

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NOT FOR PUBLICATION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).

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-<sup>1864</sup> 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)



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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.

Property Zion Meetinghouse and School

Adair

State Ky.

Working Number 11, 28, 75, 2111

76000843

**TECHNICAL**

Photos 3

Maps 1

**CONTROL**

*pl*  
*OK 12/4/75*

*brief statement of educational sign. sent*

**HISTORIAN**

*Accept*  
*W.R. Luce*  
*1/9/76*

**ARCHITECTURAL HISTORIAN**

*Handsome complex*  
*ACCEPT Hazard 1/13/76*

**ARCHEOLOGIST**

**OTHER**

**HAER**

Inventory \_\_\_\_\_

Review \_\_\_\_\_

**REVIEW UNIT CHIEF**

*Accept*  
*Coiz*  
*4-27-76*

**BRANCH CHIEF**

**KEEPER**

*Hamp*  
*5.12.76*

National Register Write-up \_\_\_\_\_

Send-back \_\_\_\_\_

Entered MAY 13 1976

Federal Register Entry 6-1-76

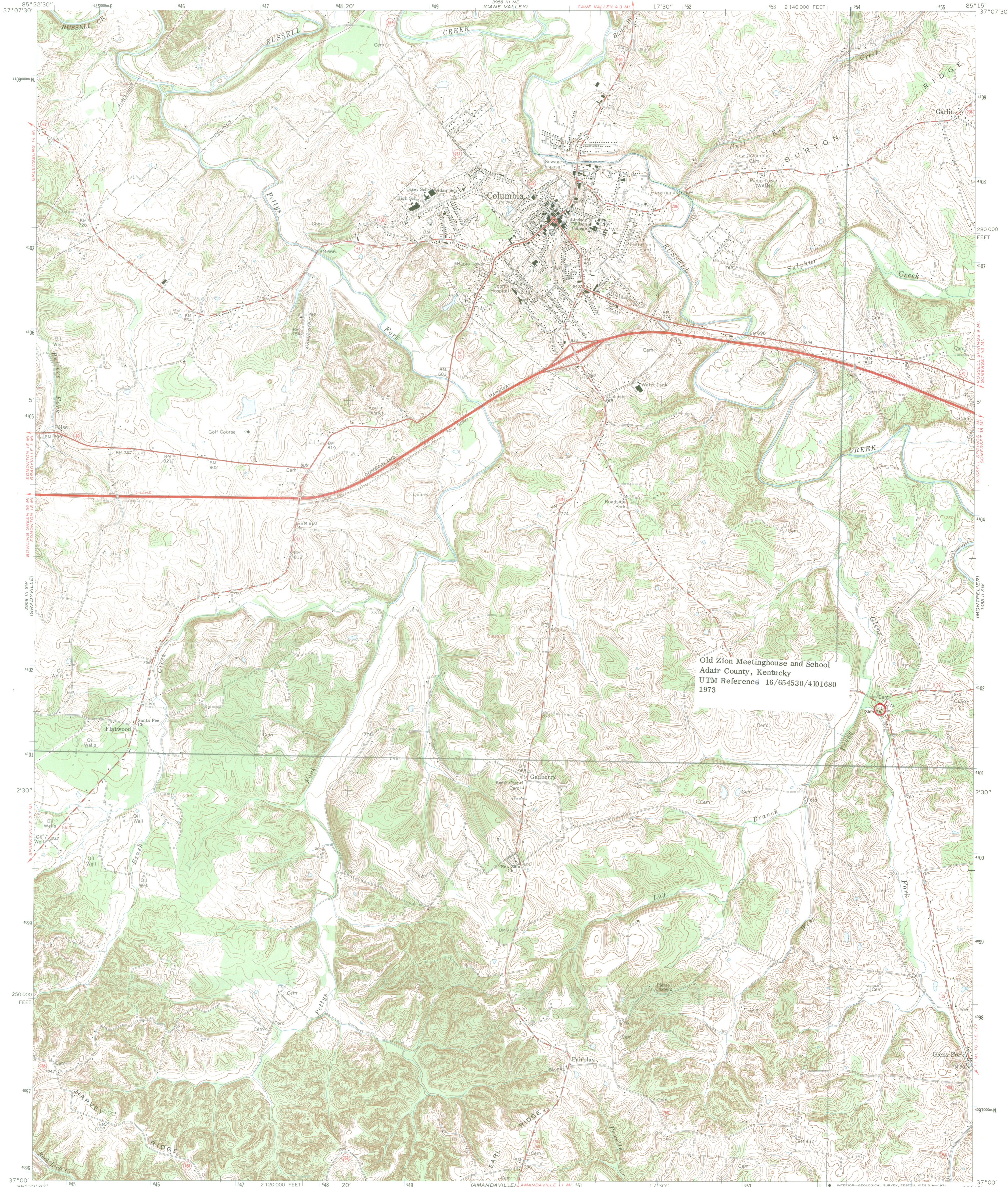
Re-submit \_\_\_\_\_

INT:2106-74



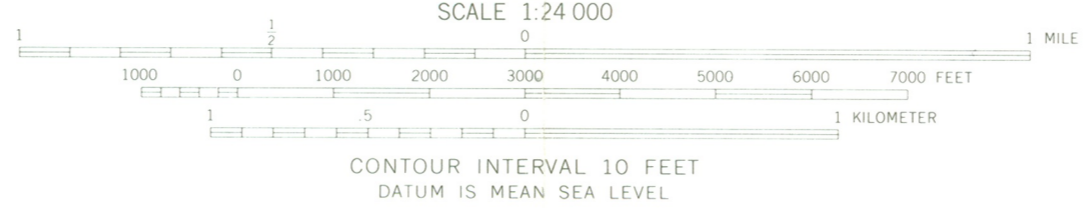
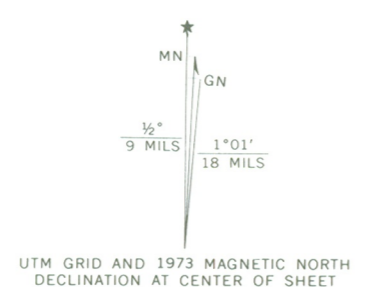






Old Zion Meetinghouse and School  
Adair County, Kentucky  
UTM Reference 16/654530/4101680  
1973

Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey  
Control by USGS and USC&GS  
Topography by photogrammetric methods from aerial photographs  
taken 1951. Field checked 1954. Revised from aerial  
photographs taken 1972. Field checked 1973  
Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum  
10,000-foot grid based on Kentucky coordinate system, south zone  
1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks,  
zone 16, shown in blue  
Fine red dashed lines indicate selected fence and field lines where  
generally visible on aerial photographs. This information is unchecked



THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS  
FOR SALE BY U. S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, RESTON, VIRGINIA 22092  
KENTUCKY GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, LEXINGTON, KENTUCKY 40506,  
AND KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, FRANKFORT, KENTUCKY 40601  
