



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 National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. If any 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.

## 1. Name of Property

Historic name Mt. Zion Negro School  
Other names/site number Old Mt. Zion Negro School, Mt. Zion Meeting House  
Name of related multiple property listing N/A

## 2. Location

Street & Number: 30 Mt. Zion Rd  
City or town: Bradford State: TN County: Gibson  
Not For Publication:  N/A Vicinity:  Zip: 38316

## 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 forth 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 at the following level(s) of significance:

national  statewide  local

Applicable National Register Criteria:  A  B  C  D

*Claudia W. Styer* 10/2/17  
Signature of certifying official/Title: Date  
Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer, Tennessee Historical Commission  
State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria.  
Signature of Commenting Official: Date  
Title: State of Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

Mt. Zion Negro School  
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Gibson County, TN  
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**4. 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: \_\_\_\_\_)  
  
 Signature of the Keeper

11-13-2017  
 Date of Action

**5. Classification**

**Ownership of Property**

(Check as many boxes as apply.)

- Private
- Public – Local
- Public – State
- Public – Federal

**Category of Property**

(Check only one box.)

- Building(s)
- District
- Site
- Structure
- Object

**Number of Resources within Property**

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1	0	buildings
1	0	sites
0	0	structures
1	0	objects
3	0	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

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**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions)

Education: School

Social: Community Center

**Current Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions)

VACANT/Not in use

**7. Description**

**Architectural Classification**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Other one-room schoolhouse

**Materials:** (enter categories from instructions.)

Principal exterior materials of the property:

WOOD weatherboard; METAL aluminum

**Narrative Description**

The Mt. Zion Negro School, now known as the Old Mt. Zion Negro School, is located in Bradford, (pop. 1,048) in Gibson County. The school is located on a dead-end road named Mt. Zion, surrounded by farming fields along with the Mt. Zion Community Cemetery and well water hand pump. On a sign to the east of the school reads the origin of Mt. Zion Negro School, how it was built or established approximately c. 1870 by "freed slaves." However, the current building was constructed approximately c. 1915 and was in use until 1962.<sup>1</sup> The building is sited on the north end of the parcel and the nominated property is approximately 1.1 acres. The only entrance into the schoolhouse is on the south elevation of the building, facing the cemetery. The well water hand pump, a contributing object, is located on the east side directly beside the school and the contributing community cemetery is south of the school. After the school closed, the building's ownership was moved from the Gibson County School System to the Mt. Zion Worship Center, which sits to the southeast of the school. The school house closed near the end of segregation and out of several of the rural schools that were used in Gibson County, this one is the last standing rural primary African-American school known.

<sup>1</sup> Culp, Frederick M. *Gibson County Past and Present: The First General History of One of West Tennessee's Pivotal Counties*. (The Gibson County Historical Society, 1961).



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**1. Mt. Zion Negro School (c. 1915 contributing building)**

The building is a one-room, wood-frame construction held up by eleven concrete slabs with a metal gable roof. The first school on this property began in 1870 by those “freed slaves” who had acquired the property from the white men A.P. Foster, T.S. Freeman, and G. B. Rust, who owned the property in 1855.<sup>2</sup> The original building no longer exists; however, according to Dr. Van West, the building in its place has a “notched log foundation” suggesting “the current structure could have been built on an older one.”<sup>3</sup> The schoolhouse only had one teacher at a time, who taught grades starting from 1-4, 1-6, and eventually extended to 1-8.

**EXTERIOR**

The building is a wood frame construction with weatherboard and vertical board exterior walls, set atop eleven concrete supports. The standing seam metal gable roof is painted red and a brick chimney is centered the roof, which was used when the school had a pot-bellied stove as their source of heat during the winter months. The façade (south elevation) contains a single central opening, formerly a wood-and-glass door that is no longer extant. This is the only access way into the school. On both the east and west elevations of the building are three windows, positioned to let light in for schoolwork. All of the six wood windows are four-over one sash, and the past photographs of the school prove the current windows are the original, maintaining the building’s historical appearance (see Photos 2,4). The north (rear) elevation of the building is solid without any windows or openings (see Photo 3).

