

PH0003174

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Georgia
COUNTY: Talbot
FOR NPS USE ONLY
ENTRY DATE MAY 8 1974

1. NAME

COMMON:  
Zion Episcopal Church

AND/OR HISTORIC:  
Zion Church Talbotton

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER: S of Talbotton  
U.S. 80

CITY OR TOWN: Talbotton VIC

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT: 3rd Jack Brinkley

STATE: Georgia CODE: 13 COUNTY: Talbot CODE: 263

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No

PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural	<input type="checkbox"/> Government	<input type="checkbox"/> Park	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	<input type="checkbox"/> Comments
<input type="checkbox"/> Commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> Industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Educational	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Religious		
<input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Scientific		

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:  
Episcopal Diocese of Atlanta

STREET AND NUMBER:  
2744 Peachtree Road, N.W.

CITY OR TOWN: Atlanta

STATE: Georgia CODE: 13

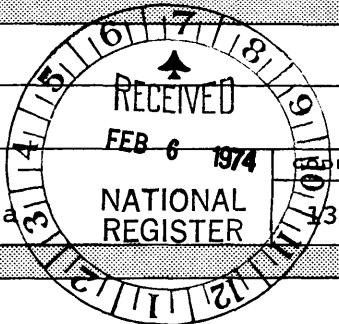
5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:  
Talbot County Courthouse

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: Talbotton

STATE: Georgia CODE: 13



6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:  
Historic American Building Survey

DATE OF SURVEY: 1936  Federal  State  County  Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:  
Library of Congress

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: Washington

STATE: D. C. CODE: 08

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: Georgia

COUNTY: Talbot

ENTRY NUMBER: 8

DATE: 8/1

FOR NPS USE ONLY

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

(Check One)

Excellent     Good     Fair     Deteriorated     Ruins     Unexposed

(Check One)

Altered     Unaltered

(Check One)

Moved     Original Site

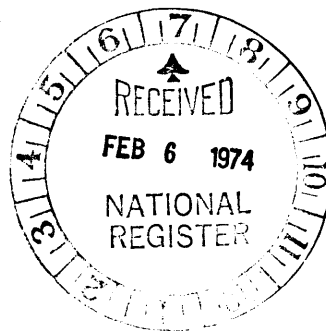
DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Situated in a grove of oak and cedar trees, Zion Episcopal Church, built c.1848, is a superb example of the revival of the English Gothic style.

Zion Church Talbotton, the original name given to Zion Episcopal Church, is a one-story brown, vertical boarded, heart pine structure with a central, triple sectioned square tower. The foundation is of stuccoed brick. Lancet windows and tudor arches define all openings: a simple tudor arch forms the entranceway; narrow, multi-paned, and shuttered lancet windows occur on all sides, with double ones on the side facade and single ones on the front. A flat decorative "carpenter gothic" scrolled dentil cornice defines the eaves on the side facade. A trefoil motif runs along the bargeboard of the pitched roof on the front facade.

In the dimly lit interior are the altar, communion rail, lectern pulpit and prayer desk - all made of walnut. A Pilcher pipe organ, installed c.1850, is still operated by a hand pump. The choir loft at the east end of the building opposite the sanctuary, above the narthex, is flanked on each side by a gallery, where slaves worshipped. The original box family pews, each with its own door, in a double row in the center and a single row on each side, remain as originally placed. The pulpit-lectern and prayer desk are built against opposite walls of the chancel and elevated three steps above the level of the chancel floor.

Few changes have been made over Zion's 125 year history; fans have been installed and electric heaters have replaced a pot bellied stove.



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## SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- Pre-Columbian |  16th Century |  18th Century |  20th Century  
 15th Century |  17th Century |  19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) c. 1848

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- |  |   |   |   |
|--|---|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal              | <input type="checkbox"/> Education              | <input type="checkbox"/> Political                      | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric             | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic                | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry               | <input type="checkbox"/> Science                        | <u>History</u>                                      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture             | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention              | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture                      | _____   |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian            | _____   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art                     | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature             | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater                        | _____   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce                | <input type="checkbox"/> Military               | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation                 | _____   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications          | <input type="checkbox"/> Music                  |   | _____   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation            |   |   | _____   |

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Zion Episcopal Church, consecrated in 1853 and originally supported as a missionary church, is a superb example of a small, wooden country church in the English Gothic style of the Tudor period as interpreted in the mid 19th century. In time sequence and style it bears a direct relationship to the small, rural church designs which were published in 1852 in Richard Upjohn's Rural Architecture.

