

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 Mt. Zion Missionary Baptist Church
other names/site number _____

2. Location

street & number 249 AR Hwy 107 not for publication
city or town Enola vicinity
state AR code AR county Faulkner code 001 zip code 72173

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.)

Catherine March 2/3/09
Signature of certifying official/Title 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:

<input type="checkbox"/> entered in the National Register. <input type="checkbox"/> See continuation sheet	Signature of the Keeper	Date of Action
<input type="checkbox"/> determined eligible for the National Register. <input type="checkbox"/> See continuation sheet	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> determined not eligible for the National Register.	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> removed from the National Register.	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> other, (explain:)	_____	_____

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply)

Category of Property
(Check only one box)

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

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

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

Contributing

Noncontributing

1	_____	buildings
_____	_____	sites
_____	_____	structures
_____	_____	objects
1	_____	Total

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

A Storm Couldn't Tear Them Down: The Mixed Masonry Buildings of Silas Owens, Sr., 1938-1955

Number of Contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

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)

LATE 19TH AND EARLY 20TH CENTURY AMERICAN MOVEMENTS: Craftsman

OTHER: Mixed Masonry

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Stone
walls Stone

roof Composition
other

Narrative Description

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

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.
[X] 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:

- [X] 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.

Levels of Significance (local, state, national)

Local

Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions)

ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance

c. 1952

Significant Dates

c. 1952

Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked)

Cultural Affiliation (Complete if Criterion D is marked)

Architect/Builder

Silas Owens, Sr. - rock mason

Narrative Statement of Significance

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

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

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

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

Primary location of additional data:

- [X] State Historic Preservation Office
[] Other State Agency
[] Federal Agency
[] Local Government
[] University
[] Other

Name of repository:

Record # _____

Mt. Zion Missionary Baptist Church
Name of Property

Faulkner County, AR
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of Property 1 acre.

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1 15 572521 3895187
Zone Easting Northing

2 _____
Zone Easting Northing

3 _____
Zone Easting Northing

4 _____
Zone Easting Northing

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

Beginning at the NW Corner of SW1/4, NW 1/4 of Section 32, T 7N, R 11 W, and running thence South 140 feet; thence running East 300 feet; thence running North 140 feet; thence running West 300 feet to the beginning.

Boundary Justification

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

This boundary includes all of the property historically associated with this resource that retains its integrity.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Holly Hope/ Special Projects Historian
organization Arkansas Historic Preservation Program date 12/22/08
street & number 1500 Tower Building, 323 Center Street telephone 501 324-9880
city or town Little Rock state AR zip code 72201

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location

A Sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative black and white photographs of the property.

Additional items

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items.)

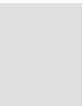
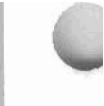
Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

name Vic Connell
street & number 249 AR Hwy 107 telephone 501 849-3424
city or town Enola state AR zip code 72173

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 Reduction Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20303.



National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Mt. Zion Missionary Baptist
Church

Faulkner County, AR

A Storm Couldn't Tear Them
Down: The Mixed Masonry
Buildings of Silas Owens,
Sr., 1938-1955

Section number 7

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SUMMARY

The Mt. Zion Missionary Baptist Church is one of two churches in the Faulkner County community of Enola, proper. A third church in Marcus Hill, the Marcus Hill Missionary Baptist Church on Marcus Hill Road is considered to be the same community as it is only 2 miles northwest of Enola. While the congregation of the Marcus Hill church has been in the area for several years, the building is a circa 1970s-era brick structure.

The original T-shaped floor plan of the Mt. Zion Missionary Baptist Church took on more of an L-shape when a rear addition was constructed. The addition was veneered in the Mixed Masonry style like the original sanctuary and Sunday school rooms rocked by Faulkner County mason Silas Owens, Sr. His son Silas, Jr., was hired to rock the addition. The Mixed Masonry rockwork of Silas Owens, Sr., and his son is intact and the original early 1950s Craftsman form of the church remains evident despite the recent removal of the original wooden belcast-roofed steeple and the addition of a small gable-roofed overhang at the front entrance. The Mt. Zion Missionary Baptist Church is situated at the intersection of Matthews Street and Arkansas Highway 107, which is the main street through the small commercial/residential area of Enola. The church is surrounded by farm fields on the south and west. The Enola Church of Christ is located north of the Baptist Church across Matthews Street and a handful of mid-to-late-20th century residences line the highway on the east and south. Historically an agricultural community, the town retains its rural feel and the church's early 1950s Craftsman architecture enhanced by Owens' rockwork contributes to that vicarious experience.