A photograph in the source: *Gibson County Past and Present* proves to have an entrance porch attached to the doorway at one time (see Figure 1). The students who attended during the late 1930s and 1940s testify the porch may have been removed in the early 1950s. Today, the remaining pieces of wood from the porch are still attached to both sides of the doorway. Trees surround the school building that would have provided shade from the surrounding open farm fields that continue to provide its very rural setting.



**Figure 1. Historic Photo of the Mt. Zion Schoolhouse, the year is unknown.**

**INTERIOR**

<sup>2</sup> 1855 Deed. Provided by Hollis Skinner.

<sup>3</sup> Barry, Amanda & Gallagher, Denise. “Education in Rural West Tennessee: A Study of Three African American Schools” Murfreesboro, MTSU Center for Historic Preservation 2014.

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The interior of Mt. Zion Negro School is the single, open school room. Inside, the schoolhouse has wood plank floorboards that measure 3.5 inches in width, according to Dr. West, and this measurement in particular specifies the construction may have been built during the early twentieth-century.<sup>4</sup> The interior walls are lined by original wood boards, which can be seen under the peeling paint. Located in the far northeast corner, there is a book shelf attached to the wall with books still lying there on its shelves. All the desks have been removed from the building as well as the pot-bellied stove that was once used in the center of the room.

Other than deterioration from its lack of use, the only alterations to the schoolhouse after the period of significance were the replacement of the roof and possibly some of the exterior weatherboards. According to Annetta Smith, the roof was replaced with a metal gable roof during either the late 1980s or early 1990s.<sup>5</sup> A wood shingle or shake roof was probably the original and the replacement metal one may be the reason the schoolhouse is still standing today.<sup>6</sup> An old image found of the school dating approximately in the 1930s or earlier shows the weatherboards and roof to appear similar to how the building looks today.<sup>7</sup> The interior has not been altered, besides the removal of original objects such as the desks and stove and some added storage from the Mt. Zion Worship Center.

### **2. Well Water Hand Pump (c. 1940s, contributing object)**

Located on the east side of the school sits the copper well-water hand pump made by the Deming Company, which originated in 1890.<sup>8</sup> The pump was installed approximately around the early 1940s and served the teacher, students, and other members of the community, but is no longer in current use. Before the pump, a teacher would select a student to be the designated person to go and retrieve water from the Mt. Zion Church (Worship Center).

### **3. Cemetery (c. 1870s-present, contributing site)**

The Mt. Zion Community Cemetery lies on the south end of the property with headstones dating as far back as 1881. Past students, Hollis Skinner and Archie Scates declared that deceased members of the community would be laid to rest in the cemetery during school's session.<sup>9</sup> The cemetery contains a high degree of integrity, with several examples of exceptional design for a rural African-American community. Examples include, a marker for the Ball family from 1919 that has art modern details and a 1931 obelisk for the Gallion family. Still today, there are community members using the cemetery for their passing relatives.

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<sup>4</sup> Barry, Amanda & Gallagher, Denise. "Education in Rural West Tennessee: A Study of Three African American Schools" Murfreesboro, MTSU Center for Historic Preservation 2014.

<sup>5</sup> Smith, Annetta. Interview conducted by Jessica Baker in Trenton, Tennessee, June 13, 2017.

<sup>6</sup> Wood, Inger. 2014. "The Bennett Grove School: Bulloch County's Last One-room African American Schoolhouse." Sociology and Anthropology Faculty Presentations. Presentation <http://digitalcommons.georgiasouthern.edu/soc-anth-facpres/>

<sup>7</sup> Culp, Frederick M. *Gibson County Past and Present: The First General History of One of West Tennessee's Pivotal Counties*. (The Gibson County Historical Society, 1961).

<sup>8</sup> Barry, Amanda & Gallagher, Denise. "Education in Rural West Tennessee: A Study of Three African American Schools" Murfreesboro, MTSU Center for Historic Preservation 2014.

