

1872

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NATIONAL
REGISTER

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM

1. Name of Property

historic name Mount Zion United Methodist Church

other names/site number #5

2. Location

street & number 218 Alexander Street [NA] not for publication

city/town Belton [NA] vicinity

state Texas code TX County Bell code 027 zip code 76513

3. Classification

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	Number of Resources within Contributing	
Property			
Noncontributing			
[XX] private	[XX] building(s)	<u>1</u>	<u> </u> buildings
[] public-local	[] district	<u> </u>	<u> </u> sites
[] public-State	[] site	<u> </u>	<u> </u> structures
[] public-Federal	[] structure	<u> </u>	<u> </u> objects
	[] object	<u>1</u>	<u>0</u> Total

Name of related multiple property listing:
Community Development in Belton, Texas, 1850-1945

Number of contributing resources
previously listed in NR 0

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4. State/Federal Agency Certification

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As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this [XX] 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 [XX] meets [] does not meet the National Register Criteria. [] See continuation sheet.

Curtis Russell
Signature of certifying official
Texas Historical Commission
State or Federal agency and bureau

29 Oct. 1990
Date

=====

In my opinion, the property [] meets [] does not meet the National Register criteria.

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): _____

Entered in the
National Register

William Byers

12/26/90

Signature of Keeper

Date of Action

=====

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

RELIGION: religious facility

Current Functions

RELIGION: religious facility

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7. Description

Architectural Classification

OTHER: vernacularLate Gothic Revival

Materials

foundation STONE: limestonewalls STUCCOWOOD: shingles, weatherboardroof ASPHALT: composition shingles

other _____

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Describe present and historic physical appearance.

[] See continuation sheet.

Mt. Zion United Methodist Church is a 1-story, T-plan vernacular building with Gothic Revival influences naively expressed in the pointed-arch windows. A 2-story stucco and wood-sided bell tower sits in the northwest elbow of the two wings. The building faces west on a large sloping lot in West Belton just above the banks of Nolan Creek.

The 1-story, T-plan Mt. Zion United Methodist Church rests on a limestone rubble foundation and is capped by an intersecting gable roof with asphalt shingles. The wood frame walls are stuccoed up to the height of the eaves and the gable ends are clad with imbricated shingles. The main (northwest) facade is dominated by the 2-story square-plan bell tower which is stuccoed on the first floor and has wood siding on the second story. The tower has a hipped roof covered with asphalt shingles and is topped by a sheet metal finial. The building reflects the Gothic Revival style in the pointed arch windows used throughout the building. The windows are 3/2 double hung wooden sash with lancet arches and stone lintels. On the north facade is a large central pointed arch window flanked on either side by two smaller windows. The building is in poor condition with foundation problems, alteration to some of the windows (which have been replaced by aluminum frame windows) and cracked stucco. Attached to the western facade is a modern brick addition.

8. Statement of Significance

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties: ☐ nationally ☐ statewide ☒ locally

Applicable National Register Criteria ☒A ☐B ☒C ☐D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) ☒A ☐B ☐C ☐D ☐E ☐F ☐G NA

Areas of Significance

Ethnic Heritage: Black

Architecture

Period of Significance

1893 - 1940

Significant Dates

1893

Cultural Affiliation

NA

Significant Person(s)

NA

Architect/Builder

unknown

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above. ☐ See continuation sheet.

The Mt. Zion United Methodist Church, built in 1893, is significant both for its long association with the black community of Belton and as an example of a vernacular interpretation of the Gothic Revival style. Built by an African-American congregation, the church is one of the few surviving early black churches in the Bell County area. Contextually, the building relates to Community and Regional Development in Belton, specifically the rapid growth the town experienced during the peak years of the cotton boom around the turn of the century and the related growth of the black community in Belton during this period. The church meets National Register Criterion A, significant in the area of Ethnic Heritage for its longterm association with an African-American congregation from the late years of the 19th century, and as a focal point for the black community in West Belton since that time. The building also meets Criterion C, in the area of architecture as an intact vernacular interpretation of the Gothic Revival style.

The Mt. Zion United Methodist Church was built in 1893 by a large African-American congregation in West Belton. Little is known about the construction of the church or its early history. The building is situated on the western bank of Nolan Creek in what was at the time one of the largest black residential neighborhoods in the city. Before the Civil War Bell County had an economy largely based on ranching and a relatively small black population--21% in 1860. After the war there were few jobs for freed blacks and tremendous oppression. As cotton emerged as a principal cash crop later in the century, blacks were able to work in the labor intensive growing and processing jobs and the black population grew; however, they were allowed to live only in segregated communities in the less desirable areas. West Belton, across Nolan Creek from downtown, became the largest black neighborhood. The church served--and continues to serve--as one of the foci of the black community.

