

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

WO-116

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED
DATE ENTERED

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*  
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

Mount Zion One-Room School

AND/OR COMMON

Mount Zion One-Room School Museum

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER

East side of Church Street, south of Ironshire Street,  
between the elementary and high schools

CITY, TOWN

Snow Hill

\_\_\_ VICINITY OF

\_\_\_ NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

First

STATE

Maryland

CODE

24

COUNTY

Worcester

CODE

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	<b>PUBLIC ACQUISITION</b>	<b>ACCESSIBLE</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL
			<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY
			<input type="checkbox"/> PARK
			<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
			<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
			<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
			<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
			<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

Mr. Robert W. Gaddis, Superintendent  
Board of Education of Worcester County

STREET & NUMBER

Box 130

CITY, TOWN

Snow Hill

\_\_\_ VICINITY OF

STATE

Maryland 21863

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Worcester County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

Market Street

CITY, TOWN

Snow Hill

STATE

Maryland

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

DATE

\_\_\_ FEDERAL \_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_ COUNTY \_\_\_ LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

# 7 DESCRIPTION

<b>CONDITION</b>		<b>CHECK ONE</b>	<b>CHECK ONE</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MOVED    DATE <u>1959</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Mount Zion one-room school is located on the east side of Church Street, south of Ironshire Street, between the elementary and high schools, in Snow Hill, Worcester County, Maryland.

The school, built about 1859, is approximately 31 feet by 22 feet with an 11 1/2-foot ceiling. Three windows on either side with six-over-six sash are protected by two-paneled wooden shutters hung on iron hinges. The door of five horizontal panels once opened into a vestibule, according to a former teacher now in her nineties. Some of the original hooks for clothing are still there, but shelves for lunch pails were built above them in the restoration of the building, as well as a corner shelf for the water bucket. A new floor with teacher's platform was laid at the time the building was moved from the Mount Zion neighborhood. The interior is finished throughout with tongue and grooved wood painted gray.

Among the furnishings are the recitation bench where children recited their lessons, the pot-bellied stove, double desks, and pictures of Washington and Lincoln. Of interest is a child's single desk built for a little girl in the northern end of the county, probably in the 1860's. On the shelves are lunch pails (dinner bails), slates both single and double, mementoes of the early school days, and many school books dating as far back as the mid-1850's. Two brass oil lamps from an early country store have been electrified. One window frame holds an old, bracket oil lamp. For heating purposes the pot-bellied stove now burns gas; nevertheless, the coal hod stands nearby.

The following from Mr. Benjamin W. Nelson, Supervisor of Transportation and Purchasing for the Worcester County schools, is a description of the moving of the school:

As a member of the Restoration Committee of Mt. Zion One Room School, I supervised the moving of the old school. The rafters had to be dropped in order for the mover, Mr. Robert Bell of Fruitland, Maryland, to get the building under wires on Route 354 and in the town of Snow Hill. The building was transported on a moving truck in October of 1959. . . . .

It was transported to the site between the Snow Hill Elementary and High School and placed on a new foundation, laid by Mr. Arthur Hickman. Once the building was in place then the rafters were re-arranged and a new roof placed on the building by Mr. Jack Taylor and his crew of carpenters. Mr. Hickman ran the new chimney and Charles Jackson, James Hauck, Bryon Hauck and myself repaired the floor, steps and built the platform. Volunteer painters Wm. Livingston, Leon Timmons, Strayer Hancock and Tom Dorman redid the wainscoting interior and the outside. . . . .

The ceiling, walls and exterior and parts of the floor were from the original building, and it was quite a task to find matching materials. . . . .

# 8 SIGNIFICANCE

WO-116

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 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/HUMANITARIAN		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)		
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION				

SPECIFIC DATES      **circa 1859**      BUILDER/ARCHITECT

### STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Worcester County Teachers' Association selected the Mount Zion one-room school for preservation as a representative example of the many one-room schools that stood in the county from the middle of the 19th century through the first several decades of the 20th. The building was donated to the Association in 1959 and moved to its present site in Snow Hill, the county seat.

The teachers of Worcester County knew that the one-room schools were rapidly disappearing. In 1919-1920 there were thirty-five white and eighteen black one-room schools in Worcester County. Today few of these remain.

The following quotation from Dr. Paul Cooper, Superintendent of Schools in 1959, explains the philosophy behind the one-room school:

The one-room school was the first concrete expression of America's faith that every child should have an opportunity to be educated - the faith that has made American education unique in the world. It was an invention suited to the time prior to modern methods of transportation and characteristic of the ingenuity of young America. Children could not travel great distances to school. Therefore, we would build a school within reach of every child.

The Mount Zion School is maintained by the Worcester County Teachers and Retired Teachers Associations as a museum. It has been furnished by volunteers as it was when in use. The old desks were donated by Somerset County and the old pot-bellied stove came from Baltimore City.



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1. STATE <i>Maryland</i> COUNTY <i>Worcester</i> TOWN <i>Snow Hill</i> VICINITY STREET NO. <i>Rt 12, on property of Snow Hill school</i> ORIGINAL OWNER ORIGINAL USE <i>School</i> PRESENT OWNER <i>Board of Education</i> PRESENT USE <i>School</i> WALL CONSTRUCTION <i>frame</i> NO. OF STORIES <i>1</i>	HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY INVENTORY <i>WO-116</i> 2. NAME <i>Mt. Zion School</i> DATE OR PERIOD <i>c. 1860-80</i> STYLE <i>board &amp; batten</i> ARCHITECT BUILDER 3. FOR LIBRARY OF CONGRESS USE
4. NOTABLE FEATURES, HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE AND DESCRIPTION <span style="float: right;">OPEN TO PUBLIC <i>No</i></span>  <p style="text-align: center;"> <i>Mt. Zion School is a three-bay-deep, one-story, frame structure sheathed with vertical boards and battens. The entrance is on one gable and has a plain paneled door. A chimney is located at the ridge of the other gable. It stands on a new brick foundation, having been moved here from its original location. All six windows are now closed by paneled shutters. There is an overhang around the entire "A" roof.</i> </p> <p style="text-align: center;"> <i>It is in good condition and stands to remind the school children of the humble beginnings of the educational system.</i> </p>	
5. PHYSICAL CONDITION OF STRUCTURE    Endangered <i>NO</i> Interior    Exterior <i>good</i>	
 6. LOCATION MAP (Plan Optional)	7. PHOTOGRAPH
8. PUBLISHED SOURCES (Author, Title, Pages) INTERVIEWS, RECORDS, PHOTOS, ETC.	9. NAME, ADDRESS AND TITLE OF RECORDER <i>Michael Bourne</i> <i>Maryland Historical Trust</i>  DATE OF RECORD <i>Nov, 1969</i>

SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION AND PHOTOGRAPHS MAY BE ADDED ON SHEET OF SAME SIZE



*Mt. Zion  
One-Room  
School*

*Snow Hill Quad*



Mt. Zion One-Room School  
Museum  
Snow Hill, Md.



W0 116

Mount Zion one-Room School Museum

Church street, Snow Hill