<sup>9</sup> Short, Steve. "Mt. Zion said to be the county's oldest African-American school." Mirror Exchange, April 11, 2017.

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**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.)

**Areas of Significance**  
 (Enter categories from instructions.)

Education

Ethnic Heritage: African-American

Social History/ Jim Crow Era

**Period of Significance**

c. 1915-1962

**Significant Dates**

1915 – approximate date school was built

1962 – Last class

**Significant Person**

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

N/A

**Cultural Affiliation**

N/A

**Architect/Builder**

N/A

- 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** N/A  
 (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 a birthplace or grave.
- D a cemetery.
- E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F a commemorative property.
- G less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years.

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**Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph**

The Mt. Zion Negro School, in Bradford, Gibson County, Tennessee is being nominated to the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A for its association with themes of African-American heritage, education, and social history. The original school was said to have been built around 1870; however, with only pieces of the foundation left, the period of significance will focus on the time the school was built in 1915 and educated African-American children of Bradford, Tennessee during segregation. The period of significance extends to ca. 1962 when the schoolhouse closed. The building has been subjected to some changes and deterioration; however, the building still stands and as a whole maintains its historic integrity. At one time, many one-room school houses for African-Americans were scattered all throughout Gibson County, but now Mt. Zion is the only known surviving one-room elementary school in this county that remains.

**Historical Background**

In the northeast corner of Gibson County sits the town of Bradford, Tennessee approximately only 1.8 square miles in size. This town was located on the Illinois Central Railroad and was strictly an agricultural center. This town's main function was a shipping point for a great variety of truck crops grown in the area, which was later replaced by cotton, corn, and soybeans. The settlement of Bradford became an incorporated town in April 1913, right around the construction of the current standing Mt. Zion Negro School.<sup>10</sup> Before the current school was built in 1915, there was another building used as a school, and a meeting place starting around 1870. This building in 1870 is thought to have been possibly given to freed slaves of the area or abandoned by its previous white owners, A.P. Foster, T.S. Freeman, and G. B. Rust.<sup>11</sup> Within the nominated boundary is the contributing the Community Cemetery and a copper well water hand pump near the school building. The Mt. Zion Community Cemetery was established around the late 1800s along with the original Mt. Zion Church and School, with its earliest grave dating to 1881.<sup>12</sup> The well water hand pump, located directly beside the school was installed for the school during the early 1940s.

The schoolhouse building that still stands today educated African-American students from approximately 1915-1960. The sign next to the building states the school closed in 1962 however, former student Marion Mays testifies that it officially closed in 1960 due to integration. Gibson County owned the school during its time and after the school closed in 1960. It was not until around the early 1970s when the Mt. Zion Worship Center (also known as Mt. Zion CME Church) was given the schoolhouse property from the county.

**Education – Early History of the School**

For African-American residents of the small town of Bradford, there was very limited access to public or private education. In an area of mainly farming fields, the residents of Gibson County typically were farmers or sharecroppers. All family members were needed in the fields including the children. Around the time the school was built in 1915, many children would start out going to school until around the fourth grade, when they were pulled out to help with the crops. Past graduates have mentioned how their older relatives could

<sup>10</sup> Pounds, Ernest R. *An early history of Gibson County, TN and its communities: including its ten incorporated towns and over 60 unincorporated communities*. Jostens Printing 2011.

<sup>11</sup> Barry, Amanda & Gallagher, Denise. "Education in Rural West Tennessee: A Study of Three African American Schools" Murfreesboro, MTSU Center for Historic Preservation 2014.

<sup>12</sup> Cox, Jere R. & Walker, Emily B. "Cemetery Records of Southern Gibson County, Tennessee.

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only attend school until the fourth grade, because it was the only grades offered. The reasoning for only offering grades first-fourth was due to the abundant of children needed at home or in the fields during planting or harvesting seasons.<sup>13</sup> There were also no secondary schools to attend to finish their education, unless they went to Memphis or Jackson. Around the late 1920s, more photographs of Mt. Zion students prove that children were staying in school longer, and the grades offered went up to the sixth grade. Starting in the 1940s, the school finally hosted grades up to the eighth grade. Once students graduated or left Mt. Zion School, most students would finish their education at the Trenton Rosenwald School, also located in Gibson County. Due to the lack of transportation, some students had to stay with relatives to attend classes at Trenton Rosenwald while others may not have had that option and were not able to finish their education.

