

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

DATA SHEET

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED NOV 28 1975
DATE ENTERED MAY 13 1976

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

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

1 NAME

HISTORIC

* * Zion Meetinghouse and School

AND/OR COMMON

Zion Baptist Church and School

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

Highway 55--Glen's Fork Road

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Adair County

VICINITY OF Columbia

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

05

STATE

Kentucky

CODE

021

COUNTY

Adair

CODE

001

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

OWNERSHIP

STATUS

PRESENT USE

__DISTRICT

__PUBLIC

__OCCUPIED

__AGRICULTURE

__MUSEUM

X BUILDING(S)

X PRIVATE

X UNOCCUPIED

__COMMERCIAL

__PARK

__STRUCTURE

__BOTH

__WORK IN PROGRESS

__EDUCATIONAL

__PRIVATE RESIDENCE

__SITE

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

ACCESSIBLE

__ENTERTAINMENT

X RELIGIOUS

__OBJECT

__IN PROCESS

X YES: RESTRICTED

__GOVERNMENT

__SCIENTIFIC

X BEING CONSIDERED

__YES: UNRESTRICTED

__INDUSTRIAL

__TRANSPORTATION

__NO

__MILITARY

__OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Members of Zion Church

STREET & NUMBER

Highway 55

CITY, TOWN

Adair County

VICINITY OF

STATE

Kentucky

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Adair County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

500 Public Square

CITY, TOWN

Columbia

STATE

Kentucky

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Survey of Historic Sites in Kentucky

DATE

Church-1972--School-1975 (Supplement)

__FEDERAL X STATE __COUNTY __LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Kentucky Heritage Commission

CITY, TOWN

401 Wapping Street

Frankfort

STATE

Kentucky

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input 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

The Zion Baptist Church and school are located at the intersection of Highway 55 and Glen's Fork Road, three miles southeast of Columbia, the county seat of Adair County, and three miles northwest of Glen's Fork, a small rural community. The church and school are situated on the densely wooded banks of Glen's Fork Creek.

The church, begun before Burbridge's 1837 will, is a brick structure built on a stone foundation. The walls are laid in Flemish bond on the front with queen closers at the ends, and common bonding on the sides. There are stone lintels below and above the doors and windows. The brick is said to have been made and fired on the nearby farm of Edward Willis by James and Thomas Holloday, who also had charge of the construction.

The facade, which faces north, has two entrances, each with a three-light transom. Centered above the door in the gable is a small rectangular window. The church above the roofline was remodeled after a fire in 1877.

Originally the church was heated by four fireplaces and later by stoves. It is probable that the narrow strips of protruding brick on the sides (see photo 2) were the smoke stacks for the original fireplaces.

About a hundred feet to the west of the church is the brick schoolhouse, built in 1865. The schoolhouse is a two-bay, two-story brick structure with a frame addition on the east (entrance) end. The brick is laid in common bond and there are stone lintels above and below the door and windows. An interior chimney (probably for a stove) is located on the northeast side of the brick section.

The frame addition was added at a later date to enclose a stairwell. A window and door are located on the east end. A bell tower rests on top of the frame addition (see photo 3).

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 checked="" 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 checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input 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 Church-1837, rebuilt 1877
 School-1837—7. mo 1864 BUILDER/ARCHITECT James and Thomas Holloday

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Zion Baptist Church was organized in 1802, one year after the formation of Adair County. When first organized the Zion Church was a member of the Green River Association of Baptists, constituted in 1800 during the Great Revival which resulted in the union of the Regular and Separate Baptists forming the United Baptists (see the National Register nomination form for the Providence Church, Clark County). Both the Zion church and school were attended by prominent citizens of Adair County, both institutions, inseparable from the start, playing an important role in the surrounding community. The well-proportioned buildings are utterly plain, but well-built and characteristic of such rural complexes during the mid-19th century. The survival of both church and school in an unspoiled condition and setting is indeed unusual, if not unique.