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ELABORATION

The Mt. Zion Missionary Baptist Church is located at 249 Arkansas Highway 107 in Enola, northeast of the Faulkner County town seat of Conway. The building is rocked with local sandstone and embellished with buff brick at the openings and building corners in the style of the Mixed Masonry, a specialty of Faulkner County rock mason Silas Owens, Sr.

The one-story church exhibits a modified L-shape plan created by an addition to an original T-shape plan with linear sanctuary and Sunday school rooms at the rear. The church is symmetrically fenestrated with double-hung windows. A low gabled roof displays open rafter tails.

The front, east façade of the church features a centered double-leaf entry, which is extended approximately five and a half feet from the main wall. A concrete stoop and four concrete steps with wrought iron balustrade are situated at the plain wooden front doors. A short gable-roofed overhang supported by two square posts extends over the stoop and steps from the doors. A concrete marker above the entry doors with "MT ZION MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH OF ENOLA" carved into it is obscured by the overhang. Two single six-over-six wooden double-hung windows fenestrate the northeast and southeast corners of the building on either side of the extended entry. A single-leaf paneled door under a shed-roofed stoop provides access into the rear Sunday school

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rooms on the southeast wall. A similar door and stoop opens into the rear extension from the northeast.

The south wall of the front foyer displays a smaller six-over-six window and five evenly-spaced windows extend east to west on the southern elevation of the sanctuary. The original Sunday school area to the rear of the building extends south approximately five and a half feet from the southern wall of the church. The gabled end-wall created by this extension features a single centered window.

The southern elevation of the addition is fenestrated by three evenly-spaced aluminum two-over-two double-hung windows with horizontal muntins.

The rear, western elevation of the addition is fenestrated north to south with three aluminum windows, the center window being wider than the two at the north and south corners. The rear wall of the original building is fenestrated by two wooden windows.

The northern elevation of the addition is fenestrated west to east by a single-leaf door sheltered by a shed-roofed overhang supported by two square posts adjacent to two aluminum windows. The gable end of the extension contains a pair of centered wooden windows and five evenly-spaced windows fenestrate the sanctuary from west to east.

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INTERIOR

The interior of the sanctuary was remodeled in the 1970s. Despite the blown ceiling, carpeted floors and modern pews and pulpit, the essential form of the sanctuary remains intact. A small foyer at the front, eastern entrance opens into the sanctuary. A raised platform at the western end forms the chancel. A hallway opening into small Sunday school rooms extends north to south and a rear door opens into the addition. Sunday school rooms line the south side of the addition and a large open room with kitchen facilities at the rear, western end allows for communal gatherings.

SUMMARY

The Mt. Zion Missionary Baptist Church is being nominated to the National Register under Criterion C, Criteria Consideration A, for its Craftsman-influenced Mixed Masonry architecture and as an example of the artistically superior rockwork of Silas Owens, Sr. The original church was veneered by Owens circa 1952 and his son, Silas Owens, Jr., rocked a rear addition using techniques his father taught him as they worked side by side on other projects. The nomination is also being submitted under the multiple property context, "A Storm Couldn't Tear Them Down: The Mixed Masonry Buildings of Silas Owens, Sr., 1938-1955."

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ELABORATION

The Mt. Zion Missionary Baptist Church originally exhibited the typical T-shape of small rural religious structures of the early 1950s. The church was built circa 1952 on the site of a two-story frame building utilized by the Woodmen of the World, Enola Lodge #124, and the Ladies of the Eastern Star on the second floor and as a Missionary Baptist church and school on the first. The two-story structure was destroyed, for the construction of the new Mt. Zion Missionary Baptist Church of Enola. Materials from that building were used in the new church. In the 1960s the congregation joined the Southern Baptist Convention and in 1999 it was designated the Enola Baptist Church because the original name was considered by the congregation to be too cumbersome.¹

The community of Enola, which received a post office in 1879, has historically been an agricultural area. Enola contained a grist-mill, cotton gin, two stores and a blacksmith shop. Cotton, corn and beef cattle were the primary commodities produced in Enola. Dave Ward, the owner of the blacksmith shop, started Ward Body Works in Conway, which manufactured wooden bus bodies in 1933. The company went on to become the world's largest school bus manufacturer by the 1970s but Ward did not establish a facility in Enola.²

¹ Arthur Bradley, Enola, AR., telephone interview with author, October 31, 2008; Faulkner County Historical Society, "Enola," accessed from www.faulknerhistory.com/enola, October 29, 2008.

