

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a).

Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name New Zion A.M.E Zion Church

other names/site number BR0029

2. Location

street & number Corner of Myrtle and Neely Streets

not for publication

city or town Warren

vicinity

state Arkansas code AR county Bradley code 011 zip 71671

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this 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 for in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets
does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant
 nationally statewide locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Cathryn A. Sater
Signature of certifying official/Title

4-27-00
Date

Arkansas Historic Preservation Program
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. (See Continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the 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): _____

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

New Zion A.M.E. Zion Church
Name of Property

Bradley Co., Arkansas
County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

Category of Property
(Check only one box)

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Number of Resources within Property
(Do not include previously listed resources in count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1		buildings
		sites
		structures
		objects
1	0	Total

Name of related multiple property listing
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

N/A

Number of Contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

N/A

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

RELIGION: Religious Facility

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

RELIGION: Religious Facility

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

MID-19TH CENTURY: Gothic Revival
LATE VICTORIAN: Romanesque

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Concrete
walls Brick
roof Asphalt shingles
other Stone, Wood

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET.

New Zion A.M. Zion Church

Name of Property

Bradley Co., Arkansas

County and State

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A** Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B** Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C** Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D** Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B** removed from its original location.
- C** moved from its original location.
- D** a cemetery.
- E** a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F** a commemorative property
- G** less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET.

Levels of Significance (local, state, national)

LOCAL

Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions)

ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance

1927-1950

Significant Dates

1927

Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation (Complete if Criterion D is marked)

N/A

Architect/Builder

UNKNOWN

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Deed Book "N" 1907. Bradley County Court House, Warren Arkansas.

Lindsay, Roosevelt. Interview on 24 February 2000.

New Zion A.M. Zion Church
Name of Property

Bradley Co., Arkansas
County and State

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the 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:

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State Agency
- Federal Agency
- Local Government
- University
- Other

Name of repository: _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property Less than one acre

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	<u>15</u>	<u>586450</u>	<u>3720880</u>	3	_____	_____	_____
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
2	_____	_____	_____	4	_____	_____	_____

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Section- 31, Township - 12S, Range - 09W

The property associated with the New Zion A.M.E. church spans half of a city block. Beginning at the junction of Myrtle Street and Neely Street (approximately two feet from the west side of Myrtle Street) proceed south approximately 152 feet to Packard Street. At Packard Street turn west and following the north side of the street and proceed approximately 117 feet to the center of the block at which point Blankenship Court meets the south side of Packard Street. At this point turn and proceed north approximately 152 feet through the center of the block until Neely Street is reached, at which point turn and proceed approximately 117 feet due east following Neely Street until the point of origin is reached at the junction of Myrtle and Neely Streets.

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

The nominated property includes the entire parcel historically associated with the New Zion A.M.E. Zion Church.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Debra Lindsay and Kara Mills (National Register/Survey Coordinator)

organization Arkansas Historic Preservation Program date April 1, 2000

street & number 1500 Tower Building , 323 Center Street telephone (501) 324-9880

city or town Little Rock state AR zip code 72201

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listing. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.)

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P. O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127, and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20303.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 1

SUMMARY

The New Zion A.M.E. Zion Church is being nominated to the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion C for its distinctive characteristics as a church with simplified Gothic Revival and Romanesque influences. Traditional in plan, the church features a rectangular sanctuary with square towers at each corner of the front façade. Built in 1927, this building is the best example of an African-American, folk church, with simplified Gothic Revival and Romanesque influences in Warren, Arkansas.

ELABORATION

Located at the corner of Myrtle and Neely Streets in Warren Arkansas, the seventy-three year old New Zion A.M.E. Zion Church is a folk structure with simplified Gothic Revival and Romanesque influences. Perched upon a continuous concrete foundation, the exterior walls of the rectangular building display five stretcher rows per header row of red English bond brick. A gable on hip roof, sheathed in asphalt shingles, with exposed rafters and slightly overhanging eaves, provides protection for the church from the outdoor elements. The windows that provide light for the full basement are small, four-pane windows topped with a small blind arch of wood and voussoirs of soldier brick. Double-hung, one-over-one windows, supported by a brick sills, provide light to the main level of the building. Each window is topped with a blind arch of wood and voussoirs of soldier brick. A cornerstone located near the front of the building on the north elevation states that the present church was built in 1927.

