

**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

For HCRS use only
received JUL 24 1980
date entered OCT 3 1980

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic ^{Mount} Mt. Zion Baptist Church

and/or common

2. Location

street & number N.E. Corner Congress and Carpenter Strs. not for publication
city, town Athens vicinity of congressional district 10 Clarence Miller
state Ohio code 039 county Athens code 009

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> religious
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
			<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Mt. Zion Baptist Church Congregation c/o Rev. Edward Buffington
street & number 93 Pine Street
city, town Gallipolis vicinity of state Ohio

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Athens County Courthouse
street & number Court Street
city, town Athens state Ohio

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title has this property been determined eligible? yes no
date federal state county local
depository for survey records
city, town state

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 date _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Mount Zion Baptist Church contains elements of both Gothic Revival and Romanesque styles. It is constructed of cement block simulating stone; the foundation and water table are of stone. The facade and east and west sides feature steep gable ends; the rear is composed of a small scale hipped roof section. The southwest corner, containing arched entrances is a square tower, topped by a pyramidal roof. Roof covering is modern composition type. Large scale stained glass windows are found on all elevations and are described in detail below. Windows feature rusticated stone lintels and smooth stone sills. Small arched vents and windows are found in gable ends and the tower. Basement entrances are found in the rear portion and the basement is entered from the west side.

The main entrance faces Carpenter Street. An arched stained glass transom light is inscribed "Mt. Zion Baptist Church." A similar door faces Congress; both are double wood modern doors and lead to a foyer containing two sets of original oak double doors leading to the main sanctuary. The ceiling of this room is of pressed tin in a gambrel shape, terminating at the upper walls with a curved tin cornice making the transition. A smaller sanctuary in the rear of the church (close to Carpenter St.) features the same type of ceiling oriented in the opposite direction.

Floors are of wood with carpet applied. The pulpit area is front and center, slightly elevated with a simple wood pulpit. Just behind the pulpit is a recessed arched area which contains central double doors and is flanked by two arched doors labeled "Choir" and "Pastor's Study." To the left of the pulpit is a raised area with a curved balustrade containing a piano and organ and a recessed arch containing a pipe organ. The pews are of carved oak, and are curved toward the pulpit.

The stained glass windows are many and of large scale. At the rear of the church is a single Romanesque arched window. The upper portion is circular with modillions dividing it into eight lights. The lower portion is of four vertical lights; the motif is floral. Also in this rear section is a smaller arched stained glass window on the east end, floral in design which matches the window at the rear of the building which is visible from the exterior.

The stained glass windows at the east and west ends of the room are similar in basic structure and design. Both feature a large Romanesque arched panel in the center depicting a figurative religious motif. Flanking the central panels are tall narrow arched windows in a floral design. All stained glass windows are predominantly blue in color.

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 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 1905

Builder/Architect

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Mt. Zion Baptist Church is significant as representing the only major building standing in the City of Athens associated with its black community; the only other major structure having been the Berry Hotel which was demolished in 1974. At present this is the only Afro-American congregation in the city.

In the mid to late 19th century there was a large percentage of blacks living in Athens County compared to other counties in Ohio. Two churches evolved in Athens: the Mt. Zion Baptist, organized in 1872, and an African Methodist Episcopal Church. The Methodist Church was housed in a building formerly used by a white congregation; it was phased out in the early 20th century, many members joining the Baptist Church.

Mt. Zion's present building was preceded by a frame structure built in 1876. In 1905, the cornerstone was laid at the corner of Congress and Carpenter Streets, a fairly prominent location in Athens. The church was dedicated in 1909, much of the construction work having been done by the members of the church themselves. Architecturally, the church reflects the great effort expended by the parishioners in order to have a fine church of their own and the important role religion played in their lives. Newspaper articles repeatedly asked for donations; the church is not large in scale nor is it heavily ornamented; however in its simplicity there is an integrity of style with a restrained Gothic exterior and interior design featuring wooden pews curved around the pulpit. The stained glass windows are fine, all donated by individual members of the church.

The congregation began with only a few members and once boasted 250. Around World War II the population of blacks in Athens County declined, due to economic factors. Since then, it has continued to decline until today a large number of the church's congregation are Ohio University students. Interest in stabilizing the aging structure has been strong in the past few years and work is underway. Little alteration has been undertaken; it is visually the same as it was when it was constructed.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Athens County Recorders Office

Athens Messenger and Herald, November 9, 1905; February 16, 1906; September 27, 1909.