Students who attended Mt. Zion in the 1940s and 1950s testify how their families were sharecroppers and landowners because farming was the only option they had to really make a living in the Bradford. However, these students were not pulled out of school to help with the crops during school hours and they were able to attend school until they graduated. Even in this rural area in a low-budget school, these students were still able to receive a good education. All the basic subjects were taught to children of all ages in one-room during the same time. The school had only one teacher, who was responsible for instructing approximately thirty students in various grades. Some of the older students had to occasionally help the younger students with their work while the teacher worked with another grade. The teacher would instruct the students in their lessons one-on-one since it was rare to have many students in the same grade. The Mt. Zion students were very dedicated to attend school, walking sometimes ten miles in all kinds of weather to get to class. Marion Mays told how she remembers walking miles, even in the snow, to school not knowing if the teacher would even be there. “Sometimes she wouldn’t be there and we would have to turn around and walk right back home.”<sup>14</sup> Doris Bradford voiced that the teachers were dedicated to see the Mt. Zion students educated and would typically make sure the Gibson County school system sent a substitute teacher in their absence. The teachers sent by the school board were all African-American because “they would not send us any white teachers,” Mays stated. These teachers nonetheless were all well-educated and received their education from at least a two-year college.



**Figure 2. Students attending Mt. Zion Negro School in 1925/1926, Photo Credit: *Tri City Reporter*, 1983.**

<sup>13</sup> Brooker, Russel, Phd. 11 Sep. 2012. “The Education for Black Children in the Jim Crow South.” Copy Editors: Adedapo, Adekola & Kaplan, Fran EDD. <http://abhmuseum.org/education-for-blacks-in-the-jim-crow-south>

<sup>14</sup> Mays, Marion. Interview conducted by Jessica Baker in Trenton, TN, June, 13, 2017.



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Social History: Segregation in  
Gibson County/Rural Jim Crow  
Schools

During the days of the Jim Crow era, rural African-American schools such as Mt. Zion were dispersed throughout the South. Since the only means of transportation was walking for these school children, they would attend the school closest to their community. Former students claimed to have attended Mt. Zion only because the location was the closest one in walking distance. Many African-American children were pulled out of school or only had school a few months out of the year because of the need for the children's help with farming. However, by the 1930s, students were able to stay in school longer because education started to be viewed more as a privilege and parents wanted their children to receive an education just like the white children in town.<sup>15</sup>



**Figure 3. Interior view of Mt. Zion School with teacher Miss B. Delap and her students.**  
Photo Credit: Gibscene, 1953.

Segregation was the most obvious in education during the 1940s. Conditions for African-American students were very different from white school children, even in the same rural area. If there were any funding acquired for schools it went to the white schools leaving African-American students with the white's hand-me-down textbooks.<sup>16</sup> In many of these rural schools, the classes were filled over capacity and some students would even be without their own desk. Schoolhouse conditions were sometimes filthy consisting of broken window panes and sagging floors boards.<sup>17</sup>

As Marion Mays had stated concerning Mt. Zion, county school boards only sent African-American teachers to these schools and those teachers only earned about 60% of a salary given to white teachers.<sup>18</sup> "Poorly paid teachers did not necessarily mean poorly trained," nonetheless, the meager wages for teachers who would deal with the conditions of the rural Jim Crow schools did not appeal to African-American women who had

<sup>15</sup> Irons, Peter (2004). "Jim Crow's Schools" A Union of Professionals. <https://www.aft.org/periodical/american-educator/summer-2004/jim-crows-schools>

<sup>16</sup> Brooker, "The Education for Black Children in the Jim Crow South."

<sup>17</sup> Ibid.

<sup>18</sup> Ibid.