Front/East Elevation:

The symmetrical façade (east elevation) of the church displays the primary architectural features that give the building its overall Gothic Revival style tinged with simplified Romanesque characteristics. Simplified Gothic Revival features include a gable parapet accentuating the central section of the front elevation, which is then flanked on each side by two, square, castellated towers. Thirteen concrete stairs, bisected by an iron railing, access the one story church whose parapet thrusts upwards giving the building the appearance of having two stories. The central section of the façade (the area between the two towers) presents two, side by side, Romanesque influenced arches with topped with voussoirs of soldier brick; each arch surround displays a keystone and two imposts per arch. Each arch gives way to a recessed entrance where two sets of double-leaf, five panel, wood doors provide two options for entering the sanctuary. Within this recessed entryway the ceiling is beaded and there are also two additional doors – one which provides access to the left tower and contains a women's restroom (pre-1960) and another door which allows access to the right tower that contains the men's restroom (ca. 1990). A band of decorative brickwork horizontally bisects the façade of the central section. Above this band of brickwork a ribbon of three windows– topped with a stone lintel, and supported by a brick sill – enhance the upward thrust of the church while providing additional natural light to the sanctuary. Above these window a small, round window with wood infill is topped by a stone cross that is set into the brick in the apex of the building.

Two identical castellated towers flank the central section of the church. Each tower has a window that provides light to the basement. They differ from the other basement windows because they are single-light windows (opposed to four-light windows) topped with voussoirs of soldier brick. Above each basement window there is a one-over-one window, which provides light to the main level of the building. Near the top of each castellated tower, is a window opening similar in design to those on the main level.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 2

Right Side/North Elevation

On the north side of the tower a small, four-light window provides light for the basement and a larger one over one window provides light to the main level of the building. Voussoirs of soldier brick provide decorative Romanesque detailing for each window. Near the top of the castellated tower is a window opening similar in design to those on the main level, it has wood infill spanning the area between the brick sill and semicircular arch surround.

Five, evenly spaced, four-light windows, situated approximately six inches off the ground, provide light for the raised basement. Some of the windows have plywood covering the openings; however, the original windows are stored in the basement waiting to be replaced.

Above the small windows, and slightly offset, a row of five evenly spaced windows span the entire length of the north elevation of the church providing light for the sanctuary. In an effort to give the windows on the main level the appearance of having stone sills to match the stone lintels, the brick sills have been covered with concrete. On the west end of the north side is a rear entrance this wooden door is accentuated by a concrete lintel and displays the remnants of possible awning supports.

Back/West Elevation:

On the west elevation, a row of four windows span the entire length of the main level on the back of the church. Situated approximately six inches off of the ground, the small windows provide light for the basement.

Three windows on the west elevation provide light for the main level of the church. The left window is of one-over-four configuration. Slightly off center is a small single pane window and to the far right of the west elevation is a one-over-one window. Each window is supported by a concrete covered brick sill and topped by a concrete lintel. From the rear elevation the gable on hip roof is most evidently displayed. Asphalt shingles, located in the gable, surround a wooden vent. A chimney located left of center graces the west elevation of the church.

Left Side/South Elevation

The south elevation is very similar to the north elevation. Providing light for the basement, the south side of the tower boasts a small, four-pane window. Above the basement window, is a one-over-one window that is supported by a brick sill and provides light to the main level of the building. Near the top of the castellated tower is a window opening similar in design to those on the main level, it has wood infill spanning the area between the brick sill and the semicircular arch surround.

Six four-light windows, situated approximately six inches off of the ground, provide light for the raised full basement. The fifth window, on the west end, is hidden by a frame addition. Some of the basement windows are covered with plywood, however the original windows are in good shape and remain in the basement.

Above the small windows, and slightly offset, a row of six evenly spaced windows span the entire length of the south elevation of the church. Five of the windows are a one-over-one configuration. Of these five windows, the next to last window on the west end of the south elevation is covered by a frame addition which also covers a wood door topped by a stone lintel.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 3

The last window on the west end of the south elevation is exposed and differs from the other windows because it is a four-over-six configuration which also rests upon a brick sill covered with concrete; however, this window is not accented by a semicircular window or brick relieving arch.

The frame shed roof addition sheathed in masonite, was added pre-1950. The addition covers a wood door which leads to the basement, as well as a wood door (no longer used) which leads to the main level and it covers one of the five one-over-one windows that is topped by a semicircular window accented by a brick relieving arch. This addition is near the rear of the church, unobtrusive, and easily removable. It does not compromise the integrity of the building.

