

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

FOR NPS USE ONLY

JUL 11 1975

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

NOV 12 1975

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

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

(Tabernacle Baptist Church)

AND/OR COMMON

German Evangelical Zion Lutheran Church

**2 LOCATION**

STREET &amp; NUMBER

Capital and Herr Streets

-- NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Harrisburg

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

17th

STATE

Pennsylvania

-- VICINITY OF

CODE  
42

COUNTY

Dauphin

CODE

043

**3 CLASSIFICATION****CATEGORY**

--DISTRICT

 BUILDING(S)

--STRUCTURE

--SITE

--OBJECT

**OWNERSHIP**

--PUBLIC

 PRIVATE

--BOTH

**PUBLIC ACQUISITION**

--IN PROCESS

--BEING CONSIDERED

**STATUS** OCCUPIED

--UNOCCUPIED

--WORK IN PROGRESS

**ACCESSIBLE** YES: RESTRICTED

--YES: UNRESTRICTED

--NO

**PRESENT USE**

--AGRICULTURE

--COMMERCIAL

--EDUCATIONAL

--ENTERTAINMENT

--GOVERNMENT

--INDUSTRIAL

--MILITARY

--MUSEUM

--PARK

--PRIVATE RESIDENCE

 RELIGIOUS

--SCIENTIFIC

--TRANSPORTATION

--OTHER:

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME Trustees, Tabernacle Baptist Church c/o Walter Wax

STREET &amp; NUMBER

660 Boas Street, Townhouse Apartments No. 1618

CITY, TOWN

Harrisburg

-- VICINITY OF

STATE

Pennsylvania

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Dauphin County Courthouse

STREET &amp; NUMBER

Front and Market Streets

CITY, TOWN

Harrisburg

STATE

Pennsylvania

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE Pennsylvania Inventory of Historic Places

DATE

1974

--FEDERAL  STATE --COUNTY --LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

William Penn Memorial Museum

CITY, TOWN

Box 1026, Harrisburg

STATE

Pennsylvania

# 7 DESCRIPTION

## CONDITION

EXCELLENT

GOOD

FAIR

DETERIORATED

RUINS

UNEXPOSED

## CHECK ONE

UNALTERED

ALTERED

## CHECK ONE

ORIGINAL SITE

MOVED

DATE \_\_\_\_\_

### DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Tabernacle Baptist Church was constructed in 1886 adjoining an earlier 1863 frame church. The frame church was replaced by a three story brick parsonage in 1897 and the two buildings joined together by a one bay, two story section.

The present Tabernacle Baptist Church is a two story brick building designed in a modified Gothic style. A three story square bell tower set in the south east gable serves as the main entrance to the sanctuary. Doors located in the east and south sides of the tower are recessed with stone tracery in the arches. A similar door is located in the west end of the gable. Windows are also of pointed arch design and are arranged in pairs around the first and second story levels. The central windows on the gable facade feature elaborate stone tracery work. The first story window on the east and west sides of the building are round arch with simple molded lintels. Large oval windows with stone tracery are located in the 3rd story of the tower. Square pilasters set off each pair of windows. Pilasters are also located at the corners of the building and tower. A finely detailed series of brick corbelling accentuates the cornice and 2nd and 3rd story levels of the bell tower. The gable corner opposite the bell tower features a small turret topped by a cross-gabled roof and finial.

The interior floor plan of the church has the sanctuary located on the second story level. A heavy carved wooden staircase leads from the tower entrance to the rear of the sanctuary. The interior appointments of the sanctuary have been altered over the years, but the original stained glass windows with German inscriptions are still extant. The exterior of the building has not been seriously altered and at present is in a good state of repair.

# 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 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 checked="" 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 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 1886

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Tabernacle Baptist Church was originally built by a German Lutheran congregation. Over the years, the German congregation has moved from the area which is now largely a Black neighborhood. The church, however, still remains an integral and important component of the neighborhood community.

Tabernacle Baptist Church is a good example of Gothic design. Of particular note are the stone tracery work, corbelling and stained glass windows. The present congregation is planning to refurbish the building.

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

## 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY .5 acre *Utmokun*

UTM REFERENCES

A 18 313,968,0 445,819,3,0  
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

B           
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C           
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

D           
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

## 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

William K. Watson, Historic Sites Survey June, 1975

ORGANIZATION

Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission

DATE

STREET & NUMBER

Box #1026

TELEPHONE

717-787-4363

CITY OR TOWN

Harrisburg

STATE

Pennsylvania

## 12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL   

STATE   

LOCAL X

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.