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earned a college degree.<sup>19</sup> Students in multiple grades and only one teacher per school made it difficult for teachers to direct much of their time for each grade. As a result, it was no surprise to find African-American students slower at progressing in their grade level than white students. In the 1950 *Journal of Negro Education*, black educators blamed racial segregation on the inferiority of black schools.<sup>20</sup>

Once students graduated from the 8<sup>th</sup> grade at Mt. Zion, most went on to finish their education at Trenton Rosenwald, the public school for African-American children from grades 1-12. In 1953, the building was modernized in an effort by the local white leaders to “upgrade black public schools in order to delay integration.”<sup>21</sup> This effort succeeded for some time, until the last documented high school class to graduate from Trenton was in 1968, around the end of segregation for Gibson County. The exact date of integration in Gibson County is unknown because local schools were integrating at their own speed. Some schools integrated in 1965, others in the late 1960s early 1970s. Small one-room schoolhouses for elementary grades, like Mt. Zion were closing down around the early 1960s, while larger African-American schools such as Trenton Rosenwald did not shut their doors until almost the 1970s. Between the years 1951 and 1971, Trenton, Milan and Humboldt school districts in the Gibson County Special School District were being sued and under a court order to desegregate their schools.<sup>22</sup> In 1970, the Justice Department initiated action against the school district in the case *U.S. vs. Gibson County Board of Education*.<sup>23</sup> It was sometime soon after when the Gibson County Special School District finally started to see a unitary status.

#### Social History: Mt. Zion Community

Mt. Zion and other African-American communities may have suffered hard times during the Jim Crow era, but there was life outside of their hard times when they would enjoy getting together with their small community for social events. The Mt. Zion property was not only used for school and a cemetery but also for church services at the Mt. Zion Worship Center next door. This location was a central part of the African-American community where the locals gathered together for meetings, fellowships, and a variety of social events. Hollis Skinner, former graduate, testified how they would play softball out near the schoolhouse.<sup>24</sup> Doris Bradford told of all the fun things they would do out at by the schoolhouse, from hotdog roasts and play productions, to cake walks. “We had hard times,” revealed Bradford, “but we didn’t have hard times.”

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<sup>19</sup> Ibid.

<sup>20</sup> Ibid.

<sup>21</sup> West, Dr. Carroll Van, Dr. Antoinette Van Zelm, Leigh Ann Gardner, and Cantrell, Blake. *Historic African American Schools of West Tennessee: A Driving Tour*. N.p.: Dr. Carroll Van West, n.d.  
<http://www.sitemason.com/files/odISDS/WestTNAfricanAmerSchoolsFinal.pdf>

<sup>22</sup> Tennessee Advisory Committee. “School Desegregation in Tennessee 12 Districts Released from Desegregation Orders 17 Districts Remain Under Court Jurisdiction.” Tennessee Advisory Committee to the United States Commission on Civil Rights, April 2008, pages 7-8, 22. <http://www.usccr.gov/pubs/TNDESEGFULL.pdf>

<sup>23</sup> Ibid

<sup>24</sup> Short, Steve. “Mt. Zion said to be the county’s oldest African-American school.” *Mirror Exchange*, April 11, 2017.

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Around the time when segregation was ending and integration was beginning, the Mt. Zion Negro School closed its doors in 1960 and was only used again temporarily in the late 1980s or early 1990s for church services while the current Mt Zion Worship Center was under renovation. According to past students, there were many rural, primary African-American schools in the area; however, they have all been torn down, only the Mt. Zion schoolhouse still remains. This schoolhouse serves as an increasingly rare living monument for African-American education in the Jim Crow era and in this community's history.<sup>25</sup> The existing one-room schoolhouse and these graduates' stories continue to convey the history of what it was like to attend a rural African-American school during segregated times in Gibson County. This last one-room schoolhouse has survived a century and still stands to be as Hollis Skinner says the "oldest school to have educated black students in Gibson County."<sup>26</sup> Dr. West from MTSU proclaimed this building to be a "jewel that needs to be saved."<sup>27</sup>



**Figure 4. Photo of Mt. Zion Negro School students c. 1945 with their teacher Miss M. B. Delapp, Collection of Hollis Skinner**

<sup>25</sup> Granberry, Dorothy. "Origins of an African American School in Haywood County," in *Trial and Triumph: Essays in Tennessee's African American History*. Edited by Carroll Van West. (The Tennessee Historical Society, 2002).

