

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms* (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

historic name: Mt. Zion Methodist Church
other names/site number: #431

2. Location

street & number: 500 High
city, town: Brenham
state: Texas code: 048 county: Washington code: 477
N/A not for publication
N/A vicinity
zip code: 77833

3. Classification

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	Number of Resources within Property	
		Contributing	Noncontributing
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)		
<input type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input type="checkbox"/> district	1	0 buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site		0 sites
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure		0 structures
	<input type="checkbox"/> object	1	0 objects
			0 Total

Name of related multiple property listing:

Historic and Architectural Resources of

Number of contributing resources previously
listed in the National Register 0

4. State/Federal Agency Certification Brenham, Texas

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this ☒ nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property ☒ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet.

Signature of certifying official

Texas Historical Commission

State or Federal agency and bureau

Date

2 Feb. 1990

In my opinion, the property ☐ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet.

Signature of commenting or other official

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:
☒ entered in the National Register.

See continuation sheet.

☐ determined eligible for the National
Register. See continuation sheet.☐ determined not eligible for the
National Register.☐ removed from the National Register.☐ other, (explain):

Patrick Andrews

3/29/90

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions):

Religion/Religious Structure

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions):

Religion/Religious Structure

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(enter categories from instructions):

Late Gothic Revival Influence

Material (enter categories from instructions):

foundation: Brick

walls: Wood

roof: Asphalt Shingle

other:

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

☒ See continuation sheet

8. Statement of Significance

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

☐ nationally ☐ statewide ☒ locallyApplicable National Register Criteria ☐ A ☐ B ☒ C ☐ DCriteria Considerations (Exceptions) ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G N/A

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions):

Architecture

Period of Significance:

1921

Significant Dates:

1921

Cultural Affiliation:

N/A

Significant Person:

N/A

Architect/Builder:

Giddings, J.C.

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

☒ See continuation sheet

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National Park Service

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Continuation Sheet

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7. Description

Mt. Zion Methodist Church is a 1-story, L-plan frame building designed with a Gothic Revival influence. A 2-story square tower with two sets of double doors access the main chamber at the northeast corner. Large stylized pointed arched windows dominate the north and east facades. The property is in good condition.

Mt. Zion Methodist Church is a 1-story, L-plan frame building facing northeast on a large, elevated corner lot in West Brenham. A gable-roofed rear addition projects to the south of the main sanctuary. It rests on a brick foundation and is covered by interlocking gable roofs with asphalt shingles. All single windows are 1/1 wooden double-hung sashes. Narrow horizontal siding clads the building. Small evergreen and deciduous trees are scattered on the lot.

The building reflects a Gothic Revival influence in its bell tower details and large stylized and small pointed arched windows. Although built in the 1920s, the property borrows heavily from high style Gothic Revival churches from an earlier period. This interpretation is a vernacular expression of the style in a carpenter's medium.

Set at an angle, the principal (northeast) facade is dominated by a 2-story square tower at the northeast intersection. A tent tower roof with finial rises above an open belfry that is decorated with stick braces and railing. Single ocular windows face north and east above a pent-roof covering two sets of double wood-paneled doors, with clear-light transoms, placed at 90 degree angles. Concrete steps access the main sanctuary.

The north and east elevations are highlighted by large stylized pointed arched windows made up of three 1/1 windows below six small diamond-shaped and pointed-arch windows. On the east facade there are single windows on either side of the large window encasement.

A 5-bay addition runs from the west facade with a low gable roof. The first and fourth bays are single wood exterior doors accessed by concrete steps with iron railings; the second, third, and fifth bays are windows with the last being much smaller.

The property appears to be in good condition.

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8. Significance

The Mt. Zion Methodist Church (1921) is eligible under Criterion C for its Gothic Revival vernacular interpretation. Gothic Revival details include the pointed-arched windows and belfry details. This church is the only historic black congregation church that retains its architectural integrity in Brenham. The property is associated with the local context "Community Development and Regional Expansion 1870-1941."

This Mt. Zion Methodist Church (1921) is the second location for this congregation, organized in 1877 as the Colored Methodist Episcopal Church. The first location on 3rd Street was destroyed in the 1900 storm that hit the Texas Gulf Coast. This property was funded by J.C. Giddings of the Brenham Mercantile Company for the congregation and completed in June 1921.

Although simple and restrained in ornamentation, the Mt. Zion Church is one of the finest vernacular interpretations of the high-style Gothic Revival church in the area. The use of this style for a black congregation in Brenham is unique and indicates a level of social standing in the community perhaps not found among other congregations. This establishes the church as the most elaborate structure for a black congregation in Brenham and the only one retaining most of its integrity.

