

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 National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. If any 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 certification comments, entries, and narrative items on continuation sheets if needed (NPS Form 10-900a).**

### 1. Name of Property

historic name Mount Zion Church and Cemetery

other names/site number N/A

### 2. Location

street & number 11070 E. Mount Zion Road N/A not for publication

city or town Hallsville X vicinity

state Missouri code MO county Boone code 019 zip code 65255

### 3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,  
I hereby certify that this X 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 forth in 36 CFR Part 60.

In my opinion, the property X meets \_\_\_ does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:

\_\_\_ national \_\_\_ statewide X local

*Mark A. Miles*

*Nov 19, 2012*

Signature of certifying official/Title Mark A. Miles, Deputy SHPO

Date

Missouri Department of Natural Resources  
State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

In my opinion, the property \_\_\_ meets \_\_\_ does not meet the National Register criteria.

Signature of commenting official \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Title \_\_\_\_\_ State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government \_\_\_\_\_

### 4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

\_\_\_ entered in the National Register \_\_\_ determined eligible for the National Register

\_\_\_ determined not eligible for the National Register \_\_\_ removed from the National Register

\_\_\_ other (explain:) \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of the Keeper \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Action \_\_\_\_\_

Mount Zion Church and Cemetery  
Name of Property

Boone County, Missouri  
County and State

**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 the count.)

- private
- public - Local
- public - State
- public - Federal

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

Contributing	Noncontributing	
3		buildings
1		sites
		structures
1		objects
5		<b>Total</b>

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

**Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register**

Rural Church Architecture in Missouri, c. 1819 to c. 1945

0

**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions**  
(Enter categories from instructions.)

**Current Functions**  
(Enter categories from instructions.)

Religion/Religious Facility

Religion/Religious Facility

Funerary/Cemetery

Funerary/Cemetery

**7. Description**

**Architectural Classification**  
(Enter categories from instructions.)

**Materials**  
(Enter categories from instructions.)

Other: Side Steeple Church

foundation: Stone

Gothic Revival

walls: Wood/Weatherboard

roof: Asphalt

other:

Mount Zion Church and Cemetery  
Name of Property

Boone County, Missouri  
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 a birthplace or grave.
- D a cemetery.
- E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F a commemorative property.
- G less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years.

**Areas of Significance**

Architecture

**Period of Significance**

1903

**Significant Dates**

N/A

**Significant Person**

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

N/A

**Cultural Affiliation**

N/A

**Architect/Builder**

Jones, Weldon

Sebastian, Wesley

Carlos, Martin and James

Critchfield, Charles

**9. Major Bibliographical References**

**Bibliography** (Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form.)

**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 # \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_ recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # \_\_\_\_\_

**Primary location of additional data:**

- \_\_\_ State Historic Preservation Office
- \_\_\_ Other State agency
- \_\_\_ Federal agency
- \_\_\_ Local government
- \_\_\_ University
- \_\_\_ Other
- Name of repository: \_\_\_\_\_

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): \_\_\_\_\_

Mount Zion Church and Cemetery  
Name of Property

Boone County, Missouri  
County and State

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## 10. Geographical Data

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**Acreage of Property** 3 acres

### Latitude/Longitude Coordinates

(Follow similar guidelines for entering the lat/long coordinates as describe on page 55, *How to Complete the National Register Registration Form* for entering UTM references. For properties less than 10 acres, enter the lat/long coordinates for a point corresponding to the center of the property. For properties of 10 or more acres, enter three or more points that correspond to the vertices of a polygon drawn on the map. The polygon should approximately encompass the area to be registered. Add additional points below, if necessary.)

1. Latitude: 39.069335	Longitude: -92.179001	2. Latitude:	Longitude:
3. Latitude:	Longitude:	4. Latitude:	Longitude:

**Verbal Boundary Description** (On continuation sheet)

**Boundary Justification** (On continuation sheet)

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## 11. Form Prepared By

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name/title Bonnie L. Durk (initial submission) (additional research and writing by Tiffany Patterson)  
organization Mt. Zion Cemetery Association (MOSHPO) date August 2012  
street & number 11225 E. Rob Cook Rd. telephone 573-696-3619  
city or town Centralia state MO zip code 65240  
e-mail Dlites208@aol.com

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## Additional Documentation

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Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **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. Key all photographs to this map.
- **Continuation Sheets**
- **Photographs.**
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items.)