<sup>26</sup> Short, Steve. "Mt. Zion said to be the county's oldest African-American school." *Mirror Exchange*, April 11, 2017.

<sup>27</sup> *Ibid.*

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## 9. Major Bibliographic References

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Photo of Interior view of Mt. Zion School published by Gibscene in 1953.  
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<http://abhmuseum.org/education-for-blacks-in-the-jim-crow-south/>

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Granberry, Dorothy. "Origins of an African-American School in Haywood County," in *Trial and Triumph: Essays in Tennessee's African-American History*. Edited by Carroll Van West. (The Tennessee Historical Society, 2002).

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Previous documentation on file (NPS):		Primary location of additional data:	
preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67 has been requested)			State Historic Preservation Office
previously listed in the National Register			Other State agency
previously determined eligible by the National Register			Federal agency
designated a National Historic Landmark			Local government
recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey #	X		University Middle TN State University
recorded by Historic American Engineering Record #			Other
recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey #		Name of repository:	
Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned):			



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**10. Geographical Data**

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**Acreage of Property** 1.1 acres **USGS Quadrangle** Dyer, 436SW

**Latitude/Longitude Coordinates**

Datum if other than WGS84:  
(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

1. Latitude: 36.094220 Longitude: -88.887680

**Verbal Boundary Description** (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

The nominated property is at 30 Mt. Zion Road in Bradford and is part of Gibson County Parcel: #050 001.00. The Mt. Zion Negro School sits on the North boundary of the one-acre property. The Mt. Zion community cemetery adjoins the school on the south boundary of the property. To the east and southeast past the property boundary lies the Mt. Zion Worship Center, which owns the school, including their parking lot which extends in front of the Worship Center. The area surrounding the school has farm fields to the north, west, and south of the property.

**Boundary Justification**

The nominated boundary encompasses the land on which the historic Mt. Zion Negro School lies along with the community cemetery dating back to the original school period in the 1870s. The property includes all historic property associated with the school.

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**Location Map**

**USGS Quadrangle Dyer, 436 SW**

Latitude: 36.094220

Longitude: -88.887680



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**National Register Boundary Map**  
**Part of Gibson County Parcel #050 001.00**





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**11. Form Prepared By**

Name Jessica Baker

Organization Northwest Tennessee Development District

Street & Number 124 Weldon Drive Date //17

City or Town Martin Telephone 731-587-4213 (228)

E-mail Jessica.baker@nwtd.org State TN Zip Code 38237

**Additional Documentation**

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Maps:** A **USGS map** or equivalent (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to map.
- **Photographs** (refer to Tennessee Historical Commission National Register *Photo Policy* for submittal of digital images and prints)
- **Additional items:** (additional supporting documentation including historic photographs, historic maps, etc. should be included on a Continuation Sheet following the photographic log and sketch maps)

**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 listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C.460 et seq.).  
**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 100 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 Office of Planning and Performance Management. U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.

Mt. Zion Negro School  
Name of Property

Gibson County, TN  
County and State

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**Photo Log**

Name of Property: Mt. Zion Negro School  
City or Vicinity: Bradford,  
County: Gibson County State: Tennessee  
Photographer: Holly Barnett  
Date Photographed: May XX, 2017