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST



ROAD CLASSIFICATION

Primary highway, hard surface	Light-duty road, hard or improved surface
Secondary highway, hard surface	Unimproved road
Interstate Route	U. S. Route
	State Route

COLUMBIA, KY.  
SE/4 COLUMBIA 15' QUADRANGLE  
N3700—W8515/7.5  
1973  
AMS 3958 III SE—SERIES V853



# Kentucky Heritage Commission

401 Wapping Street

Frankfort, Kentucky 40601

November 11, 1975

Dr. William J. Murtagh, Keeper  
National Register of Historic Places  
United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service  
18th and C Streets, N. W.  
Washington, D. C. 20240



Dear Dr. Murtagh:

Enclosed is the National Register Nomination Form for the Zion Meetinghouse and School, (Columbia,) Adair County, Kentucky. This nomination was approved by the Kentucky Historic Preservation Review Board on October 21, 1975. As State Historic Preservation Officer, I recommend it be entered on the National Register of Historic Places.

Your early consideration of this nomination will be appreciated.

Sincerely yours,

*Eldred W. Melton*

Mrs. Eldred W. Melton  
State Historic Preservation Officer

Enclosures (See Attachment)

cc: Mrs. Lynn Jeffries, County Representative

Dr. William J. Murtagh  
Zion Meetinghouse and School

Page 2

ATTACHMENT

National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory -- Nomination Form

Continuation Sheet  
Item 8 Page 2

Property Map Form  
USGS Map - Columbia Quadrangle

Property Photo Form  
Photos 1-3



# NATIONAL REGISTER DATA SHEET

① NAME as it appears on federal register: Zion Meetinghouse and School  
 ② OTHER NAMES: Zion Baptist Church and School  
 ③ date of entry: 5-13-76  
 ④ county code: 001

⑤ LOCATION street & number: SE of Columbia on KY 55  
 city / town: Ad  
 vicinity of: Columbia  
 state: KY  
 county: Adair  
 ⑥ NPS REGION: SE

⑦ OWNER:  PRIVATE  STATE  MUNICIPAL  COUNTY  MULTIPLE  FEDERAL (agency name)  
 ⑧ ADMINISTRATOR:

⑨ EXISTING SURVEYS:  HABS  HAER  NHL  
 ⑩ FUNDED?:  YES  NO  
 ⑪ CONGRESS. DISTRICT: 5  
 ⑫ SOURCE of NOMINATION:  STATE  FEDERAL  
 if state who prepared form?