In 1802 the Zion congregation was organized by Elijah Burbridge and John Waggoner, one of the first pastors. John Mellinger donated one acre of land to the church and a log meetinghouse was constructed near the fork of Russell Creek and Glen's Fork between Columbia, the county seat, and Glen's Fork, a small rural community. After 1831 William Burbridge bequeathed ten additional acres of land to the church and a quarter of his estate for the upkeep of the church. Burbridge was the pastor of Zion Baptist church as early as 1812, and served in that position for more than ten years. In 1830 he was afflicted by an illness that forced him to resign from his duties. At his death in 1837, Burbridge left the following to the church and school:

.. 12th-I do hereby give and bequeath, one fourth or half of the last mention half of my whole estate to the use, benefit and behalf of the United Baptist Church of Zion. It is my desire and intention (if it should please deity to lengthen my life one year or two longer) to finish the meeting house of Zion by plastering, painting, etc. to build a good school house on the one acre of ground on which Zions' stands or on the land immediately adjoining said acre of land. If I shall be able to make any expenditures in finishing the meeting house, building a school or buying ground adjoining Zion or in either or all of said objects, I intend to charge Zion Church with said expenditures which are to be deducted off or from one fourth of my whole estate. I leave to and under the control of said church of Zion. If however, I shall be unable before my death to make any expenditure of either of aforesaid objects, I leave one fourth of my whole estate to Zion Church to finish the meetinghouse,

(continued)

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Adair County Deed Book A, p. 184.

Adair County Will Book D, p. 60.

Spencer, J. H. A History of Kentucky Baptists 1769-1885. Published by Author. The Columbia Statesman. October 9, 1974.

Willis, Ruth, "Zion Church and School," The Columbia Statesman. July 11, 1969.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 10 acres

UTM REFERENCES

A

1	6
---	---

6	5	4	5	3	0
---	---	---	---	---	---

4	1	0	1	6	8	0
---	---	---	---	---	---	---

ZONE EASTING NORTHING

B

--	--

--	--	--	--	--	--

--	--	--	--	--	--

ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C

--	--

--	--	--	--	--	--

--	--	--	--	--	--

D

--	--

--	--	--	--	--	--

--	--	--	--	--	--

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

--	--	--	--

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Mrs. Lynn Jeffries

MC and WEL/cf

ORGANIZATION

Kentucky Heritage Commission

DATE

August 1975

STREET & NUMBER

213 East Guardian Street

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

Columbia

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

Eldred W. Melton

TITLE

State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE

11-20-75

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

Lynn L. ...

DATE

5/13/98

Acting DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHAEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST:

DATE

5.12.76

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED NOV 28 1975
DATE ENTERED MAY 13 1976

Zion Meetinghouse and School

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8

PAGE 2

build a school house, near thereto and purchase land adjoining if it can be bought for said church under the care of the church committees. The said cost to be taken from my estate.

In 1864, the church purchased an additional 13 acres and at this time built a two-story brick schoolhouse, one hundred feet from the church, as Burbridge requested in his will. The school was called Zion Academy and had twelve grades. There were winter sessions known as subscription school because the students paid their own tuition and boarded in homes in the community. The county was later given use of the building. Many persons later prominent in Adair County, particularly teachers, attended Zion School. The school continued in operation until a few years ago when it was consolidated with other Adair County rural schools.

The church was rebuilt after a fire (1877) to its present appearance probably with minimal changes. The congregation has not been made up exclusively of Baptists, but members of other denominations who lived in the community, and many of them were leaders of the community. Edmund Willis, on whose farm the original bricks for the church were made and fired, for instance, was elected the first judge of Adair County; Benjamin Bomar was the first sheriff; and William D. Parrish, the first representative to the State Legislature. The Zion church is also considered the mother church of the Columbia Baptist Church, which eventually replaced it as the congregation moved away from the rural areas toward the town. Now seldom used, the buildings remain somewhat deteriorating condition but in an unspoiled setting.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

