

Mt. Zion United Methodist Church
Pasadena
Private

Mt. Zion United Methodist Church is an example of late-19th century, African-American, ecclesiastical architecture. It is a relatively simple and unornamented variation of the Gothic Revival Style, and was built to replace an earlier church building. The exterior is altered, but historic interior fabric remains highly intact. A greatly altered Rosenwald School is located adjacent to the church. This church building and its associated school played an important role in the social and cultural development of the area's African-American community.

AA-1044
Mt. Zion United Methodist Church
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MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN
STATEWIDE HISTORIC CONTEXTS

- I. Geographic Organization:** Western Shore
- II. Chronological/Development Periods:** Industrial/Urban Dominance (1870-1930)
- III. Prehistoric Period Themes:** N/A/
- IV. Historic Period Themes:** Architecture; Religion
- V. Resource Type**
Category: building
Historic Environment: rural
Historic Function(s) and Use(s): church
Known Design Source: none

Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

Survey No. AA-1044

Magi No.

DOE yes no

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic Mt. Zion African Methodist Episcopal Church

and/or common Mt. Zion United Methodist Church

2. Location

street & number 8178 Artie Drive not for publicationcity, town Pasadena vicinity of congressional district

state Maryland county Anne Arundel

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 type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational	<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<input type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Trustees of Mt. Zion United Methodist Church

street & number 8178 Artie Drive telephone no.:

city, town Pasadena state and zip code: MD 21122

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Anne Arundel County Court House liber 2826

street & number Church Circle folio 181

city, town Annapolis state Maryland

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title

date federal state county local

depository for survey records

city, town state

7. Description

Survey No. AA-1044

Condition		Check one		Check one	
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved	date of move _____	
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed				

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

Mt. Zion United Methodist Church faces north and is flanked on its front and east sides by paved parking areas, and on its rear and west sides by mature stands of trees. Mt. Zion, built in 1883, is a simple, gable-front, frame building. It has one extended story, and is built on a rectangular plan. The front facade contains three bays, and the side have four. Walls rest on a rubble field stone foundation. The steeply pitched gable roof is sheathed in asphalt shingles and is pierced on both sides, near the wall axis, by a small, brick, stove chimney. A small, low addition projects from the rear of the building.

Windows are consistent throughout the structure. Tall and narrow, with a pointed-arch top, windows contain opaque and colored glazing. Centered in each is a decoratively glazed circular section displaying a biblical motif, e.g. cross, anchor, etc. Windows are fixed sash, but a hopper section is present in the lower level of each window, which opens for ventilation. The primary entrance is centered on the front facade and is a modern pair of metal and glass doors. This entrance is approached by three, low, concrete stairs, and is protected by a modern metal awning. A gable window located in the front facade is altered and contains a louvered ventilator insert.

The historic integrity of the church's exterior is compromised by the rear addition and installation of modern exterior treatments, but the building's interior is highly intact and retains most of its original finish, which features plastered walls accented with darkly stained wainscot and window surrounds. Paneled balconies are present on the north and east walls and are supported below by turned posts. Historically, these are very similar in style to the turned balusters of the communion rail. Six octagonal metal lamps are suspended from the ceiling. These are executed in the Gothic Revival style, with metal work design to mimic window traceries.

A former African-American Rosenwald school building, is situated on the property and is located directly east of the church. This long, one-story, gable-roof, frame building was constructed between 1917 and 1932, but its historic character is compromised by the presence of aluminum siding and modern windows and doors. The building's interior is completely devoid of historic finish.