In 1847 the preliminary steps for organizing Zion Church Talbotton were made under the zealous missionary spirit of an Episcopal Clergyman, the Rev. Richard Johnson. Aided financially by South Carolina rice planters who had been his parishoners, Mr. Johnson had moved to Talbotton and within a year his small congregation built a wooden structure, Zion Episcopal Church. Although the congregation has always been small, (presently there are only three members), Zion Episcopal Church is a monument to the mid-century missionary movement.

Architecturally, Zion is a nationally significant rural version of a revival of the English Gothic ecclesiastical structure, reflecting the work of Richard Upjohn. No documents support direct influence, but Upjohn was known to supply plans and particulars for construction for needy parishes because he believed he had a religious and architectural obligation as an architect. This continuous demand for the simple structures led him to produce Upjohn's Rural Architecture in 1852, to satisfy those parishes who were too poor to afford even the most modest fee. In design, Upjohn's St. Thomas Church in Hamilton, N.Y. (1852), Trinity Church in Warsaw, N.Y. (1854) and the designs in his Rural Architecture are very similar in feeling to this Talbotton, Georgia example. Careful consideration of details is given in this English Gothic revival structure, details such as the delicate trefoil bargeboard motif, the scrolled dentil work on the side cornice, the crenellated parapets that crown each of the building's roof points and especially the Tudor arch work around the entrance way. These are not merely tossed on but carefully placed and combined as part of an overall design. Its interior is equally well designed in the chosen style.

Zion Church is one of two Georgia examples of Episcopal churches in the rural English Gothic revival style (the other bears little resemblance to Upjohn models). Its excellence is underlined by comparison. Its romantic Sir Walter Scott character, its date and location in western Georgia, its virtually unaltered state combine to give it national architectural standing; it is a superb surviving example of a national architectural movement which reached into the hinterlands of the deep southern frontier.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

HABS photographs and write-up on file at Georgia Historical Commission  
 Jordan, Robert H. There was a Land - History of Talbot County. Baltimore:  
 The Johns Hopkins Press.  
 Malone, Henry. The Episcopal Church in Georgia 1733-1957. Atlanta: The  
 Protestant Episcopal Church in the Diocese of Atlanta, 1960.  
 Mitchell, William, R., consultant  
 Stanton, Phoebe B., The Gothic Revival and American Church Architecture.  
 Baltimore: The Johns Hopkins Press.  
 Upjohn, Everard M. Richard Upjohn - Architect and Churchman. New York:  
 Columbia University Press, 1939.

**10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

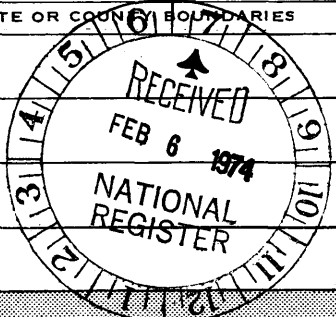
LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES					
CORNER	LATITUDE			LATITUDE			LONGITUDE		
	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
NW	0	'	"	0	'	"	32	40	30
NE	0	'	"	0	'	"	84	32	22
SE	0	'	"	0	'	"			
SW	0	'	"	0	'	"			

UTM  
 16/730701  
 361770C

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: **2 acres**

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**11 FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME AND TITLE:  
**William R. Mitchell, Jr. and Elizabeth Z. Macgregor**

ORGANIZATION: **Historic Preservation Section, Dept. Natural Resources**      DATE: **April 27, 1973**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
**270 Washington St., S.W.**

CITY OR TOWN: **Atlanta**      STATE: **Georgia**      CODE: **13**

**12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION      NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION**

As the designated State Liaison 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. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National  State  Local

Name Mary G. Givert

Title State Hist. Pres. Officer

Date 4-30-73

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

A. R. Mortensen  
 Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date 5/8/74

ATTEST:  
[Signature]  
 Keeper of The National Register

Date 5.7.74