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## Property Owner:

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

name Mt. Zion Cemetery Association (Attn: Bonnie L. Durk)  
street & number Mt. Zion Cemetery Association telephone 573-696-3619  
city or town Centralia state MO zip code 65240

**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 listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C.460 et seq.).

**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18 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 Office of Planning and Performance Management, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.

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Mount Zion Church and

Boone County, Missouri  
Rural Church Architecture in Missouri, c. 1819 to c. 1945

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Summary:

Mount Zion Church and Cemetery is at the intersection of East Mt. Zion Church Road and North Flynt Lane approximately three miles southeast of Hallsville, Boone County, Missouri. The address is 11070 East Mt. Zion Church Road. The primary building on the property is representative of the "Side-Steeple Church" property type as described in the Multiple Property Documentation Form, "Rural Church Architecture in Missouri, c. 1819 to c. 1945."<sup>1</sup> The church is a frame, one-room, side-steeple church constructed in 1903. Relatively unaltered, the west-facing building features a three-sided gabled apse at its east end. Flanking the church on three sides is a cemetery with approximately 750 graves dating from as early as 1851. The rectangular 3 acre tract also includes a coal shed, privy, and cistern, all of which are contributing resources on the property. The cemetery, part of the December 1861 Civil War Battle of Mount Zion battlefield, is a contributing site because of its association with the church but lacks integrity as a battlefield due to expansion and continued use for burials. A small parking area is east of the church and outbuildings. The general setting is wooded and pastoral, adding to the property's sense of time and place.

Setting:

The church and cemetery are located in rural Boone County at the intersection of E. Mount Zion Road and N. Flynt Lane. There are scattered residential properties near the church, most along Flynt Road, though as a whole the area is sparsely populated. Surrounding lands are a mix of forests and cleared agricultural fields and pastures. The Mount Zion Church and Cemetery property is relatively flat and has a long narrow rectangular footprint. The eastern, northern and western boundary is marked by a line of densely planted trees, and there are scattered mature trees near the southwestern corner of the property providing a shaded front church yard. East Mount Zion Church Road marks the southern boundary. The church is located in the southwest quadrant of the property with the cemetery lining the northern half and rear third of the acreage. A horseshoe drive and parking area is located roughly in the middle of the property with access to E. Mount Zion Road. The outhouse and privy are located just west of the parking area. A concrete walkway connects the parking area and the church.

Church (contributing) (Photos 1-7):

This frame side-steeple church measures 36 feet by 60 feet and stands on a foundation of rock pillars. The open foundation was enclosed in the early 1980s by 8 inch boards scored to look like stone blocks. The walls are clad in weatherboard siding. The most prominent feature of the church is its projecting two-tiered tower at the southwest corner. The tower is topped by steeply pitched hipped, bell-cast roof that has a ball finial at its peak. A narrow pent roof marks

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<sup>1</sup>Tiffany Patterson. "Rural Church Architecture in Missouri, c. 1819 to c. 1945." National Register of Historic Places Multiple Property Documentation Form, 2011.

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the line between the first and second floors. The tower acts as the entrance foyer for the church with entrance doors on the west, facing N. Flynt Lane, and south towards E. Mount Zion Church Road. The entrances are identical with six panel doors (in 41 inch openings), single light transoms, and simple surrounds (5 1/2 inch width) with slightly projecting top moulds. The second floor of the tower contains 1/1 double hung windows, though the western window was boarded over in 1987. A concrete stoop surrounds the tower and a long low access ramp lines the south wall of the church.