FEDERAL REPRESENTATIVE SIGNATURE

*William K. Watson*

TITLE Executive Director, PA Historical & Museum Commission

DATE July 7, 1975

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

Acting

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

DATE 11/12/75

ATTEST:

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE NOV 10 1975

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	NOV 5 1975
DATE ENTERED	NOV 12 1975

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER

PAGE

8. **Statement of Significance**  
Church records do not reveal the names of the architect or contractor.

The church, presently known as the Tabernacle Baptist Church, was originally built by a German Evangelical Lutheran congregation. The difficulties in relation to divine services in the English and German language had led to an amicable separation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in 1842. Various other buildings were used by the German congregation until the present church was constructed in 1886.

Over the years, the German congregation moved from the area which is now largely a black neighborhood. The church was acquired by the Tabernacle Baptist congregation in 1967 and once again is an integral and important component of the neighborhood community.

Although the Tabernacle Baptist Church does not compare in style or grandeur to the large uptown churches of Harrisburg, it does possess a sophistication in design which is uncommon in the area's small churches. The church is an excellent example of 19th century Victorian architecture. Of particular note is the fine brick work. Greek-key frets accentuate the upper level of the bell tower and brick corbeling is located on the gables and cornices. The stained glass windows are original and reflect the church's origins in their German inscriptions and dedications.

The church is located in a neighborhood of small 19th century residences of a very modest nature. It's architectural style has made it a local landmark as well as a religious and social focal point. The present congregation has undertaken a general refurbishing of the building in conjunction with a local urban renewal program.

German Evangelical Zion Church

Property

(Tabernacle Baptist Church)

75 001637

State

Penn.

Working Number

7.11.75-1316

Dauphin

**TECHNICAL**

Photos

Maps

*Costing incorrect*

**CONTROL**

*cm*

*7.15.75*

**HISTORIAN**

*Call*

*Return*

*E. Smith 7-18-75*

*Concur with Ward. They should be familiar with our "How to Complete." Continuation sheet better but still appears to have been a rush job.*

*Accept E. Smith 11-6-75*

**ARCHITECTURAL HISTORIAN**

*This needs a much more complete statement of significance for us to accept.*

*ACCEPT w/ new continuation sheet 11/6/75 7/17/75*

*Call*

**ARCHEOLOGIST**

**OTHER**

**HAER**

Inventory

Review

*We need more - call*

**REVIEW UNIT CHIEF**

*W.R. Luce*

*called 10/31/75 for more info.*

*State promised more info. by phone 8/26/75 re Sen Scott call*

*Call Accept 11-6-75*

**BRANCH CHIEF**

*Accept Henry 11-6-75*

**KEEPER**

*WR*  
NOV 10 1975

National Register Write-up

Federal Register Entry

*2-3-76*

Send-back

Re-submit

Entered

NOV 12 1975

INT:2106-74



View of  
Main Facade

PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

NPS Number

11/12/75

Title:

German Evangelical Zion Church  
(Tabernacle Baptist Church)

Dauphin County, Pennsylvania

Loc.

View of main facade

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM**

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED JUL 11 1975

DATE ENTERED NOV 12 1975

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*  
TYPE ALL ENTRIES ENCLOSE WITH PHOTOGRAPH

**1 NAME** *Herman Evangelical Zion Church*  
HISTORIC (*Tabernacle Baptist Church*)

AND/OR COMMON

**2 LOCATION**

CITY, TOWN \_\_\_\_\_ VICINITY OF \_\_\_\_\_ COUNTY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_  
*Harrisburg, Capital & Herr Sts. Dauphin Pennsylvania*