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

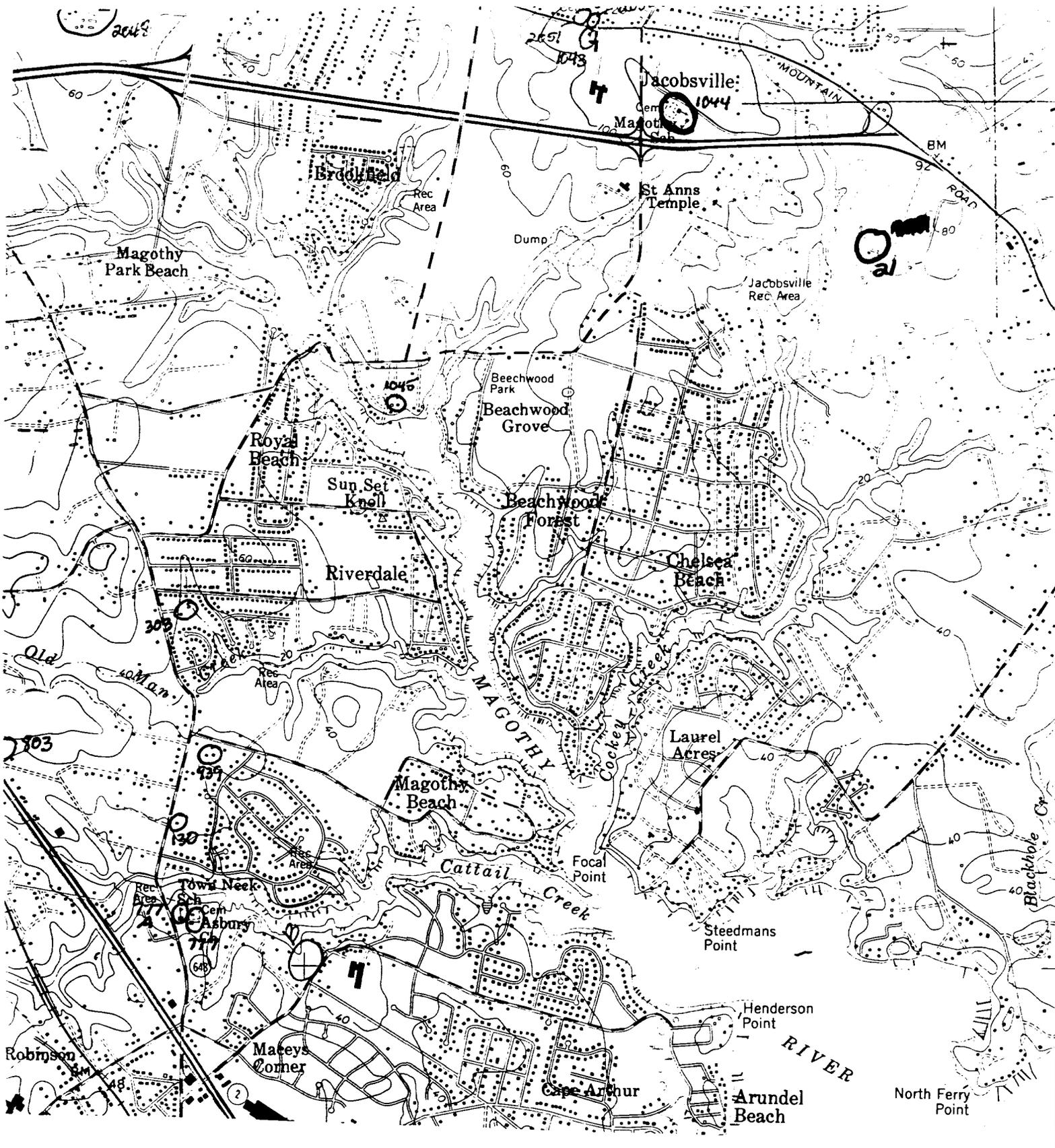
Specific dates	1883	Builder/Architect						
Check:	Applicable Criteria:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A	<input type="checkbox"/> B	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> C	<input type="checkbox"/> D			
	and/or							
	Applicable Exception:	<input type="checkbox"/> A	<input type="checkbox"/> B	<input type="checkbox"/> C	<input type="checkbox"/> D	<input type="checkbox"/> E	<input type="checkbox"/> F	<input type="checkbox"/> G
	Level of Significance:	<input type="checkbox"/> national	<input type="checkbox"/> state	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> local				

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

Mt. Zion is a typical example of late-19th century African Methodist Episcopal church architecture, and is representative of black church buildings found nationally during its period of construction. While the building's exterior is altered by modern materials, the church retains most of its fine interior appointments. The comparatively high level of finish displayed in this building indicate it was erected by a congregation with significant financial resources.

The present church was erected in 1883, but the Mt. Zion congregation pre-dates its truction. Maps indicate the presence of a black Methodist church in this area in 1878 (1). According to tradition, an earlier church, which was destroyed by fire, was located due west of the present building (2).

A Rosenwald designed school is associated with this property. It is significantly altered and is used as a Sunday School Building. Its presence, however, represents the close traditional relationship between African American churches and African American education. In the years where blacks were not entitled to equal public education, church congregations frequently established their own schools. Rosenwald schools, in particular, represent a milestone in black education. Over 4,000 Rosenwald schools were built throughout the rural south in the years between 1917 and 1932. Schools were built according to standardized plans, as well as partially funded by, the Julius Rosenwald Foundation of Chicago. It was common practice for black churches to donate land, money, and labor in order to provide African American children with a higher quality education, than would otherwise be available.



Gibson Island
 USGS 7.5 minute series
 Scale: 1:24,000
 1965, photo revised 1979

Site Number: AA-1044
 Site Name: Mt. Zion Church
 Location: Arctic Dr., Pasadena



AA-1044

MT ZION METHODIST CHURCH

ANNE ARUNDEL CO., MARYLAND

Photo BY SHERRI M. MARSH, AUG. 1996

NEG. AT MARYLAND SHPO

11:00 AM, EAST PERSPECTIVE

1 of 4



AA-1044

MT. ZION UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
ANNE ARUNDEL CO., MARYLAND

PHOTO BY SHERRI M. MARSH, AUG. 1996

NEG. AT MARYLAND SHPO

INTERIOR VIEW

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AA-1044

MT. ZION UNITED METHODIST CHURCH SCHOOL
(ROSENWALD SCHOOL)

ANNE ARUNDEL CO, MARYLAND

PHOTO BY SHERRI M. MARSH, AUG. 1996

NEG. AT MARYLAND SHPD

NE PERSPECTIVE

PHOTO 3 of 4



AA-1044

MT. ZION UNITED METHODIST CHURCH School
(ROSENWALD School)

ANNE ARUNDEL CO, MARYLAND

PHOTO BY SHERRI M. MARSH, AUG 10, 2006

NEG. AT MARYLAND SHPD

NOTE: ELEVATION

PHOTO 4 OF 4