History of the Hocking Valley, Ohio (Chicago, 1883) p. 249.
(see continuation sheet)

10. Geographical Data

UTM NOT VERIFIED

Acreeage of nominated property less than one acre

Quadrangle name Athens

ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED

Quadrangle scale 1: 24000

UMT References

A

1	7	4	0	5	0	2	0	4	3	5	4	0	4	0
Zone				Easting				Northing						

B

Zone				Easting				Northing						

C

Zone				Easting				Northing						

D

Zone				Easting				Northing						

E

Zone				Easting				Northing						

F

Zone				Easting				Northing						

G

Zone				Easting				Northing						

H

Zone				Easting				Northing						

Verbal boundary description and justification

Beginning at the northeast corner of Congress and Carpenter Streets, proceeds approximately 28 yards to a brick wall, then 31 yards east to a point, then 28 yards to the north side of Carpenter Street, then 31 yards to the place of beginning. This constitutes the part of lot 165

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries owned by the church.

state code county code

state code county code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Kathleen Andrews

organization Ohio University SOURAPO

date February 20, 1980

street & number 103 Carnegie Hall

telephone (614) 594-6578

city or town Athens

state Ohio

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 Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

David L. Rood

title

SHPO

date 7/1/80

For HCRS use only

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

Paula Stover Reed
Keeper of the National Register

date 10/3/80

Attest: *Paula Stover Reed*
Chief of Registration

date 9/23/80

FOR HCRS USE ONLY
RECEIVED JUL 24 1980
DATE ENTERED OCT 3 1980

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

Mt. Zion Baptist Church
Athens, Ohio

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 9 PAGE

Major Bibliographical References Continued:

History of Lower Scioto Valley (Chicago, 1884) p. 217.

Minutes of the 1st Anniversary of the Eastern Division of the Union Anti Slavery Baptist Association of Ohio (Wilmington, Ohio, 1873) p.4.

Richardson, Jeff, "Mt. Zoin Baptist Church" Athens Magazine, Autumn

Topsail, Ruth, "History of Mt. Zion Baptist Church, Athens, Ohio" (Nelsonville, Ohio, 1975)

Works Progress Administration Survey of State and Local Historical Records, Church Records Form, 1936, Archives, Ohio University, Athens, Ohio

Property Mount Zion Baptist Church

State OH, Athens

Working Number 7-24-80-1929

TECHNICAL

Photos 7

Maps 1

CONTROL

HISTORIAN

- The only major building standing in Athens associated with the Black Community. Built 1905-1909 for a congregation organized in 1872. Built mostly by members of the church.

ARCHITECTURAL HISTORIAN

An early use of rock faced concrete block.

Accept.

P. Reed 9/23/80

ARCHEOLOGIST

OTHER

HAER

Inventory _____

Review _____

REVIEW UNIT CHIEF

BRANCH CHIEF

KEEPER

National Register Write-up _____

Send-back _____

Entered OCT 3 1980

Federal Register Entry 2.3.81

Re-submit _____



MT. ZION BAPTIST CHURCH

Athens, Ohio

Kathleen Andrews February, 1980

View looking northwest

SQRHAP0

#1/17

JUL 24 1980

OCT 3 1980

Athens Co.