**3 PHOTO REFERENCE**

PHOTO CREDIT *PA Historical & Museum Commission* DATE OF PHOTO *1975*

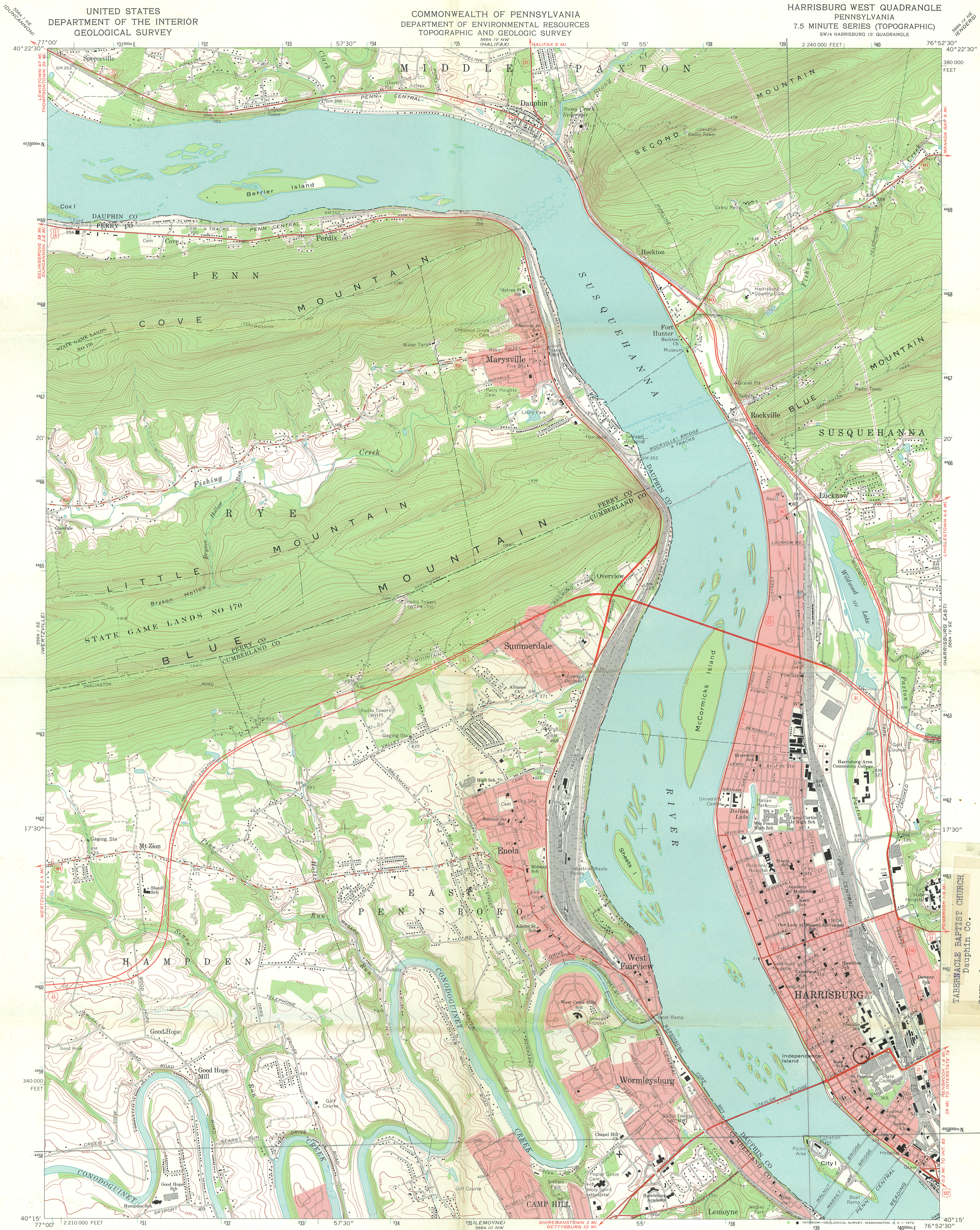
NEGATIVE FILED AT *PA Historical & Museum Commission*  
*Box 1026, Harrisburg, PA 17120*

**4 IDENTIFICATION**

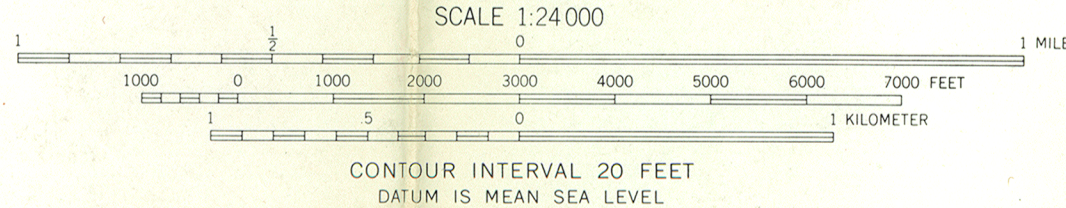
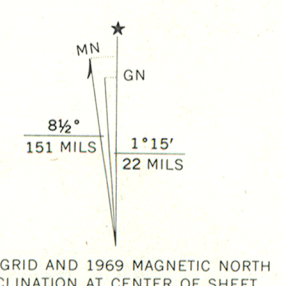
DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC. IF DISTRICT. GIVE BUILDING NAME & STREET

