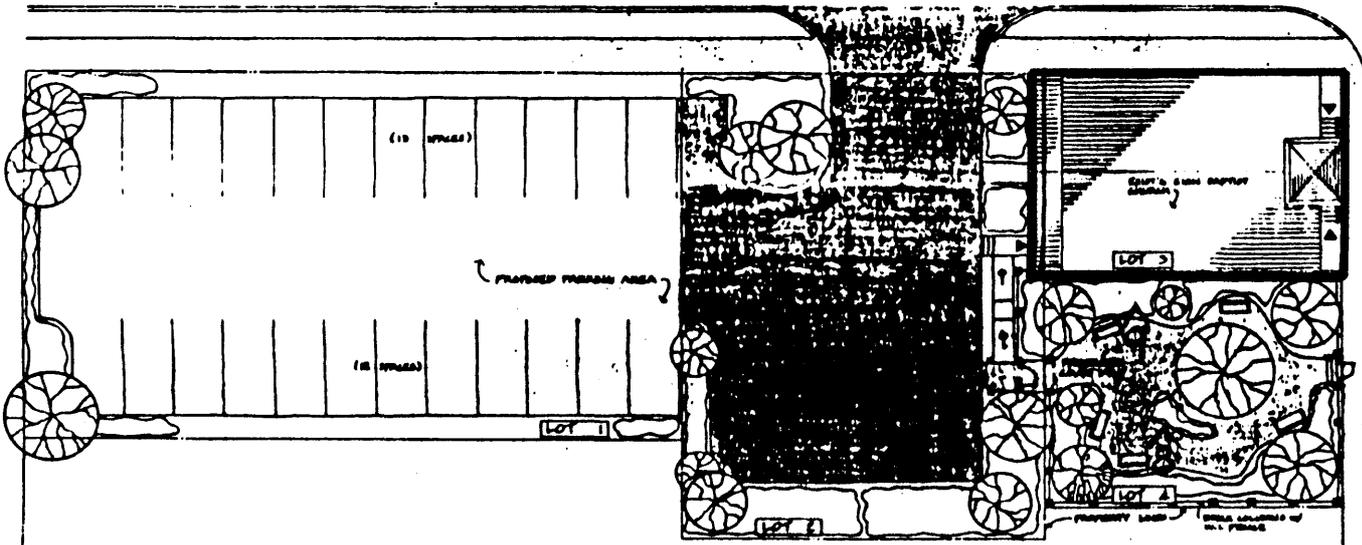
Description of Photograph(s):

- 1 of 7: Zion Baptist Church, East, or Front Facade (Haynes Street). Photographer facing west.
- 2 of 7: South facade and entrance. Photographer facing northwest.
- 3 of 7: North facade and entrance. Photographer facing southwest.
- 4 of 7: Rear facade and rear entrance. Photographer facing northeast.
- 5 of 7: Sanctuary, looking toward entrance and vestibule. Photographer facing southeast.
- 6 of 7: Sanctuary, looking toward altar and baptismal area. Photographer facing west.
- 7 of 7: Sanctuary, baptismal (behind altar). Photographer facing southwest.



Floorplan
 Zion Baptist Church
 Marietta, Cobb County, Georgia
 Scale: not to scale
 Source: unknown
 Date: 1987
 Key: This is the sanctuary floor
 with the different areas marked
 directly on the plan

LEMON ST.



HAYNES ST.

Site Plan/Sketch Plan
 Zion Baptist Church
 Marietta, Cobb County, Georgia
 Scale: 1" = 40'
 Source: Walker, Ashworth, and Associates

Date: c. 1980
 Key: The nominated parcel, lot no. 3, containing just the church itself, measuring 40' by 60', is outlined by a heavy black line in the northeast corner of the property

LOT 3

NOTES
 PLANTING BELONGING TO LOTS 1, 2 & 3
 PROPOSED PLANTING ON LOT 4
 PROPOSED PARKING SPACES - SEE ATTACHED P.L.S.

<table border="1"> <tr> <td>NO. 11</td> <td>DATE</td> <td>BY</td> <td>REVISION</td> </tr> <tr> <td> </td> <td> </td> <td> </td> <td> </td> </tr> </table>										NO. 11	DATE	BY	REVISION					<table border="1"> <tr> <td colspan="2"> ZION BAPTIST CHURCH RENOVATION </td> <td colspan="2"> </td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="2"> CONCEPT </td> <td colspan="2"> 10.5.80 </td> </tr> </table>										ZION BAPTIST CHURCH RENOVATION				CONCEPT		10.5.80		<table border="1"> <tr> <td colspan="2"> WALKER, ASHWORTH & ASSOCIATES, INC. ARCHITECTS & ENGINEERS 1000 N. W. 10th St. MIAMI, FL 33136 </td> <td colspan="2"> SHEET NO. 0 </td> </tr> </table>										WALKER, ASHWORTH & ASSOCIATES, INC. ARCHITECTS & ENGINEERS 1000 N. W. 10th St. MIAMI, FL 33136		SHEET NO. 0	
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