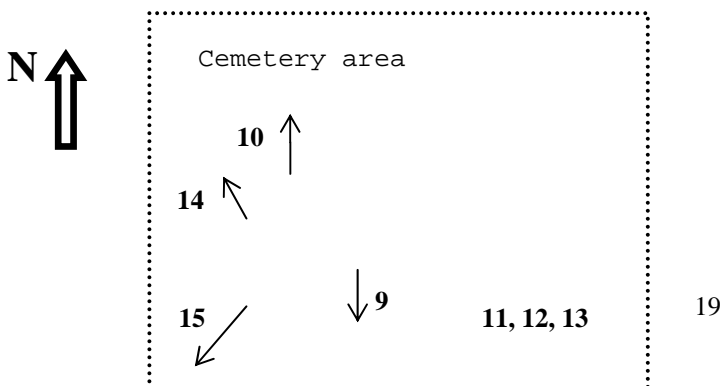
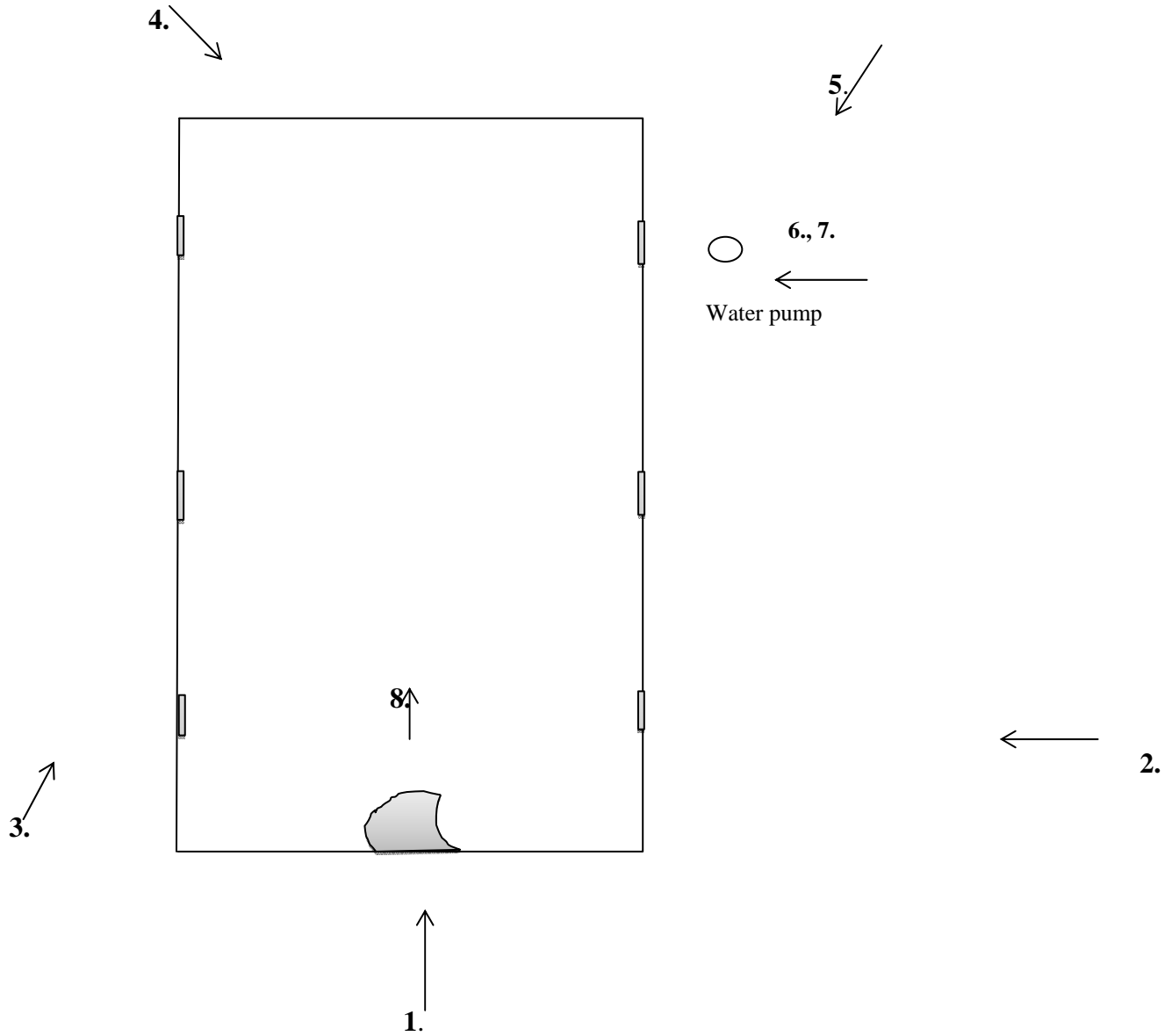
- 1 of 15. Façade or south elevation, of school, photographer facing north
- 2 of 15. East elevation of schoolhouse photographer facing west
- 3 of 15. West Elevation of school, photographer facing east
- 4 of 15. North Elevation of school, photographer facing southeast
- 5 of 15. Northwest Elevation of school and well pump, photographer facing southwest
- 6 of 15. Photograph of well water hand pump on east elevation of the school, photographer facing west
- 7 of 15. Photograph of the manufacture of the well water hand pump
- 8 of 15. Interior view of the schoolhouse at entry
- 9 of 15. North view of Cemetery, photographer facing southwest
- 10 of 15. South view of Cemetery, photographer facing north
- 11 of 15. Grave view, photographer facing south of school/west-side of worship center
- 12 of 15. Grave view, photographer south of school facing west
- 13 of 15. Grave view, photographer south of school, facing west
- 14 of 15. Cemetery view, photographer facing northwest
- 15 of 15. Cemetery view, photographer facing southwest