(See context statement for more information on the congregation.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

☒ See continuation sheet

See bibliography of context statement

Previous documentation on file (NPS): N/A

- ☐ preliminary determination of individual listing
(36 CFR 67) has been requested
- ☐ previously listed in the National Register
- ☐ previously determined eligible by the National Register
- ☐ designated a National Historic Landmark
- ☐ recorded by Historic American Buildings
Survey #
- ☐ recorded by Historic American Engineering
Record #

Primary location of additional data:

- ☒ State historic preservation office
- ☐ Other State agency
- ☐ Federal agency
- ☐ Local government
- ☐ University
- ☐ Other

Specify repository:

Texas Historical Commission, Austin, Texas

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of property: less than one

UTM References:

A 1/4 / 749/740/ 333/ 9380
Zone Easting Northing

C / / / / /
Zone Easting Northing

B / / / / /
Zone Easting Northing

D / / / / /
Zone Easting Northing

☐ See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description: Hurt's Addition, Block 4, Lot 6 of the City of Brenham, Texas

☐ See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification: The boundary includes the nominated property and entire city lot
that historically has been associated with the property.

☐ See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

name/title: Dwayne Jones/Preservation Planner	date: 1984; 1989
organization: (with assistance from Sally Victor)	telephone: 512/463-6094
street & number: Texas Historical Commission	state: zip code:
city or town: 1511 Colorado, Austin	TX 78701

2/16/90

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Brenham ~~County~~ MPS TEXAS Washington County

DATE LISTED

COVER

Substantive Review

1. Becker--Hildebrandt House
2. Blinn College Substantive Review
3. Blue Bell Creameries Complex Substantive Review
4. Brenham High School
5. Brenham High School Gymnasium
6. Brenham School
7. Brenham Water Works Substantive Review
8. Brockschmidt--Miller House
9. East Brenham Substantive Review
10. Holle, Edmund, House
11. Lenert, Dr. Robert, House
12. Matchett, Edgar, House
13. Mt. Zion Methodist Church Substantive Review
14. Reichardt--Low House
15. Santa Fe Railway Company Freight Depot Substantive Review
16. Schlenker, Almot, House
17. Schlenker--Kolwes House
18. Schuerenberg, F.W., House
19. Schuerenberg, R.A., House
20. Seelhorst, W.E., House

3/28/90

3/29/90

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SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING RECORD

NRIS Reference Number: 90000450

Date Listed:

Mt. Zion Methodist Church
Property Name

Washington
County

TX
State

Brenham MPS
Multiple Name

This property is listed in the National Register of Historic Places in accordance with the attached nomination documentation subject to the following exceptions, exclusions, or amendments, notwithstanding the National Park Service certification included in the nomination documentation.

for Patricia Andrews
Signature of the Keeper

3/29/90
Date of Action

=====

Amended Items in Nomination:

Statement of Significance: Mt. Zion Methodist Church is a religious property. Criteria Consideration A should be checked.

This information was confirmed with Dwayne Jones of the Texas SHPO.

DISTRIBUTION:

National Register property file
Nominating Authority (without nomination attachment)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY NAME: Mt. Zion Methodist Church

MULTIPLE NAME: Brenham MPS

STATE & COUNTY: TEXAS, Washington

DATE RECEIVED: 2/16/90 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 2/27/90
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 3/15/90 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 4/02/90
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 90000450

NOMINATOR: STATE

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

APPEAL: N DATA PROBLEM: N LANDSCAPE: N LESS THAN 50 YEARS: N
OTHER: N PDIL: N PERIOD: N PROGRAM UNAPPROVED: N
REQUEST: N SAMPLE: N SLR DRAFT: Y NATIONAL: N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

☒ ACCEPT ☐ RETURN ☐ REJECT 3/29/90 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

The Mt. Zion Methodist Church is significant for its representation of the
Gothic style fashioned of wood. Serving a black congregation, it retains
the greatest integrity of the community's black churches.

Criticism consideration A should be checked.

RECOM./CRITERIA Accept/C
REVIEWER Andrews & Lee
DISCIPLINE History
DATE 3/27/90

DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y/N see attached SLR (Y) N

CLASSIFICATION

___count ___resource type

STATE/FEDERAL AGENCY CERTIFICATION

FUNCTION

___historic ___current

DESCRIPTION

___architectural classification
___materials
___descriptive text

SIGNIFICANCE

Period Areas of Significance--Check and justify below

Specific dates Builder/Architect
Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

___summary paragraph
___completeness
___clarity
___applicable criteria
___justification of areas checked
___relating significance to the resource
___context
___relationship of integrity to significance
___justification of exception
___other

BIBLIOGRAPHY

GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

___acreage ___verbal boundary description
___UTMs ___boundary justification

ACCOMPANYING DOCUMENTATION/PRESENTATION

___sketch maps ___USGS maps ___photographs ___presentation

OTHER COMMENTS

Questions concerning this nomination may be directed to

Phone

Signed

Date



MT. ZION METHODIST CHURCH (#431)

BRENNHAM, TEXAS

CHARLES M. PEVETO

OCTOBER 9, 1989

NEGATIVE ON FILE - TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

CAMERA FACING SOUTHWEST

Please refer to the map in the
Multiple Property Cover Sheet
for this property

Multiple Property Cover Sheet Reference Number: 64500628