Although simple and restrained in its ornamentation, the Mt. Zion United Methodist Church is an interesting vernacular interpretation of the Gothic Revival style in the area. Few Black churches from the 19th century have survived intact. This structure is presently in poor condition with a modern addition which detracts somewhat from its architectural integrity; it is nonetheless a very good example of the sort of the modest churches erected by African-American congregations.

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9. Major Bibliographical References

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[] See continuation sheet.

Please see bibliography accompanying context statement "Community Development in Belton, Texas, 1850-1945."

Previous documentation on file (NPS): NA
[] preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
[] previously listed in 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:
[XX] State historic preservation office
[] Other State agency
[] Federal agency
[] Local government
[] University
[] Other

Specify repository:
Texas Historical Commission

=====

10. Geographical Data

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Acreage of Property less than 1 acre

UTM References

A [14] [646360] [3437040]

Zone Easting Northing

C [] [] []

B [] [] []

Zone Easting Northing

D [] [] []

=====

Verbal Boundary Description

[] See continuation sheet

Lots 2 and 4, Block 5, McFarland Estate

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Boundary Justification

[] See continuation sheet

The legal description consistent with current ownership and most closely associated with historic ownership of the property.

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11. Form Prepared By

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(based on research by Sally Victor, Victor & Victor Consultants)
Name/Title Chris Long, Historian (with Tory Laughlin Taylor, Architectural Historian)

Organization Texas Historical Commission, NR Programs date August 1990Street & Number P.O. Box 12276 Capitol Station telephone 512-463-6094City or Town Austin state TX zip 78711

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number _____ Page _____

Belton MPS

Bell County, TEXAS

Date Listed

- | | | |
|---|---------------------------|-----------------|
| 22. Harris, Capt. Andrew Jackson, House | <u>Substantive Review</u> | <u>12/26/90</u> |
| 23. House at 402 N. East St. | | <u>12/26/90</u> |
| 24. House at 730 N. Beal St. | <u>Substantive Review</u> | <u>12/26/90</u> |
| 25. Hudson, Dr. Taylor, House | | <u>12/26/90</u> |
| 26. James House | | <u>12/26/90</u> |
| 27. Kinchion, L. B., House | | <u>12/26/90</u> |
| 28. Lee, Walter J., House | | <u>12/26/90</u> |
| 29. McWhirter, George and Martha, House | | <u>12/26/90</u> |
| 30. Means, V. R., House | | <u>12/26/90</u> |
| 31. Miller, J. I., House | | <u>12/26/90</u> |
| 32. Missouri, Kansas & Texas Railroad Bridge at
the Leon River | <u>Substantive Review</u> | <u>12/26/90</u> |
| 33. Morey House | | <u>12/26/90</u> |
| 34. Mount Zion United Methodist Church | | <u>12/26/90</u> |
| 35. Naismith, Robert, House | | <u>12/26/90</u> |
| 36. Potts, Arthur, House | | <u>12/26/90</u> |
| 37. Venable, W. J., House | | <u>12/26/90</u> |
| 38. Ware, H. A. and Helena, House | | <u>12/26/90</u> |

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY Mount Zion United Methodist Church
NAME:

MULTIPLE Belton MPS
NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: TEXAS, Bell

DATE RECEIVED: 11/14/90 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 11/30/90
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 12/16/90 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 12/29/90
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 90001872,

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: N NATIONAL: N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

☒ ACCEPT ☐ RETURN ☐ REJECT 12/26/90 DATE

Entered in the
National Register

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

RECOM./CRITERIA _____
REVIEWER _____
DISCIPLINE _____
DATE _____

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

Signed _____ Phone _____

Date _____



#182

218 ALEXANDER

HISTORIC & ARCHITECTURAL RESOURCES of BELTON, TEXAS
MT. ZION UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
218 ALEXANDER STREET
BELTON, BELL CO., TEXAS
CAMERA FACING
NEGATIVE WITH CONSULTANT
PHOTO 5 OF 38

Site No. 182, ROLL 41, #14

Address 218 ALEXANDER

View S.E. OBLIQUE

Belton, Texas

Historic Sites Survey, 1985

VICTOR AND VICTOR CONSULTANTS, INC.

P.O. Box 26189

AUSTIN, TEXAS

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

Multiple Property Cover Sheet Reference Number: 64500627