⑬ WITHIN NATIONAL REGISTER HISTORIC DISTRICT?:  YES, NAME:  NO  
 ⑭ WITHIN NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK?:  YES, NAME:  NO  
 ⑮ ACREAGE: 10  
 LOCAL  PRIVATE ORGANIZATION

⑯ CONDITION:  
 excellent  good  fair  
 deteriorated  ruins  unexposed  unexcavated  
 altered  unaltered  reconstructed  excavated  
 original site  moved  unknown  
 ⑰ features:  
 INTERIOR:  SUBSTANTIALLY INTACT-1  NOT INTACT-0  UNKNOWN-4  NOT APPLICABLE-7  
 EXTERIOR:  SUBSTANTIALLY INTACT-2  NOT INTACT-0  UNKNOWN-5  NOT APPLICABLE-8  
 ENVIRONS:  SUBSTANTIALLY INTACT-3  NOT INTACT-0  UNKNOWN-6  NOT APPLICABLE-9

⑱ ACCESS:  YES - Restricted  YES - Unrestricted  No Access  Unknown  
 ⑲ ADAPTIVE USE:  YES  NO  
 ⑳ SAVED?:  YES  NO  
 IS PROPERTY A HISTORIC DISTRICT?:  yes  no

㉑ AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE:  
 ARCHEOLOGY - prehistoric-2  ARCHEOLOGY - historic-1  AGRICULTURE -3  ARCHITECTURE -4  ART -5  
 COMMERCE -6  COMMUNICATIONS -7  CONSERVATION -8  ECONOMICS -9  EDUCATION -10  
 ENGINEERING -11  ENTERTAINMENT -26  EXPLORATION -12  HEALTH -27  INDUSTRY -13  INVENTION -14  
 LANDSCAPE ARCH. -15  LAW -16  LITERATURE -17  MILITARY -18  MUSIC -19  PHILOSOPHY -20  
 POLITICS / GOVT. -21  RELIGION -22  SCIENCE -23  SOCIAL / HUMANITARIAN -24  SOCIAL / CULTURAL -30  TRANSPORTATION -25  
 RECREATION -28  SETTLEMENT -29  URBAN PLANNING -31  OTHER (SPECIFY)  
 ㉒ CLAIMS: explain  
 'first'   
 'oldest'   
 'only'

㉓ functions: WHEN HISTORICALLY SIGNIFICANT: church, school  
 CURRENTLY: not in use  
 ㉔ dates of initial construction: 1877 church, 1864 school  
 major alterations: 1864  
 historic events: 1837  
 ㉕ ETHNIC GROUP ASSOCIATION: Baptist

㉖ architectural style(s): Vernacular  
 ㉗ architect:  
 ㉘ master builder:  
 ㉙ engineer:

㉚ landscape architect / garden designer:  
 ㉛ interior decorator:  
 ㉜ artist:  
 ㉝ artisan:  
 ㉞ builder / contractor: James & Thomas Holladay

㉟ NAMES give role & date  
 PERSONAL: Wm. Burbridge - bequeathed 10 acres of land & 1/4 estate to church & school  
 EVENTS: Elijah Burbridge - organized church  
 John Waggoner  
 INSTITUTIONAL: John Mellinger - donated 1 acre & 1/5 meetinghouse to church.  
 Edmund Willis - owned farm on which original bricks were fired.

㊱ NATIONAL REGISTER WRITE-UP: Meetinghouse: Brick, 1 story, rectangular, gabled roof, interior chimney, twin off-center gable-end entrances each with transom, boxed eaves; alterations. School: Brick frame, clapboarding; 2 stories, rectangular, gabled roof with small stickwork belfry, interior chimney, off-center gable-end entrance; alterations; E end frame addition. Vernacular. Rare example of intact early 19th C. rural church/school complex.

reviewers initials: mo date: 1/4