

# Maryland Historical Trust/ National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

WA-HAG-054  
MHT Inventory No.

\_\_\_\_\_  
MHT Computer No.

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. For instructions, see the Trust publication National Register Application Guidelines. Type all entries.

## 1. Name of Property

historic name Zion Evangelical and Reformed Church

other names \_\_\_\_\_

## 2. Location

street & number 201 N. Potomac Street

not for publication

city, town Hagerstown

vicinity

state Maryland

code \_\_\_\_\_

county Washington

code \_\_\_\_\_

zip \_\_\_\_\_

## 3. Classification

### Ownership of Property

- private  
 public-local  
 public-State  
 public-Federal

### Category of Property

- building(s)  
 district  
 site  
 structure  
 object

### Number of Resources within Property

#### Contributing

1  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
1

#### Noncontributing

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Total

Name of related multiple property listing:

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 1

## 4. Ownership

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

See Continuation Sheet.

## 5. Reserved (leave this space blank)

Submit completed applications to:

National Register Administration  
Maryland Historical Trust  
100 Community Place  
Crownsville, Maryland 21032-2023

**6. Function or Use**

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Religion/Religious Structure  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Religion/Religious Structure  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**7. Description**

Architectural Classifications (enter categories from instructions)

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

Richardsonian Romanesque  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

foundations limestone  
walls limestone  
\_\_\_\_\_  
roof \_\_\_\_\_  
other \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

DESCRIPTION SUMMARY:

This limestone church building displays three periods of construction: 1774, 1867, and 1893. The oldest part of the building is the main block, a south-facing gable-fronted rectangular building. It was placed on a hill at what was then the north edge of Hagerstown. At the south end of town was the north facing St. John's Lutheran Church, so the these two 18th century church buildings appeared like bookends at either end of the town.

In 1867, the present square front bell tower was added apparently replacing an earlier tower. By 1893, the orientation of the entrance had changed, so the church could be entered from N. Potomac Street, rather than from Church Street. This entrance, and additions to the north side are in the Richardsonian Romanesque style. The church yard is enclosed by a stone wall which was constructed in 1834.

This church property is listed in the National Register of Historic Places as part of the Hagerstown Historic District.

**8. Statement of Significance**

the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

- national     statewide     local

Applicable National Register Criteria     A     B     C     D

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

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

Period of Significance

Significant Dates

Architecture

1774-1946

1774, 1867,

Religion

1893

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Unknown

Significant Person

N/A

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

**SIGNIFICANCE SUMMARY:**

**Origin:**

The reformation in Europe and the Renaissance in Italy during the period of the 14th to the 16th centuries, led the way for the English to start colonies in the New World.

Persecution inspired people from the Palatine in Germany, Switzerland and France to come to Pennsylvania early in the 18th century. Some refugees came under the influence of the Synod of North & South Holland. England had offered to provide their transportation to Queen Anne's colonies in Berks, Lancaster and York counties in Pennsylvania. When these became crowded, they moved on to Frederick County, Maryland, and to the Shenandoah Valley of Virginia.

**Other Affiliations:**

In 1840, the German members found that the change to English for services was unsatisfactory and they formed the second Reformed church, which is now Christ's Church of Hagerstown.

**Historic Figures Associated with the Church:**

Jonathan Hager, founder of Hagerstown, helped much with the Zion Reformed Church, though he was never a member of that church. He gave plots of land for the church site. On December 6, 1775, Hager was killed while milling lumber for the church.

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Zion Evangelical and

Reformed Church

Name of Property

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History of Construction:

The cornerstone for the new church was laid on the two lots of "God's Acre" on August 10, 1774. The original 40 members bought and paid for the building.

In 1843, seats for black people were designated above the stairs on the north side.

In 1865-65, consideration was given to moving the church. This was decided against and the church was improved to the way it is today, with the tower being rebuilt after storm damage.

Historical Anecdotes:

All the graves face the east side because "the rising sun is a daily reminder of the Resurrection."

In 1863, the tower was used by General Custer to spy on the Southern army during the Civil War.

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HISTORICAL CONTEXT:

**MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE PRESERVATION PLAN DATA**

Geographic Organization: Western Maryland

Chronological/Developmental Period(s):

Rural Agrarian Intensification 1680-1815 A.D.  
Agricultural-Industrial Transition 1815-1870 A.D.  
Industrial/Urban Dominance 1870-1930 A.D.

Prehistoric/Historic Period Theme(s):

Religion/Church

Resource Type:

Category: Building

Historic Environment: Urban

Historic Function(s) and Use(s):

Religious structure

Known Design Source: Richardsonian Romanesque



Hagerstown

WA-VI WA-MAG-54

Form 10-300  
(Dec. 1968)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

N. R. FIELD SHEET

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

MD: HISTORICAL TRUST  
BOX 1704  
ANNAPOLIS, MD. 21404

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE:	2204644508	
COUNTY:		
FOR NPS USE ONLY		
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE	

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**1. NAME**

COMMON:  
Zion Evangelical and Reformed Church

AND/OR HISTORIC:

**2. LOCATION**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
[100] Church Street [corner of North Potomac Street]

CITY OR TOWN:  
Hagerstown

STATE: Maryland CODE: Washington COUNTY: Washington CODE:

**3. CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
District <input type="checkbox"/> Building <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Both <input type="checkbox"/>	Occupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress <input type="checkbox"/>	Yes: Restricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No: <input type="checkbox"/>
Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object <input type="checkbox"/>	Public Acquisition: In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered <input type="checkbox"/>		

PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

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 Residence <input type="checkbox"/>	Other (Specify) <input type="checkbox"/>	
Educational <input type="checkbox"/>	Military <input type="checkbox"/>	Religious <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
Entertainment <input type="checkbox"/>	Museum <input type="checkbox"/>	Scientific <input type="checkbox"/>		

**4. OWNER OF PROPERTY**

OWNERS NAME:

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: STATE: CODE:

**5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC:

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: STATE: CODE:

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: city lot

**6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE OF SURVEY:

DATE OF SURVEY: Federal  State  County  Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: STATE: CODE:

STATE:  
COUNTY:  
ENTRY NUMBER  
DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

8335

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)				
	Excellent <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Good <input type="checkbox"/>	Fair <input type="checkbox"/>	Deteriorated <input type="checkbox"/>	Unexposed <input type="checkbox"/>
INTEGRITY	(Check One)			(Check One)	
	Altered <input type="checkbox"/>	Unaltered <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Moved <input type="checkbox"/>	Original Site <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

In plan, the Zion Evangelical and Reformed Church is basically the Georgian meeting house type; there is a square tower attached to the entrance end of a simple rectangular block. The bulk of the decorative treatment is applied to the tower, only the round head windows relieving the unmitigated cube of the nave. Despite the Georgian plan, the decoration is Romanesque Revival. In addition to the windows already mentioned, there are other Romanesque style windows including the double large one on the front of the tower. The square tower with its tall proportions and crenellated wall is rather English Perpendicular, but the decoration is definitely Romanesque. In fact, the most Romanesque features of the church are the double open arches set within a round arch at belfry level on the tower. The corner strengthening near the top of the tower and the chunky buttressing at the bottom are also Romanesque.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

B. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

Pre-Columbian  16th Century  18th Century  20th Century   
 15th Century  17th Century  19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) [1774] 1867

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

Aboriginal	Education	<input type="checkbox"/>	Political	<input type="checkbox"/>	Urban Planning	<input type="checkbox"/>
Prehistoric	Engineering	<input type="checkbox"/>	Religion/Phi-		Other, (Specify)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Historic	Industry	<input type="checkbox"/>	losophy	<input type="checkbox"/>	architecture	
Agriculture	Invention	<input type="checkbox"/>	Science	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	
Art	Landscape	<input type="checkbox"/>	Sculpture	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	
Commerce	Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/>	Social/Human-		_____	
Communications	Literature	<input type="checkbox"/>	itarian	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	
Conservation	Military	<input type="checkbox"/>	Theater	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	
	Music	<input type="checkbox"/>	Transportation	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE (Include Personages, Dates, Events, Etc.)

Replacing an earlier church who's cornerstone was laid in 1774, the Zion Evangelical Church is interesting architecturally as a basically Georgian church handled with Romanesque decoration. Doubly interesting is the fact that this church was built the decade before the Richardsonian Romanesque Revival. Thus an example of Romanesque before Richardson [addition on rear of church shows maturer Romanesque decoration, such as the stubby window columns with their acanthus capitals, and is probably about 1885], this church is not unlike James Windrim's Masonic Hall in Philadelphia.

Zion Church is also important historically to Hagerstown and its cemetery is the resting place of Jonathan Hager.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Carroll V.K. Meeks "Romanesque Before Richardson"  
Journal of the Society of Architectural  
Historians [date, vol ?]  
*History & Biog Records of Washington County, Williams 1906, p. 681*  
 Schwartz, Frank & Rachael  
 1970 Old Zion: A History of the First German Reformed Church in Hagerstown.  
 Published by the Consistory of Zion Church, Printed by Craft Press, Chambersburg, PA.  
 Rev. Arthur L. Grove [Pastor]

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 ONE ACRE		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	
NE	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	
SE	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	
SW	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:  
 William Morgan

ORGANIZATION: Department of Art History      DATE: June 9, 1970

STREET AND NUMBER:  
 University of Delaware

CITY OR TOWN: Newark      STATE: Delaware      CODE:     

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION      NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

<p>As the designated State Liaison 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. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:</p> <p>National <input type="checkbox"/>      State <input type="checkbox"/>      Local <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Name _____</p> <p>Title _____</p> <p>Date _____</p>	<p>I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.</p> <p>_____                  Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation</p> <p>Date _____</p> <p>ATTEST:</p> <p>_____                  Keeper of The National Register</p> <p>Date _____</p>
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SEE INSTRUCTIONS

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Zion Evangelical and Reformed  
Church  
201 North Potomac Street  
Hagerstown Historic Sites  
Survey Map, Ron Andrews, 1977

STREET

RANDOLPH

WA-HAG-56

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STREET

WA-HAG-52

WA-HAG-53

WA-HAG-51

WA-HAG-50

WA-HAG-49

WA-HAG-48

WA-HAG-47

WA-HAG-46

WA-HAG-45

WA-HAG-44

WA-HAG-43

WA-HAG-41

WA-HAG-42

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WA-HAG-39

POTOMAC STREET



WA-HAG-54

100 Church St.

Zion Evangelical & Reformed Church

PHOTOGRAPH BY  
WILLIAM D. MORGAN



WA-HAG-54

100 Church St.

Zion Evan. & Reformed Church'

PHOTOGRAPH BY  
WILLIAM D. MORGAN