PHOTO NO. *121*

*View of Main Facade.*

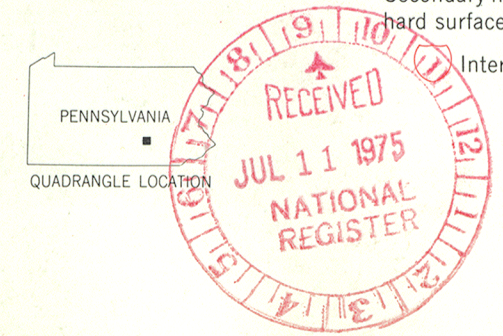


Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey  
Control by USGS and USC&GS  
Topography by photogrammetric methods from aerial  
photographs taken 1968. Field checked 1969  
Supersedes Army Map Service map dated 1947  
Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum  
10,000-foot grid based on Pennsylvania coordinate system, south zone  
1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks,  
zone 18, 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



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



HARRISBURG WEST, PA.  
SW/4 HARRISBURG 15' QUADRANGLE  
N4015—W7652.5/7.5

1969  
AMS 5664 IV SW—SERIES V831

TABERNACLE BAPTIST CHURCH  
Dauphin Co.  
ZONE 18 339 680 4458 930



# NATIONAL REGISTER DATA SHEET

① NAME as it appears on federal register: **German Evangelical Zion Lutheran Church** ② OTHER NAMES: **Tabernacle Baptist Church** ③ date of entry: **11-12-75** ④ county code: **043**

⑤ LOCATION street & number: **Capital and Herr Sts.** city / town: **Harrisburg** vicinity of: **PA** state: **PA** county: **Dauphin** ⑥ NPS REGION: **Mid-Atlantic**

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: **17** ⑫ SOURCE of NOMINATION:  STATE  FEDERAL if state who prepared form? **Wm. K. Watson**

⑬ WITHIN NATIONAL REGISTER HISTORIC DISTRICT?  YES, NAME  NO ⑭ WITHIN NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK?  YES, NAME  NO ⑮ ACREAGE: **.5** ⑯ LOCAL  PRIVATE ORGANIZATION  FEDERAL  ENVIRONS  SUBSTANTIALLY INTACT-3  NOT INTACT-0  UNKNOWN-6  NOT APPLICABLE-9

⑰ ACCESS  YES - Restricted  YES - Unrestricted  No Access  Unknown ⑱ ADAPTIVE USE  YES  NO ⑳ SAVED?  YES  NO ㉑ IS PROPERTY A HISTORIC DISTRICT?  yes  no

㉒ AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE:  ARCHEOLOGY - prehistoric-2  COMMERCE-6  ENGINEERING-11  LANDSCAPE ARCH.-15  POLITICS / GOVT.-21  RECREATION-28  ARCHITECTURE-4  COMMUNICATIONS-7  EXPLORATION-12  LITERATURE-17  RELIGION-22  SETTLEMENT-29  AGRICULTURE-3  CONSERVATION-8  HEALTH-27  MILITARY-18  SCIENCE-23  URBAN PLANNING-31  ART-5  EDUCATION-10  INDUSTRY-13  MUSIC-19  SOCIAL / HUMANITARIAN-24  OTHER (SPECIFY)  SOCIAL / CULTURAL-30  TRANSPORTATION-25

㉓ CLAIMS: explain 'first'  'oldest'  'only'

㉔ functions WHEN HISTORICALLY SIGNIFICANT: **Church** CURRENTLY: **Church** ㉕ dates of initial construction: **1886** major alterations: **1897, parsonage built + joined to rear** historic events: ㉖ ETHNIC GROUP ASSOCIATION: **German, Black**

㉗ architectural style(s): **Gothic Revival** ㉘ architect: **-** ㉙ master builder: **-** ㉚ engineer: **-**

㉛ landscape architect / garden designer: **-** ㉜ interior decorator: **-** ㉝ artist: **-** ㉞ artisan: **-** ㉟ builder / contractor: **-**

㊱ NAMES give role & date PERSONAL: **-** EVENTS: **-** INSTITUTIONAL: **-**

㊲ NATIONAL REGISTER WRITE-UP

Brick, 2 stories, modified rectangle, steeply-gabled roof, 3-story square bell and entrance tower at SE corner; ~~corners, and~~ lancet and round headed window pairs articulated by square pilasters, turret with cross-gabled roof, and finial atop SW corner; ~~entrances, central front and oval tower windows ornamented with stone tracery; corbelled cornice; and~~ tower 2nd and 3rd-story levels articulated with brick corbelling; ~~joined by~~ 2-story, 1-bay section to 3-story brick parsonage at rear, 1897; <sup>added to</sup> Gothic Revival. Good example of area's Gothic Revival structures; originally built for German Lutheran congregation, now serves Baptist congregation and surrounding community.

**ALTERATIONS:**