The front of the church faces west and includes the broad expanse of the west gable and corner tower clad in 5 inch wood weatherboard siding. (See photos 1 and 2) Some congregations that built side-gable churches in Missouri used the relatively large canvas of the gable end as a focus for architectural decoration. Mt. Zion's façade, however, is simply designed. Centered in the gable is a small half-round signboard surrounded by an ogee moulding. Wooden letters spell out "Mount Zion 1903." Below this is a Gothic arch wood window with working lower sash. The mullions separating the multi-pane sash are tracery-like with a tripartite design surrounded by rectangular panes of colored glass. The window has an ogee mold surround and is slightly wider than the Gothic arch windows on the other elevations.

The south elevation faces E. Mount Zion Church Road. (See photos 2 and 3) At the west corner is the tower, as described above. To the east are three evenly spaced Gothic arch windows with decorative moulding. The windows have working bottom sash and tracery-like mullions similar to the pattern seen on the west elevation window. These windows appear to be slightly taller and narrower than that on the west elevation, however. The walls are clad in weatherboard siding.

The north elevation is nearly identical to the south with the exception of the corner tower. (See photo 4)

The east elevation has a three-sided apse and a complex roofline. (See photo 5) Each of the three walls has a gable connected to the hipped roof. This hip is lower than the gable roof covering the main block of the church, leaving the weatherboard-clad gable end exposed. The southeast wall of the apse contains a Gothic arched window similar to those on the other elevations. The northeast wall contains a secondary entrance with Gothic arch transom. The transom is identical to the upper sashes of the windows in the church and may have originally been the sash for a window at this location. The door, below, is modern and replaced the previous door in 1983. The rearmost wall of the apse is blank and clad in weatherboard siding.

*Interior* (Photos 6 and 7):

Except for the entrance foyer in the tower, the church is one large room. A pair of swinging doors (not original) separates the foyer and nave. The scroll end pews with flat reclining backs are original to the church and are arranged on either side of a central aisle. The vaulted ceiling is clad with original 2" tongue and groove oak that is darkly stained. The walls are lined with a

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47" high wainscot. These walls were originally plastered, but were replaced by drywall when the plaster failed. The original pine floors are extant underneath the red carpet (installed 1982). In the chancel area is a raised platform approximately 8 ½ high surrounded by a 19" high rail. In the chancel is also a three level choir loft.

Minor changes have been made to the building including the installation of four non-historic electric lights hanging from the ceiling. These replaced the Coleman hanging gas lamps that originally provided light in the church. Furnaces on the south and north sides provide heat and replaced the potbellied stoves that were once in the building. Additionally, a small partition for a restroom was added to the northwest corner of the church in 1987.

Coal Shed (contributing) (Photo 8):

Located near the northwest corner of the parking area is a frame, gable roof coal shed. Doors are located on both the west and east ends of the shed. The building appears to be of similar age to the church.

Privy (contributing) (Photo 9):

The small frame privy has a side gable roof and two entrances on the west side. A fence provides some privacy. Privies were commonly built to service rural churches, and this building appears to be early if not original. As such, it is considered contributing.

Cistern (contributing object) (Photo 10):

Installed in 1911, the cistern is underground but the cistern cap and pump are exposed. The cap is a circular concrete slab banded in metal. The slab is inscribed "July 21, 1911." Centered in the slab is the pump inside a metal case.

Cemetery (contributing site) (Photos 11-13):

The cemetery wraps three sides of the church and is enclosed by a fence that makes a jog around the horseshoe drive and parking area. The fence has concrete posts, iron pipe top rail and woven wire fencing. Rustic ornate gates are found on the west, south and east sides of the cemetery. Graves are laid out in north-south running rows and face east. The oldest graves are on the west side of the cemetery, bordering Flynt Road. The tombstones on these graves are primarily granite and limestone. A note in the "Boone County Church" files at the State Historical Society of Missouri notes that the markers are "more elaborate than one would expect for a rural church of this size. The amount of granite in the cemetery speaks of past affluence." The earliest interment was that of M. Edith Younger, wife of Rev. Robert J. Younger. Mrs. Younger was born in February 1790 and died on June 20, 1851. Approximate 23 marked graves were noted when the cemetery witnessed a Civil War battle in December 1861. The

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cemetery has been in continuous use since the 1850s and now contains approximately 750 marked graves.

