

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED NOV 3 1980

DEC 8 1980

DATE ENTERED

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*  
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

Broadway Temple A.M.E. Zion Church

AND/OR COMMON

**2 LOCATION**

STREET &amp; NUMBER

662 South Thirteenth Street

—NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Louisville

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT  
3 & 4

— VICINITY OF

STATE

Kentucky

CODE

021

COUNTY

Jefferson

CODE

111

**3 CLASSIFICATION****CATEGORY** DISTRICT BUILDING(S) STRUCTURE SITE OBJECT**OWNERSHIP** PUBLIC PRIVATE BOTH**PUBLIC ACQUISITION** IN PROCESS BEING CONSIDERED**STATUS** OCCUPIED UNOCCUPIED WORK IN PROGRESS**ACCESSIBLE** YES: RESTRICTED YES: UNRESTRICTED NO**PRESENT USE** AGRICULTURE COMMERCIAL EDUCATIONAL ENTERTAINMENT GOVERNMENT INDUSTRIAL MILITARY MUSEUM PARK PRIVATE RESIDENCE RELIGIOUS SCIENTIFIC TRANSPORTATION OTHER:**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

Broadway Temple A.M.E. Zion Church

STREET &amp; NUMBER

662 South Thirteenth Street

CITY, TOWN

Louisville

— VICINITY OF

STATE

Kentucky 40203

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Jefferson County (Ky.) Courthouse

STREET &amp; NUMBER

531 West Jefferson Street

CITY, TOWN

Louisville

STATE

Kentucky

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

Kentucky Historic Resources Inventory

DATE

May 1977

 FEDERAL  STATE  COUNTY  LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

Kentucky Heritage Commission

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
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		DATE <u>1915</u> ; 1926

## DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Broadway Temple A.M.E. Zion Church is located on the corner of Broadway and Thirteenth Street in the western section of Louisville's downtown. Many of the historic buildings in this area have been lost in the past two decades to Urban Renewal projects and private commercial development. However, several individual structures of note are nearby, such as the Whiteside Bakery (National Register- April 1979) at Fourteenth and Broadway and Union Station (National Register- August 1975) three blocks away.

A.M.E. Zion is a two-story structure of pressed brick with stone trim, constructed on a raised basement. The basement level and stone trim are painted white in striking contrast to the brick. The main facade on Broadway features a central projecting pavilion topped by a pediment. A pair of Ionic columns supports a large entablature and frames the entry, to which metal frame double doors have been added. Above the entry, a group of three, small stained-glass windows is set in a stone surround. On either side of the entry is a large, round-arch stained-glass window. The windows are capped by arches with stone voussoirs and pronounced keystones. Slightly projecting corner pavilions complete the facade. Fenestration here consists of pairs of small rectangular windows, also in stained glass. From the corner pavilions, the roofline rises to form a gable which echoes the pediment below. A hexagonal cupola with a domed roof crowns the church.

The Thirteenth Street facade features three round-arch windows identical to those of the main facade. A wide stone band extends the length of the building above the basement level. At the roofline, a pronounced cornice runs beneath a low parapet wall. A side entry, sheltered by a bracketed overdoor, has stained-glass double doors.

A two-story addition was made at the rear of the church in 1926. Also constructed in pressed brick on a raised basement, it is joined to the original structure by a three-story tower. Fenestration consists of rectangular windows set in two-story stone surrounds. Like the original building, the roof of the addition is slate.

A pair of tall, unfluted columns with Ionic capitals dominates the sanctuary. They flank the semi-circular chancel which projects toward the congregation. Simple, gilded molding adorns the windows and doors. A circular stained-glass window pierces the stuccoed ceiling. A semi-circular balcony on metal posts has been added to the sanctuary. The balcony cuts several of the round-arch windows in two.

# 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 checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES      1915; 1926                                      BUILDER/ARCHITECT      Samuel Plato/ Samuel Plato

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Broadway Temple A.M.E. Zion Church is a significant work of an important black architect, Samuel Plato.

The A.M.E. Zion congregation was organized in 1876 on Twelfth Street. In 1901, the congregation moved into an existing church at its present location at Thirteenth and Broadway and took the name of Broadway Temple. The present church building was erected in 1915. The contract was awarded to a local black architect, Samuel Plato. The north annex was completed at the rear of the original structure in 1926, at a cost of \$20,000. Its design is probably attributable to Plato also.

A native of Alabama, Samuel Plato began his study of architecture through a correspondence course while he was a student at Simmons University (Municipal College) in Louisville. After beginning his practice in Marion, Indiana about 1910, he returned to Louisville several years later. Among his works in the city are Steward Hall on the Simmons Campus (1924), Green Street Baptist Church (1926), Lampton Street Baptist (now razed), American Mutual Savings Bank and Virginia Avenue School. In addition to his many private designs, Plato was the first black to receive a federal post office contract. Throughout his long career, he designed and built over forty post offices all over the country. He was also one of the few blacks to be awarded a defense housing contract during World War II. One of his major projects under this program was the construction of Camp Taylor in Louisville. Plato was contractor as well as architect for his projects and oversaw every phase of the construction.