DATA SHEET

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED NOV 28 1975
DATE ENTERED MAY 13 1976

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

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

1 NAME

HISTORIC

* * Zion Meetinghouse and School

AND/OR COMMON

Zion Baptist Church and School

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

Highway 55--Glen's Fork Road

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Adair County

VICINITY OF Columbia

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

05

STATE

Kentucky

CODE

021

COUNTY

Adair

CODE

001

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

OWNERSHIP

STATUS

PRESENT USE

__DISTRICT

__PUBLIC

__OCCUPIED

__AGRICULTURE

__MUSEUM

X BUILDING(S)

X PRIVATE

X UNOCCUPIED

__COMMERCIAL

__PARK

__STRUCTURE

__BOTH

__WORK IN PROGRESS

__EDUCATIONAL

__PRIVATE RESIDENCE

__SITE

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

ACCESSIBLE

__ENTERTAINMENT

X RELIGIOUS

__OBJECT

__IN PROCESS

X YES: RESTRICTED

__GOVERNMENT

__SCIENTIFIC

X BEING CONSIDERED

__YES: UNRESTRICTED

__INDUSTRIAL

__TRANSPORTATION

__NO

__MILITARY

__OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Members of Zion Church

STREET & NUMBER

Highway 55

CITY, TOWN

Adair County

VICINITY OF

STATE

Kentucky

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Adair County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

500 Public Square

CITY, TOWN

Columbia

STATE

Kentucky

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Survey of Historic Sites in Kentucky

DATE

Church-1972--School-1975 (Supplement)

__FEDERAL X STATE __COUNTY __LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Kentucky Heritage Commission

CITY, TOWN

401 Wapping Street

Frankfort

STATE

Kentucky

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input 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

The Zion Baptist Church and school are located at the intersection of Highway 55 and Glen's Fork Road, three miles southeast of Columbia, the county seat of Adair County, and three miles northwest of Glen's Fork, a small rural community. The church and school are situated on the densely wooded banks of Glen's Fork Creek.

The church, begun before Burbridge's 1837 will, is a brick structure built on a stone foundation. The walls are laid in Flemish bond on the front with queen closers at the ends, and common bonding on the sides. There are stone lintels below and above the doors and windows. The brick is said to have been made and fired on the nearby farm of Edward Willis by James and Thomas Holloday, who also had charge of the construction.

The facade, which faces north, has two entrances, each with a three-light transom. Centered above the door in the gable is a small rectangular window. The church above the roofline was remodeled after a fire in 1877.

Originally the church was heated by four fireplaces and later by stoves. It is probable that the narrow strips of protruding brick on the sides (see photo 2) were the smoke stacks for the original fireplaces.

About a hundred feet to the west of the church is the brick schoolhouse, built in 1865. The schoolhouse is a two-bay, two-story brick structure with a frame addition on the east (entrance) end. The brick is laid in common bond and there are stone lintels above and below the door and windows. An interior chimney (probably for a stove) is located on the northeast side of the brick section.

The frame addition was added at a later date to enclose a stairwell. A window and door are located on the east end. A bell tower rests on top of the frame addition (see photo 3).

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 checked="" 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 checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input 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 Church-1837, rebuilt 1877
School-1837—*7. mo 1864* BUILDER/ARCHITECT James and Thomas Holloday

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Zion Baptist Church was organized in 1802, one year after the formation of Adair County. When first organized the Zion Church was a member of the Green River Association of Baptists, constituted in 1800 during the Great Revival which resulted in the union of the Regular and Separate Baptists forming the United Baptists (see the National Register nomination form for the Providence Church, Clark County). Both the Zion church and school were attended by prominent citizens of Adair County, both institutions, inseparable from the start, playing an important role in the surrounding community. The well-proportioned buildings are utterly plain, but well-built and characteristic of such rural complexes during the mid-19th century. The survival of both church and school in an unspoiled condition and setting is indeed unusual, if not unique.