co. MT. ZION BAPTIST CHURCH

Athens, Ohio

Kathleen Andrews

SORHAPO

View looking east

#2/7

JUL 24 1980

Feb., 1980

OCT 3 1980



MT. ZION BAPTIST CHURCH

Athens, Ohio

Kathleen Andrews Feb., 1980

SORHAPO

View looking southeast

#3/7

JUL 24 1980

OCT

3 1980



MT. ZION BAPTIST CHURCH

Athens, Ohio

Kathleen Andrews Feb., 1980

SORHAPO

View looking north-Pulpit area

#4/7 JUL 24 1980

OCT 3 1980



MT. ZION *Baptist Church*

Athens, Ohio

Kathleen Andrews Feb., 1980

SORHAPO

View toward south-interior

#5/7

OCT

3 1980

JUL 24 1980



MT. ZION BAPTIST CHURCH

Athens, Ohio

Kathleen Andrews Feb., 1980

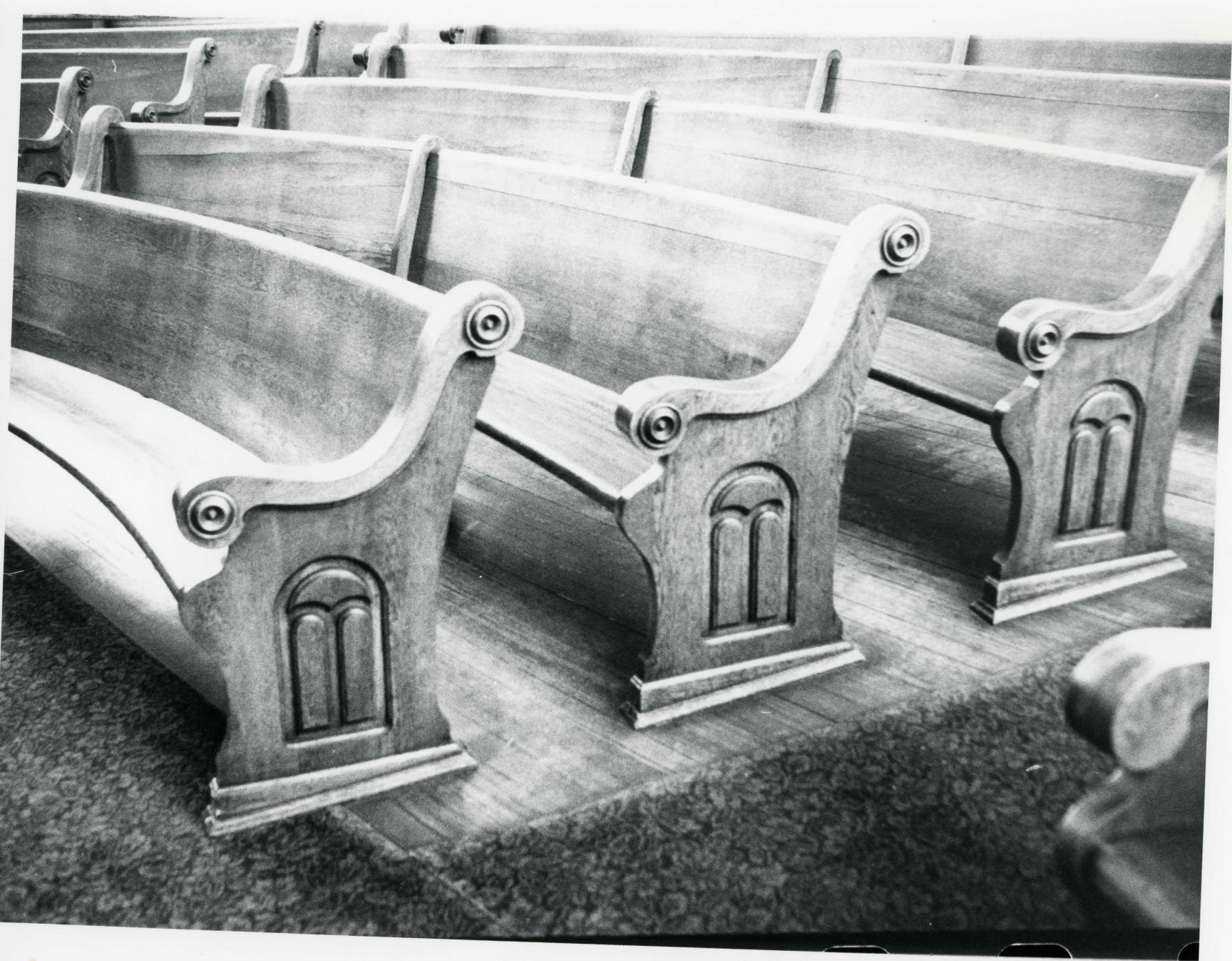
SORHAPO

Interior looking northwest

#6 / 7

OCT 3 1980

JUL 24 1980



MT. ZION BAPTIST *Church*

Co., Athens, Ohio

Kathleen Andrews Feb., 1980

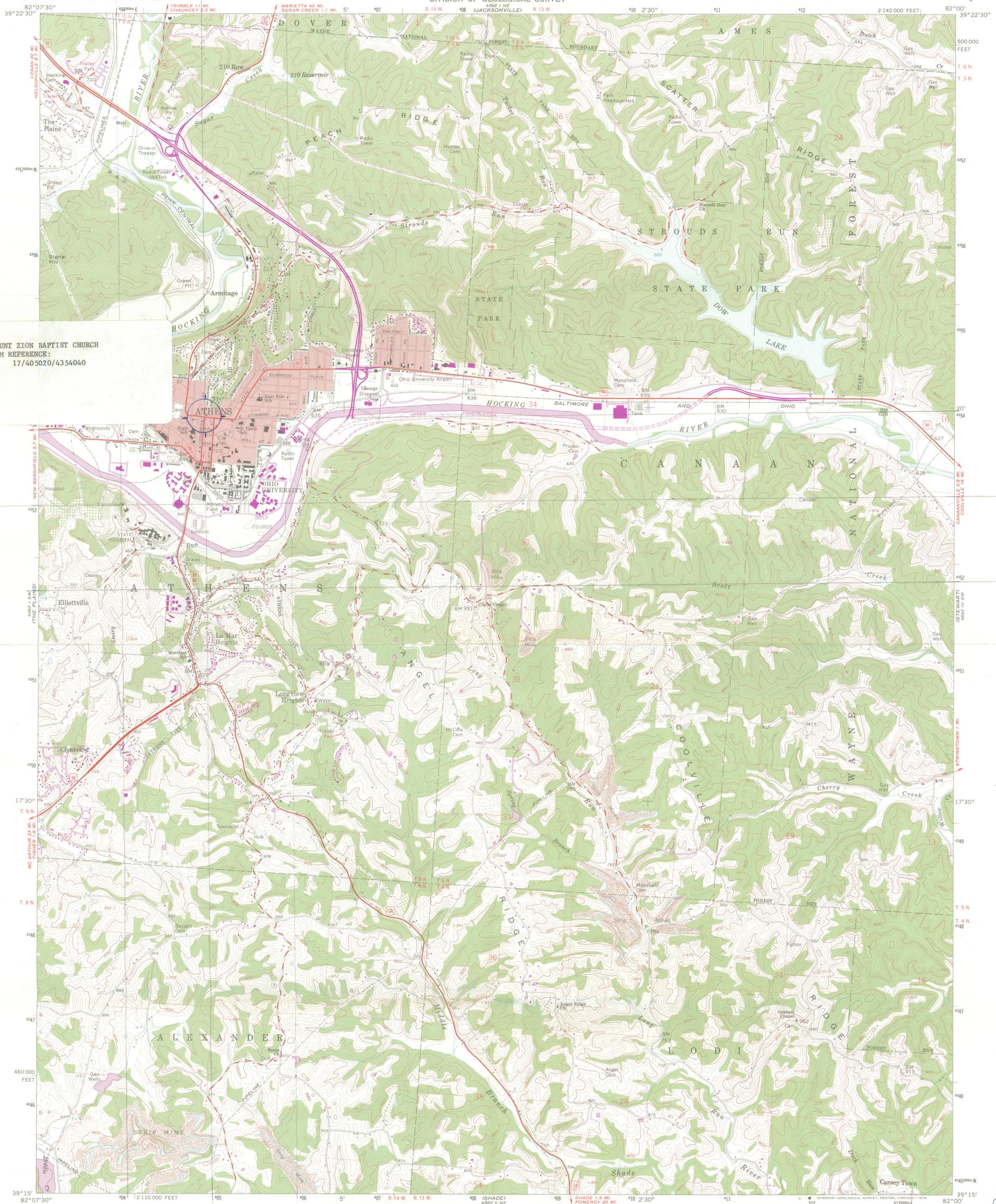
SORHAPO

Pews

#7/7

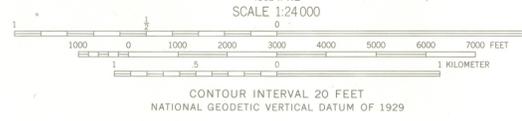
OCT 3 1980

JUL 24 1980



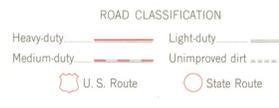
MOUNT ZION BAPTIST CHURCH
UTM REFERENCE:
17/405020/4354040

Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey
Control by USGS and USC&GS
Topography by photogrammetric methods from aerial
photographs taken 1960. Field checked 1961
Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum
10,000-foot grid based on Ohio coordinate system, south zone
1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks,
zone 17, shown in blue
Fine red dashed lines indicate selected fence and field lines where
generally visible on aerial photographs. This information is unchecked
Red tint indicates areas in which only landmark buildings are shown
Land lines based on the Ohio River Base. Dotted land lines established
by private subdivision of the Ohio Company Purchase



THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS
FOR SALE BY U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, RESTON, VIRGINIA 22092
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

Revisions shown in purple compiled in cooperation with
State of Ohio agencies from aerial photographs taken
1975. This information not field checked



ATHENS, OHIO
N3915—W8200/7.5
1961
PHOTOREVISED 1975
AMS 4562 I SE—SERIES V852



*Southern Ohio Regional
History-Architecture Preservation Office
(S. O. R. H. A. P. O.)
103 Carnegie Hall
Ohio University, Athens, Ohio 45701
(614) 594-6352*

JUN 9 1980

111 Smith Street
Athens, Ohio 45701
June 2, 1980

Mr. David L. Brooks
Ohio State Historic Preservation Officer
Ohio Historical Center
I - 71 and Seventeenth Avenue
Columbus, Ohio 43211

Dear Mr. Brooks:

It is my pleasure to respond to the letter from Mr. David A. Simmons, (a copy of which has been enclosed for your referral), Historian and Manager of the National Register Program. We, the members of the Mt. Zion Baptist Church are deeply grateful that our facility is under consideration for a nomination to be National Registry of Historic Places; an honor which the church so justly deserves.

In 1872 a group of Christian-minded people assembled at the home of Joseph and Henrietta Miller in Athens, Ohio, for the purpose of worshipping and praising God. This group, composed of former slaves and the descendants of slaves grew in number and organized formally to become known as the Mt. Zion Baptist Church. The first church building was erected in 1876.

The congregation continued to grow, and during the pastorate of Reverend Joseph Wilson, these faithful people recognized the need for a new and more spacious facility. Among the Mt. Zion membership at this time were Mr. and Mrs. E.C. Berry, owner-proprietors of the reknowned Berry Hotel. The Berrys had purchased property in the area of Congress and Carpenter Streets for the location of a new home. However, their dedication led them to offer their property in this rapidly developing area in exchange for that of the old church site at 21 - 23 South Lancaster Street.

Ground was broken in 1905 under the leadership of Reverend George Washington. This tremendous undertaking was realized by the faith, persistence and commitment of Mt. Zion's members. Financial sacrifice, labor and fund-raising efforts were aided by support from other segments of the Athens community also.

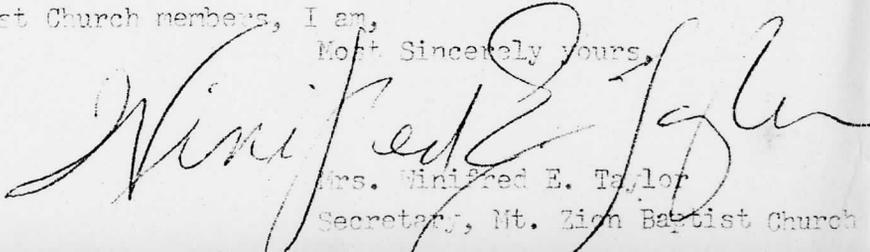
Mt. Zion's stained glass windows are extolled for their exquisiteness and bear witness to the love of those who donated them.

Mt. Zion is a landmark in Athens society and is as precious in the rich heritage it has provided for its black community. Today, a small but determined membership strive to continue this tribute to God and community by keeping the portals of Mt. Zion open. Student members who attend Ohio University are also active and contribute support throughout the term.

As a community landmark and monument to God, this public institution must prevail. We ask that a recognition by the National Registry of Historic Places be extended in appreciation of our much-valued structure and the struggles of those who created and maintain it with God's help.

In behalf of the Mt. Zion Baptist Church members, I am,

Most Sincerely yours,



Mrs. Winifred E. Taylor
Secretary, Mt. Zion Baptist Church

OCT 3 1980

Ohio Historic Preservation Office

Ohio Historical Center I-71 & 17th Avenue Columbus, Ohio 43211 (614) 466-1500

July 7, 1980



Ms. Carol Shull, Acting Keeper
National Register of Historic Places
Heritage Conservation & Recreation Service
W 434
Washington, D. C. 20243

Dear Ms. Shull:

Enclosed are twenty new nominations and enclosures. All have been reviewed by the state review board and the owners notified according to the latest regulations.