Mt. Zion Negro School  
Name of Property

Gibson County, TN  
County and State

Site and Floor Plan ((Not to Scale.))









THE OLD MIZION  
NEGRO SCHOOL  
BUILT 1870 BY FREED SLAVES  
LAST CLASS GRAD 1962





















SALEM OHIO U.S.A. AA9786















THOMAS  
GALLION  
BORN  
JULY 6 1870  
DIED  
DEC. 12 1900

Gone but not forgotten

GALLION



BALL

FATHER

MOTHER

BOB

VICK

1812-1895

1851-1919

AT REST



THOMAS S. WILSON  
PART TEE  
THOM  
1855  
DIED  
1890  
IN DEATH





HIGGS  
JAMES HIGGS  
AGE 19 1861 1881

VARDUS HIGGS

SMITH

SCATES

SCATES

SCATES

SCATES





J. W. SOWELL  
DEC 25 1894  
NOV 13 1974

HANDLE

WANG



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Requested Action:

Property Name:

Multiple Name:

State & County:

Date Received: 10/4/2017      Date of Pending List: 10/26/2017      Date of 16th Day: 11/13/2017      Date of 45th Day: 11/20/2017      Date of Weekly List:

Reference number:

Nominator:

Reason For Review:

Accept       Return       Reject      11/13/2017 Date

Abstract/Summary Comments:

Recommendation/ Criteria:

Reviewer Jim Gabbert      Discipline Historian

Telephone (202)354-2275      Date \_\_\_\_\_

DOCUMENTATION:    see attached comments : No    see attached SLR : No

If a nomination is returned to the nomination authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the National Park Service.



**TENNESSEE HISTORICAL COMMISSION**  
STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE  
2941 LEBANON PIKE  
NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE 37243-0442  
OFFICE: (615) 532-1550  
E-mail: [Claudette.Stager@tn.gov](mailto:Claudette.Stager@tn.gov)  
(615) 770-1089



October 2, 2017

J. Paul Loether  
Deputy Keeper and Chief,  
National Park Service  
National Register of Historic Places  
1849 C Street, NW, Mail Stop 7228  
Washington, DC 20240

*National Register Nomination*

- *Mt. Zion Negro School, Gibson County, Tennessee*

The enclosed disks contain the true and correct nomination for listing of the *Mt. Zion Negro School* to the National Register of Historic Places. We received no comments.

If you have any questions or if more information is needed, please contact Holly Barnett at (615) 770-1098 or [Holly.M.Barnett@tn.gov](mailto:Holly.M.Barnett@tn.gov).

Sincerely,

Claudette Stager  
Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer

CS:hb

Enclosures(2)