² Aaron Rogers, "IC Corporation," accessed from www.encyclopediaofarkansas.net, October 31, 2008; Arthur Bradley interview; Russell Baker, *From Memdag to Norsk: A Historical Directory of Arkansas Post Offices, 1832-1971*, (Arkansas Genealogical Society, Hot Springs, AR, 1988), p. 75

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Silas Owens, Sr., had been doing rockwork in the Mixed Masonry style in Faulkner County and nearby areas since 1938. J.T. Lasley of Enola had hired him to work on a house there and also some rental homes in North Little Rock. Owens received most of his jobs via word of mouth so it is likely that Mr. Lasley had recommended him or the church building committee knew of his expertise. Owens' signature herringbone pattern incorporated into the coursing of the rocks from Cadron Creek, north of Barney is prominent and is a clear indication of his contribution to the building.³

The 1956 minutes of the church reveal that the building committee voted to "finish" the back of the building. An addition extending west from the northwest corner of the original church was constructed by deacons J.O. Bailey and Johnnie Jobe of Enola. Silas Owens, Jr., was hired to lay up the rock on the addition. Subsequent minutes do not record the exact year the addition was built but Owens, Sr., died in 1961, so in that instance it is likely that his son would have been engaged to do the work. The 1961 minutes note that a plan was accepted to add new classrooms, which are now located in that addition. In 1965 work on a kitchen, which is in the addition, was approved. In circa 1966 there was a fire on the northwest side of the church when a butane stove, that had accidentally been left on ignited the building. Thus it is conjectured that the addition was built circa 1966 or circa 1967. Aluminum horizontal muntin windows that fenestrate the addition, are also an architectural element common to the mid-to-late 1960s.⁴

³ Kim Leach, Enola, AR., telephone interview with author, October 31, 2008.

Minutes of Mt. Zion Missionary Baptist Church of Enola, Enola, AR, (September 1956, August 1961, October 1965); Leach interview.

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Silas Owens, Jr., executed the addition in the Craftsman style of the original church and the coursing of the rocks exhibits a herringbone pattern similar to his father's style. The break with the original church and the addition is obvious by Owens, Jr.'s use of larger rocks than those utilized by his father but the craftsmanship Owens, Jr. learned from him is evident. The addition is not visible from the front façade of the church. It fits in architecturally and does not overpower the original church.

Besides the addition another alteration to the church was the removal of the circa 1952 wooden louvered steeple. A bell within the steeple had become too heavy for the roof and it was damaged by high winds in 2008 so the congregation had it removed since it posed a danger. The bell is in a local church member's home and the congregation would like to rebuild the steeple in its original form. In circa 2000 a small gable-roofed overhang supported by two square posts was appended to the front entry, and a concrete stoop with wrought-iron balustrade was added. These alterations do not impact the rockwork of Silas Owens, Sr., and the church's original architectural intent remains intact.⁵

The town of Enola has historically been served by three churches and the adjacent Church of Christ was rebuilt in the late 20th century. The third church, Marcus Hill Missionary Baptist Church was constructed circa 1970s. In contrast the Mt. Zion Missionary Baptist Church has remained relatively unchanged and continues to stand on

⁵ Interview with Elaine Connell, Mt. Vernon, AR., October 30, 2008.

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its large, level lot as an example of late 1950s architecture exhibiting the superior rockwork of Silas Owens, Sr.

Owens contributed to the built environment of much of Faulkner County and many small rural structures in the area display his touch. Enola is not as agricultural as it once was but its rural surroundings remain intact as no Wal-Mart or subsequent strip-mall and McMansion subdivisions mar its roadsides. Most of the population work in Conway and the single store in the town adequately serves the residents.

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Mt. Zion Missionary Baptist Church is being nominated to the National Register under Criterion C, Criteria Consideration A, as an important example of Craftsman-influenced Mixed Masonry religious architecture veneered by Silas Owens, Sr. The church continues to evince its mid-1950s rural style and fits in with its small-town environs. It is not impacted by its alterations and the contributions of Silas Owens, Sr., and his son Silas Owens, Jr., continue to impart the rural history of Enola and Faulkner County. The Mt. Zion Missionary Baptist Church is also being nominated under the multiple property context, "A Storm Couldn't Tear Them Down: The Mixed Masonry Buildings of Silas Owens, Sr., 1938-1955."

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Baker, Russell. *From Memdag to Norsk: A Historical Directory of Arkansas Post Offices, 1832-1971*. (Arkansas Genealogical Society, Hot Springs, AR., 1988).

Bradley, Arthur. Enola, Arkansas. Telephone interview with author, October 31, 2008.

Connell, Elaine. Mt. Vernon, Arkansas. Interview with author, October 30, 2008.

Enola Baptist Church minutes. (September, 1956).

_____. August, 1961.

_____. October, 1965.

Faulkner County Historical Society. "Enola." Accessed from www.faulknerhistory.com/enola. October 29, 2008.

Leach, Kim. Enola, AR. Telephone interview with author, October 31, 2008.

Rogers, Aaron. "IC Corporation." Accessed from www.encyclopediiaofarkansas.net. October 31, 2008.