Broadway Temple is a significant early work. Its reliance on Neo-Classical Revival motifs presages later works such as Green Street Baptist Church. However, the real interest in A.M.E. Zion lies in Plato's imaginative combination of elements (varied roof forms and window treatments) unencumbered by any one style or convention.

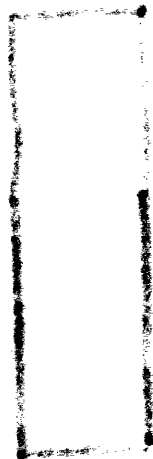


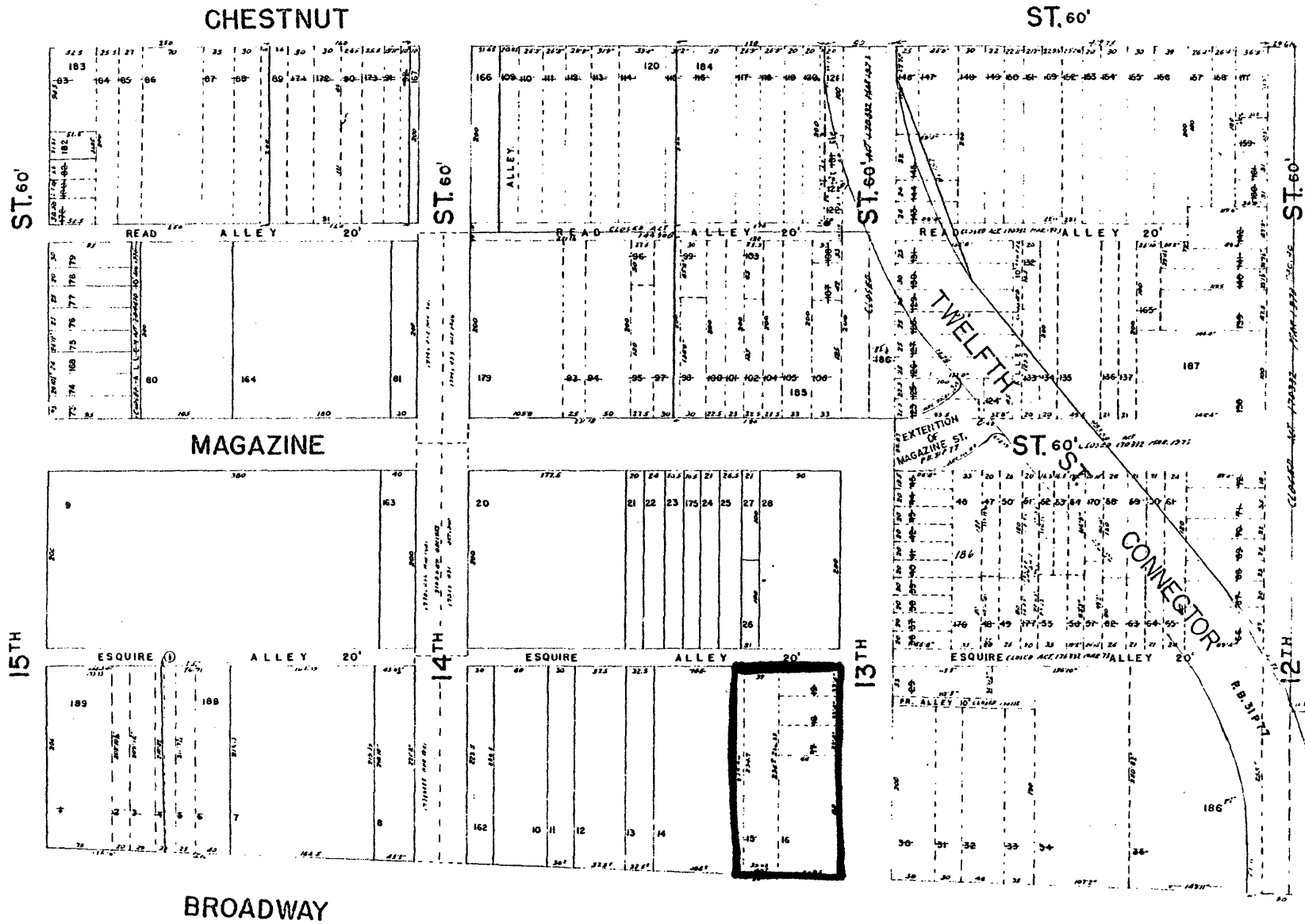


Broadway Temple A.M.E. Zion  
Church  
662 South Thirteenth Street  
Louisville, Jefferson, Kentucky

Sanborn Map Company  
Pelham, New York (1974)  
Map 1. Sanborn Map, vol.1,p.700

DEC 8 1980





NOV 3 1980

BLAND, STEWART COLEMAN & PENN'S SUB. OF 20AC LOT 11 & 12 - 1951.  
JOHN A. MARSHALL'S SUB. OF PART OF 20AC LOT NO. - 1944.

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Broadway Temple A.M.E. Zion  
Church  
662 South Thirteenth Street  
Louisville, Jefferson, Kentucky  
Jefferson County Real Estate  
Atlas (1968)  
Map 2. Real Estate Atlas