The cemetery boundary is lined with trees, and some mature trees are scattered throughout. Most are mature oak, shag bark hickory, pine and walnuts. Many graves are also decorated with peonies and there are numerous yucca plants, a traditional plant in rural cemeteries, marking graves.



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Summary

The Mount Zion Church and Cemetery is located at 11070 East Mt. Zion Church Road near Hallsville in rural Boone County, Missouri. The property is locally significant under National Register Criterion C in the area of Architecture and is being nominated for association with the historic context "Rural Church Architecture in Missouri" as outlined in the Multiple Property Documentation Form of the same name. Constructed in 1903, this frame church with Gothic arch windows is the third to house the Mount Zion (originally Methodist) congregation. The church is an excellent local example of the Side Steeple Church type that gained popularity among rural congregations in the state between c. 1890 and c. 1919. Though the third most common rural church type statewide, the type is relatively uncommon in rural Boone County with only two other examples (Mount Nebo, Rocheport; Hartsburg Baptist, Hartsburg) found in the survey sampling. Gothic details are common in rural churches in Boone County and Missouri, but the complex apse with intersecting gables is an uncommon embellishment both in the county and among the Side-Steeple type. Though constructed for religious purposes and containing a cemetery, the property meets Criteria Consideration A and D as a significant rural property type with component landscape features. Mount Zion and its associated outbuildings and cemetery are archetypal of a property type that historically housed rural congregations in the county. Its relatively unaltered appearance is an increasingly rare reminder of the late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> century rural landscape. The period of significance is 1903, the date the church was constructed.

Historic Background

Mount Zion Church traces its origins to early camp meetings held in Boone County in the early 19<sup>th</sup> century. According to an early historian of Boone County, E.W. Stephens, these meetings were held regularly in the county for some 40 years, hosted primarily by Methodists and Cumberland Presbyterians at Mount Moriah, Brick Chapel, Old Bethel, Mount Zion and Union churches. Stephens noted that to shelter attendees

A large frame structure was generally constructed . . . though very often no such comfortable provision was made and the good people, if they did not have tents were forced to camp upon the bare ground, unprotected from rain or storm.

These shelters which were made of logs and boards were formed into a hollow square and were capable of holding five hundred persons.<sup>2</sup>

It is unknown if the Mount Moriah meetings had such a shelter or if the congregation, jointly organized by Methodists and Cumberland Presbyterians, even had a church at their meeting

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<sup>2</sup> E.W. Stephens. "Boone County History: Written in 1869 and Gathered from Interviews with Pioneers and from Public Record." *Columbia Daily Tribune*, December 7, 1914. Published online at <http://www.sos.mo.gov/mdh/>, accessed August 30, 2012.

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place on Hinkson Creek.<sup>3</sup> It is known that a group of Methodists broke away from Mount Moriah in 1843, forming the Mount Zion Church, Methodist Episcopal South. Forming members included John Reed, Sr., John Reed, Jr., Prudence Reed, Joseph Points, S.C. Points, Wilson Grady, M.A. Grady, R. A. Younger, Edith Younger, Thomas Karnes, Betsy Karnes, and A. J. Younger.<sup>4</sup> The new congregation met on land donated by Thomas and Suzan Flynt, and in 1848 constructed a small frame church on the site. Reportedly, the church was constructed with lumber cut by the area's first sawmill<sup>5</sup> by carpenter Wilson Grady. Mount Zion shared its new building with a group of Baptists who later formed the Grandview Baptist Church near Murry in 1874.<sup>6</sup>

Little has been written about the early history of the church, though the church and surrounding grounds were a gathering spot for the surrounding agricultural community. As noted by Stephens, the church hosted camp meetings as well as their regular services. Land across the road from the church, once owned by the congregation, was a common gathering point for community meetings and also a campground for travelers including gypsies. Oral histories note that one such group lost a child while camping near the church, and buried him in the churchyard cemetery. The cemetery was open not only to church members, but also used by the larger surrounding community. The first interment dates to 1851, just three years after the first church building was erected. The cemetery, still in use, contains approximately 750 graves.