In 1802 the Zion congregation was organized by Elijah Burbridge and John Waggoner, one of the first pastors. John Mellinger donated one acre of land to the church and a log meetinghouse was constructed near the fork of Russell Creek and Glen's Fork between Columbia, the county seat, and Glen's Fork, a small rural community. After 1831 William Burbridge bequeathed ten additional acres of land to the church and a quarter of his estate for the upkeep of the church. Burbridge was the pastor of Zion Baptist church as early as 1812, and served in that position for more than ten years. In 1830 he was afflicted by an illness that forced him to resign from his duties. At his death in 1837, Burbridge left the following to the church and school:

.. 12th-I do hereby give and bequeath, one fourth or half of the last mention half of my whole estate to the use, benefit and behalf of the United Baptist Church of Zion. It is my desire and intention (if it should please deity to lengthen my life one year or two longer) to finish the meeting house of Zion by plastering, painting, etc. to build a good school house on the one acre of ground on which Zions' stands or on the land immediately adjoining said acre of land. If I shall be able to make any expenditures in finishing the meeting house, building a school or buying ground adjoining Zion or in either or all of said objects, I intend to charge Zion Church with said expenditures which are to be deducted off or from one fourth of my whole estate. I leave to and under the control of said church of Zion. If however, I shall be unable before my death to make any expenditure of either of aforesaid objects, I leave one fourth of my whole estate to Zion Church to finish the meetinghouse,

(continued)

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Adair County Deed Book A, p. 184.

Adair County Will Book D, p. 60.

Spencer, J. H. A History of Kentucky Baptists 1769-1885. Published by Author. The Columbia Statesman. October 9, 1974.

Willis, Ruth, "Zion Church and School," The Columbia Statesman. July 11, 1969.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 10 acres

UTM REFERENCES

A

1	6
---	---

6	5	4	5	3	0
---	---	---	---	---	---

4	1	0	1	6	8	0
---	---	---	---	---	---	---

ZONE EASTING NORTHING

B

--	--

--	--	--	--	--	--

--	--	--	--	--	--

ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C

--	--

--	--	--	--	--	--

--	--	--	--	--	--

D

--	--

--	--	--	--	--	--

--	--	--	--	--	--

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

--	--	--	--

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Mrs. Lynn Jeffries

MC and WEL/cf

ORGANIZATION

Kentucky Heritage Commission

DATE

August 1975

STREET & NUMBER

213 East Guardian Street

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

Columbia

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

Eldred W. Melton

TITLE

State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE

11-20-75

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

Lynn L. ...
Charles ...

DATE

5/13/98

Acting DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHAEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST:

DATE

5.12.76

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED NOV 28 1975
DATE ENTERED MAY 13 1976

Zion Meetinghouse and School

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8

PAGE 2

build a school house, near thereto and purchase land adjoining if it can be bought for said church under the care of the church committees. The said cost to be taken from my estate.

In 1864, the church purchased an additional 13 acres and at this time built a two-story brick schoolhouse, one hundred feet from the church, as Burbridge requested in his will. The school was called Zion Academy and had twelve grades. There were winter sessions known as subscription school because the students paid their own tuition and boarded in homes in the community. The county was later given use of the building. Many persons later prominent in Adair County, particularly teachers, attended Zion School. The school continued in operation until a few years ago when it was consolidated with other Adair County rural schools.

The church was rebuilt after a fire (1877) to its present appearance probably with minimal changes. The congregation has not been made up exclusively of Baptists, but members of other denominations who lived in the community, and many of them were leaders of the community. Edmund Willis, on whose farm the original bricks for the church were made and fired, for instance, was elected the first judge of Adair County; Benjamin Bomar was the first sheriff; and William D. Parrish, the first representative to the State Legislature. The Zion church is also considered the mother church of the Columbia Baptist Church, which eventually replaced it as the congregation moved away from the rural areas toward the town. Now seldom used, the buildings remain somewhat deteriorating condition but in an unspoiled setting.