<u>Nomination</u>	<u>County</u>	<u>Enclosures</u>
Mt. Zion Baptist Church	Athens Co.	One letter from church secretary
Lane's Mill Historic Group	Butler Co.	
Hostetter Inn	Columbiana Co.	
Brownella Cottage & Grace Episcopal Church	Crawford Co.	
Bucyrus Mausoleum	Crawford Co.	
Smith Road Bridge	Crawford Co.	County Engineer survey form
Toledo & Ohio Central Depot	Crawford Co.	
Boyd School	Holmes Co.	One letter from owner
Pomerene House	Holmes Co.	One letter from owner
Erlich House	Lawrence Co.	
Bossler, Marcus, House	Montgomery Co.	One letter from owner
Dayton Fire Station #14	Montgomery Co.	
Schuter Carpenter Shop & Residence	Montgomery Co.	One letter from city with enclosure
Adena Court Apartments	Muskingum Co.	
McClelland, Harry S. House	Muskingum Co.	
Highbank Farm	Ross Co.	
Sidney Courthouse Square Historic District	Shelby Co.	One letter from Kayser's Shoes, one letter from State Auto Mutual Insurance, one letter from Congressman, one letter from City, one letter from County Planning Commission with resolution.
Akron YMCA Building	Summit Co.	
Akron Rural Cemetery Group	Summit Co.	
Curtis, Walter, House	Washington Co.	Letter from Tom Carroll, July 11, 1977; statement from Columbus Southern, October 7, 1977; letter from J. P. Apel, Nov. 21, 1977;

Nomination

County

Enclosures

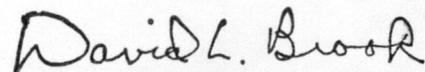
Curtis, Walter, House cont:

Washington Co.

letter from Tom Carroll, Dec. 7, 1977; letter from Clarence Gallagher, Jan. 14, 1980; letter from John Gavin, Jan. 24, 1980; letter to Tom Carroll, Jan. 23, 1980; letter from Michael Gallagher, Jan. 30, 1980; memo from Judith Kitchen, May 7, 1980; letter from Tom Carroll, June 4, 1980.

Please note that the level of significance recommended for the Brownella Cottage is national. Let me know if any additional information is required.

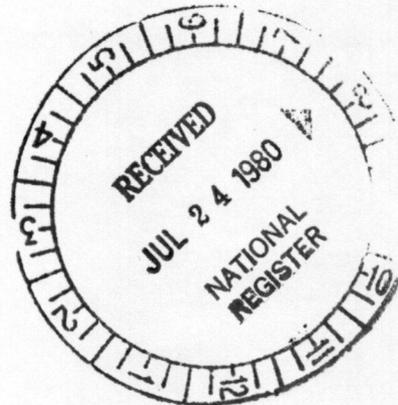
Sincerely,



David L. Brook
State Historic Preservation Officer

DLB:cw

enclosures



ENTRIES IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

STATE OHIO

Date Entered OCT 3 1980

<u>Name</u>	<u>Location</u>
Curtis, Walter, House	Little Hocking vicinity Washington County
Mount Zion Baptist Church	Athens Athens County
Erlich, F. W., House	Ironton Lawrence County
Toledo and Ohio Central Depot	Bucyrus Crawford County
Urbana College Historic Buildings	Urbana Champaign County
Lane's Mill Historic Buildings	Oxford vicinity Butler County
Sharon Center Public Square Historic District	Sharon Center Medina County
Boyd School	Berlin vicinity Holmes County

Also Notified

Honorable Howard M. Metzenbaum
Honorable John H. Glenn, Jr.
Honorable Clarence E. Miller
Honorable Tennyson Guyer
Honorable Clarence J. Brown
Honorable Thomas N. Kindness
Honorable Donald J. Pease
Honorable John M. Ashbrook

Acting State Historic Preservation Officer
Mr. Dellas H. Harder
The Ohio Historical Society
Interstate 71 at 17th Avenue
Columbus, Ohio 43211

NR Byers/bjr/10/28/80

For further information, please call the National Register at (202)343-6401.