In addition to community events, the first church building and surrounding cemetery witnessed significant events in county history—notably a battle between Union and Confederate troops on December 28, 1861. In the days preceding the Battle of Mount Zion, Brigadier-General Benjamin Prentiss led troops of the Third Missouri Cavalry from Palmyra to Sturgeon. Learning of a “concentration of rebels near the village of Hallsville” Prentiss sent some of his men to reconnoiter. About two miles from Hallsville, cavalry troops encountered rebel forces lead by Col. Dorsey. Initially overwhelmed, the Union troops fell back for reinforcements, and some 470 men marched finding the enemy “posted at a church and a place known as Mount Zion.” The ensuing battle was relatively brief and resulted in a Union victory, both sides sustained losses including 28 killed (3 Union, 25 Confederate), 213 wounded (63 Union, 150 Confederate) according to Prentiss (other accounts vary). After the battle, the wounded were gathered into the church and while wagons were prepared for transport.<sup>7</sup> Evidence of the battle can apparently be seen in pockmarks from bullets on some of the earliest grave markers. There are also seven Confederate soldiers who died during the battle, names unknown, buried in the

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<sup>3</sup> The meetings were apparently located near Hinkson Creek just north of where it is crossed by Highway HH. “Mount Zion is a Church, a Time, and a Place.” Program for the dedication of Mount Zion Church as a Historic Site in Boone County, September 6, 1998.

<sup>4</sup> *History of Boone County, Missouri*. St. Louis: Western Historical Company, 1882, 1115.

<sup>5</sup> “Mount Zion is a Church, a Time, and a Place,” n.p.

<sup>6</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>7</sup> Report of Brigadier-General Benjamin M. Prentiss, republished in Donald Diehl. “Mt. Zion; A Church, A Time, A Place.” *The Hallsville TOP*, March 1973.

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cemetery. (See photo 12) The original church survived the initial battle, but was later burned by a Lt. Hardeman in September 1863. Hardeman's justification for destroying the church was that it had "ceased to be a church and had become a 'bushwhackers' nest."<sup>8</sup>

The congregation was somewhat slow to recover from the loss of their church. It was not until 1867 that the congregation built a new building at a cost of \$2000. In the meantime the congregation reportedly met in a brush arbor with log seating.<sup>9</sup> It is unknown what this second edifice looked like, though its cost indicates a fairly substantial building. Construction costs for other churches in the county built in the 1860s through c. 1882 varied from a few hundred dollars to Red Top Christian Church's \$3200 edifice. Most rural churches that reported had buildings constructed for a cost of \$1200 to \$2000, including the "plain but neat" New Providence Missionary Baptist church (52 foot x 38 foot") built in 1878 for \$1450.<sup>10</sup> Based on extant early churches in Boone County, the 1867 Mount Zion Church was likely a simple frame Gable-front church type, possibly with two front doors as the congregation continued to practice separate seating for men and women well into the 20<sup>th</sup> century.<sup>11</sup>

By the 1880s, the church may have been bursting at its seams with a reported membership of 256.<sup>12</sup> It would not be until the turn of the century that the congregation decided to construct its third and final church. The current building was constructed in 1903 by Weldon Jones, Wesley Sebastian, Martin and James Carlos and Charles Critchfield. The building housed the Mount Zion congregation during its peak years between the turn of the century and the Great Depression. During and after the Depression, loss of rural population and better transportation networks led to less reliance on local rural churches. The membership of the Mount Zion Church declined until 1977 when the Methodist Conference did not supply a minister to the church, forcing members to transfer membership to other congregations. The conference deeded the church to the Mount Zion Cemetery Association in 1981; that group continues to preserve the church and administer the perpetual care cemetery.

