

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY  
HISTORIC SITE SUMMARY SHEET

Survey #: P.G. #68-11 Building Date: 1920

Building Name: North Brentwood A.M.E. Zion Church

Location: 4037 Webster Street, North Brentwood, Maryland

Private/Religious/Occupied/Excellent/Accessible

Description

The Brentwood African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church is a large one-and-one-half-story building, constructed of brick painted white, with its gable front facing north. Set into the northeast corner of the building is a two-story square entry-tower, with entrance in its north face through double doors approached by a wide set of steps. A double row of header bricks forms the ogee-arch surround of the double doors. Above the doors are three lancet windows, highlighted by string courses of projecting brick. The tower is topped by a pyramidal roof. In the north gable end is an off-center stained-glass window, consisting of two 1/1 windows filled with opaque stained glass and surmounted by a tripartite gothic-arched transom light. The main block of the church is three bays long, each bay filled with two stained glass windows. Separating the bays are projecting brick buttresses. The building rests on a high parged brick foundation, and all of the brick is painted white. The roof is covered with gray asphalt shingle, and has a deep overhang at the eaves.

Significance

The Brentwood African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church is a handsome brick church structure which is a focal point in the black community of North Brentwood. It is a good example of a modest but substantial church, with simple Gothic Revival elements, in an urban setting. Brentwood was developed as a suburb at the turn of this century, and the black community in its northern section soon came to be known as North Brentwood. The church was organized in 1913, and a frame church was built within a few blocks of the site of the present church. In March 1920, the present lot was purchased by the trustees of the church, and construction of the church was begun that summer. The five trustees, together with Reverend Chesterfield Jackson, took out incorporation papers as the "African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church of Brentwood, Maryland" in August 1921. The church has served the local community for over 60 years, and has an active congregation. It is noticeable landmark in one of the older black suburbs of the District of Columbia.

Acreage: 14,580 square feet

# Maryland Historical Trust

## State Historic Sites Inventory Form

### 1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic Brentwood African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church

and/or common North Brentwood A.M.E. Zion Church

### 2. Location

street & number 4037 Webster Street  not for publication

city, town North Brentwood  vicinity of congressional district 5

state Maryland county Prince George's

### 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	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input checked="" 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 Brentwood A.M.E. Zion Church

street & number 4037 Webster Street telephone no.:

city, town North Brentwood state and zip code Md. 20722

### 5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Prince George's County Courthouse liber 3740

street & number Main Street folio 459

city, town Upper Marlboro state Md.

### 6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title Prince George's County Inventory of Historic Sites

date 1974  federal  state  county  local

repository for survey records History Division MNCPPC

city, town Riverdale state Md.

# 7. Description

<b>Condition</b>		<b>Check one</b>	<b>Check one</b>	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site	
<input 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.

The Brentwood African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church is a front-gabled building with corner entry tower which is located on a lot in the subdivision of North Brentwood (Holladay's Addition to Highland). It is a large (30 feet by 50 feet) one-and-one-half-story building, constructed of brick painted white, with its gable front facing north. Set into the northeast corner of the building is a two-story square entry-tower, with entrance in its north face through double doors approached by a wide set of steps. A double row of header bricks forms the ogee-arch surround of the double doors. Above the doors are three lancet windows, the central being the tallest, set off and highlighted by three wide (lower) string courses of projecting brick, and one slim (upper) double string course. The lancet windows are louvered, and painted brown. The tower is topped by a pyramidal roof.

In the north (principal) gable end is an off-center stained-glass window, consisting of two side-by-side 1/1 double sash windows filled with opaque stained glass and surmounted by a tripartite gothic-arched transom light. Under this window is a below-grade basement entrance. The main block (nave) of the church is three bays long, each bay filled with two stained glass double hung sash windows; each upper sash has seven segments of gothic-arched tracery. In each bay at basement level is a wide segmental-arched window. Separating the bays are projecting brick buttresses.

The building rests on a high parged brick foundation, and all of the brick is painted white. The roof is covered with gray asphalt shingle, and has a deep overhang at the eaves: the wainscoting under the eaves is painted brown, as are the window surrounds and other trim. There is an exterior stove chimney at the rear (south) gable end, west of the ridge.

# 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 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> other (specify) local history
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

**Specific dates**      1920      **Builder/Architect**

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check: Applicable Criteria:  A  B  C  D  
and/or  
Applicable Exception:  A  B  C  D  E  F  G

Level of Significance:  national  state  local

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

The Brentwood African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church is a handsome brick church structure which stands as a focal point in the black community of North Brentwood. It is a good example of a modest but substantial church, with simple Gothic Revival elements, in an urban setting.