Interior

The interior of the church displays a wonderful beaded-board tray ceiling. The built-in furniture, such as the pews and the railing surrounding the chancel are original. The pews are placed in three rows which form two aisles leading from the back to the front of the church. The light fixtures, which hang from the ceiling, are also original to the structure. The church's chancel is at the west end of the sanctuary while a balcony graces the east end of the church. The interior of the church has been changed very little throughout the years and has been maintained very well. Although the church is only one full story, its high ceilings give it the appearance of a two-story building from the outside and give the small church a "larger" feeling when inside. The entire church is comprised of the sanctuary except for two very small rooms (approximately 8 x 8) located on the south end of the church, one on each side of the chancel which is located behind the altar.

Integrity

Situated in the town of Warren, this building still retains its integrity of location, and the setting is still that of a small Arkansas town. This building beautifully displays the workmanship, design features, and materials employed by the architect and builders (which are unknown). Circa 1992 the original church windows in the sanctuary were replaced with one-over-one, frosted windows, that are protected by storm windows. However, the church is receiving a grant to perform restoration work on the church. These changes do not detract from the overall "feeling" of this building. The distinctive physical features of this building such as the castellated towers, parapet, and arched entryway convey the "feeling" or historic character of this building which is associated with Gothic Revival and Romanesque styles. Presently this building fulfills its historic function as a church and holds weekly services.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 1

SUMMARY

Constructed in 1927, the New Zion A.M.E. Zion Church is being nominated to the National Register with local significance under Criterion C because it embodies the distinctive characteristics of folk architecture as exemplified by the simplified Gothic Revival and Romanesque influences on the design of the church. It is the best example and the only example of a Gothic Revival, African-American church in Warren, Arkansas. This building is also being nominated under Criteria Consideration A: Religious Properties, not for its religious merit but rather for its architectural value.

ELABORATION

Bradley County, Arkansas, is situated in the southeastern part of the state. The county covers 659 square miles and ranges from 102 feet to 300 feet above sea level. The county's southernmost point is only eight miles from the Arkansas-Louisiana border. A wide central forestland called the Prairie Terrace is found within the county's boundaries.

Captain Hugh Bradley, while with General Andrew Jackson at New Orleans, learned of the Arkansas country. In 1818 he and some of his neighbors traveled up the Red River on an exploring expedition. Around 1825 Captain Bradley and his company settled on the Saline River, just east of what is now Warren.

Bradley County at the time of its formation on 18 December 1840 encompassed all of the territory now included in Cleveland, Lincoln, Ashley, and Drew Counties. In 1842, the town of Warren, named for Captain Bradley's slave, was laid out on a donated tract of land approximately forty acres in size. On 8 April 1851, the town of Warren was incorporated. Before the town became one of Arkansas' leading timber industry towns, the town survived as a county seat and trading center for half of a century.

The Department of Education of A.M.E. Zion Church purchased the land where the New Zion A.M.E. Zion Church stands on 2 November 1906 from Mr. and Mrs. J.W. Richardson. A cornerstone located on the present church notes that the A.M.E. Zion Church was remodeled in 1907 and that J.W. Murray served as Pastor; D.J. Adams, P.E.; and J.W. Smith, D.D., Bishop. Research has not revealed any information about the appearance of the first church; however, it is probable that it was of frame construction.

Oral history reveals that the congregation was established circa 1880 to provide freed slaves with a place to worship. Since 1927, the New Zion A.M.E. Zion Church has served as a monument and a place to worship for many members of the African American community within the city of Warren. The present-day church, the New Zion A.M.E. Zion Church, was built in 1927 with M.L. Beamon, B.D., serving as pastor and W.J. Walker, A.M. D.D., serving as bishop.

Significance

The New Zion A.M.E. Church is being nominated to the National Register of Historic Places with local significance under Criterion C as a folk, African-American church that displays simplified Gothic Revival and Romanesque features and under Criteria Consideration A: Religious Properties. Although the history of the church is not well documented and the architect and builder are unknown, the absence of these facts does not detract from the significance of the church. It is significant for its architectural design and the fact that it is the only African-American, Gothic-Revival/Romanesque church in Warren, Arkansas only intensifies its significance. To date, it is the only African-American Church in Bradley County pursuing a National Register listing.

New Zion A.M.E. Zion Church
Warren, Bradley, Co., AR
UTM References: 15/586450/3720880



ZION CHURCH
REMODELLED 1907
BY J. W. MURPHY, PASTOR
D. W. ADAMS, P. E.
D. W. SWANER, D. E.
E. S. OR