Brentwood was developed at the turn of this century as a suburb of Washington, easily accessible by the new electric street car line along Rhode Island Avenue. Brentwood's northern section, bordering along the Northwest Branch, was developed by the Holladay Land Company, as an all-black suburb; this black community was known as Randall's Town, after Henry Randall, a local black landowner. By 1930, Randall's Town had split apart from Brentwood, and came to be known as North Brentwood.<sup>1</sup>

The African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church was organized in this area in 1913, and a frame church was built within a few blocks of the site of the present church.<sup>2</sup> In March 1920, the present lot, #17 in Block 22, was purchased by the trustees of the church, W.H. Thomas, Joseph Herbert, Harrison Johnson, Robert Johnson and Edgar Johnson.<sup>3</sup> The construction of the church was begun that summer: the cornerstone reads "Organized May 1913. Built by Rev. Chesterfield Jackson, July 18, 1920." The five trustees, together with Reverend Chesterfield Jackson, took out incorporation papers as the "African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church of Brentwood, Maryland" in August 1921.<sup>4</sup>

The church has continued to serve the local community for over 60 years, and has an active congregation. It is noticeable landmark in one of the older black suburbs of the District of Columbia.



#8. Continued

Notes:

- 1 The Neighborhoods of Prince George's County, 1974, pp. 16-19.
- 2 Works Progress Administration Church Records, 1936, Maryland Hall of Records.
- 3 Prince George's County Land Records #152:337.
- 4 Prince George's County Incorporation Records JBB#1:506.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST WORKSHEET

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NOMINATION FORM  
for the  
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES, NATIONAL PARKS SERVICE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

<b>1. NAME</b>				
COMMON:				
AND/OR HISTORIC: Brentwood A.M.E. Zion Church				
<b>2. LOCATION</b>				
STREET AND NUMBER: 4037 Webster Street				
CITY OR TOWN: Brentwood				
STATE: Maryland		COUNTY: Prince George's		
<b>3. CLASSIFICATION</b>				
<b>CATEGORY</b> (Check One)  <input type="checkbox"/> District <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<b>OWNERSHIP</b>  <input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	<b>STATUS</b>  <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	<b>ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC</b>  Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No	
<b>PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)</b>				
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural	<input type="checkbox"/> Government	<input type="checkbox"/> Park	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	<input type="checkbox"/> Comments
<input type="checkbox"/> Commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> Industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> Private	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Educational	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Religious	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	_____	_____
<b>4. OWNER OF PROPERTY</b>				
OWNER'S NAME: Brentwood A.M.E. Zion Church				
STREET AND NUMBER: 4037 Webster Street				
CITY OR TOWN: Brentwood		STATE: Maryland		
<b>5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION</b>				
COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC: Prince George's County Courthouse				
STREET AND NUMBER:				
CITY OR TOWN: Upper Marlboro		STATE: Maryland		
Title Reference of Current Deed (Book & Pg. #):				
<b>6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS</b>				
TITLE OF SURVEY: None				
DATE OF SURVEY: <input type="checkbox"/> Federal <input type="checkbox"/> State <input type="checkbox"/> County <input type="checkbox"/> Local				
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:				
STREET AND NUMBER:				
CITY OR TOWN:		STATE:		





9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	
NE	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	
SE	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	
SW	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY:

Acreage Justification:

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

STATE:	COUNTY:

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:  
Christopher Owens, Park Historian

ORGANIZATION: M-NCPPC      DATE: 3/2/73

STREET AND NUMBER:  
8787 Georgia Avenue

CITY OR TOWN: Silver Spring      STATE: Maryland

12. State Liaison Officer Review: (Office Use Only)

Significance of this property is:

- \* National
- State
- Local

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

Chain of Title

Brentwood A.M.E. Zion Church  
P.G. #68-11

#3740:459  
19 June 1969  
Deed

James C. Thomas, George Smith, Sr., and Clara Carter, surviving trustees of the A.M.E. Zion Church, to James C. Thomas, George Smith, Sr., Clara Carter, Florence Hebron, Richard Butler, Kenneth Dairs, Geneva Butler and James Toler, trustees of A.M.E. Zion Church, lot 17 in block 22 in subdivision of Halladay's Addition to Highland, which grantors acquired by #2297:441.

#2297:441  
24 Feb 1959  
Deed

William H. Thomas, surviving trustee of A.M.E. Zion Church of Brentwood, to James C. Thomas, Herman Hibson, George Smith, Sr., Clara Carter, and William H. Thomas, trustees of A.M.E. Zion Church, same property which grantors acquired by #152:337.

#152:337  
3 Mar 1920  
Deed

Isaac D. Arnold to William H. Thomas, Harrison Johnson, Josept Herbert, Robert Johnson, and Edgar Johnson, trustees of A.M.E. Zion Church of Brentwood, lot 17 in Block 22 of resubdivision of the Holladay Addition to Highland.





P.G.#68-11

North Brentwood A.M.E. Zion Church  
Prince George's County, MD

Susan G. Pearl

June 1985

Northwest 3/4 elevation

Neg: Md. Hist. Trust, Annapolis, MD.



P.G. #68-11

North Brentwood A.M.E.Z. Church  
Prince George's County, MD.

Susan G. Pearl

June 1985

Northeast 3/4 elevation

Neg: Md. Hist. Trust, Annapolis, MD.



NAME N. BRENTWOOD CHURCH (A.M.E. ZION CHURCH) PG:68-11  
LOCATION N. BRENTWOOD, Md ~~W. A. A. St~~ 4037 Webster St,  
EACADE NW  
PHOTO TAKEN 3/2/73 MDWYER