### Rural Church Architecture in Boone County

A comprehensive study and survey of rural churches in Boone County has not been conducted, but some effort to identify and evaluate these churches was undertaken for comparative purposes and to better evaluate the architectural significance of Mount Zion. The 1882 *History of Boone County* identified approximately 40 "country" and small town churches outside of the city of Columbia. There were very likely additional churches scattered throughout the county at the time that simply did not report or provide information to the book's compiler. Additional rural churches were identified as part of this study through research into Boone County cemeteries from resources such as "Find A Grave," phone directories, and church websites. In all 55 rural

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<sup>8</sup> *History of Boone County, Missouri*, 1116.

<sup>9</sup> "Mount Zion is a Church, a Time, and a Place," n.p.

<sup>10</sup> *History of Boone County, Missouri*, various pages.

<sup>11</sup> "Mount Zion is a Church, a Time, and a Place," n.p.

<sup>12</sup> *History of Boone County, Missouri*, 1116.

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and small town churches were included in the sampling. Of these, sufficient photographs to allow classification were found for 39 of the churches, four additional historic churches in the sampling are known to have been demolished. Eight of the classifiable churches are modern buildings associated with historic congregations. The remaining 31 buildings appear to date to the period covered by the "Rural Church Architecture of Missouri, 1819 to c. 1945" Multiple Property Documentation Form (MPDF).

Examples of five of the nine church types identified in the MPDF were identified in the Boone County rural church sampling. As is typical statewide, the vast majority of examples in the sampling (23) are simple Gable Front church types. The sampling included typical variations of the type in frame and brick, some with steeples, others with foyer additions. Several also retained their original two door configuration. The oldest example of the Gable Front type in the sampling was the Little Bonne Femme Baptist Church, a brick church constructed in 1845, remodeled in 1919 and expanded more recently. Newer examples appear to date to the early 20<sup>th</sup> Century. Also included in the sampling were three examples of the Steepled El type, one example each of the Side Gable and Center Steeple type, and three examples of Side Steeple churches.

The three examples of the Side Steeple church type in the sampling, including Mount Zion, represent distinct variations of the type. Each has the basic form with rectangular footprint and corner tower, but variations in form and architectural decoration set each apart. Of the three, the Hartsburg (Baptist) Church and Mount Nebo Church in Rocheport have the most applied decoration. Both of these churches are located in small towns and a certain amount of polish or competitiveness may have influenced the choice of applied decorative elements. The church in Hartsburg, notably, has elaborate decorative elements including large stained glass windows, imbricated shingles, and an open belfry with decorative wood supports. Additionally, its corner tower is canted and there are cross gables on the long side elevations. Other than a small side and rear addition, this church appears to be intact to its date of construction. Mount Nebo Church in Rocheport is listed in the National Register of Historic Places as part of the Rocheport Historic District. In comparison to the Hartsburg Baptist Church, Mount Nebo is restrained in architectural detail and is the smallest of the three examples in the sampling. A starburst pattern is located in the gable end below which are rows of imbricated shingles. The windows, however, are simple 1/1 wood sash. The National Register nomination dates Mount Nebo to the 1860s, though the decorative elements and possibly the side tower may be the results of a later renovation project. Mount Nebo's corner tower/steeple is not integrated into the main block of the building and is, instead, constructed as a separate structure attached to one side of the building.

Decoratively, Mount Zion falls between the two other examples. It lacks applied decoration such as shaped shingles, but its Gothic arch windows with colored glass panes and complex roofline on the apse provide some refinement to the design. The interior of Mount Zion is also more detailed than its sister, Mount Nebo. Mount Nebo's interior is relatively plain while Mount Zion's wood slat ceiling is laid in straight lines, diagonals and in diamond patterns to provide a

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decorative detail to the interior. Mount Zion is also the only example of the type in the sampling that is truly "rural." The church is located several miles from Hallsville and Centralia, the two nearest towns. All three Side Steeple church examples in the sampling may merit listing in the National Register, but the rural character and associated outbuildings and other resources set Mount Zion apart from the other two. In addition to the church, the Mount Zion Church property contains four related resources that were historically associated with rural church property types: a cistern/pump, privies, coal shed/support building, and a large cemetery.

**Conclusion:**

The Mount Zion Church is an excellent intact example of the Side Steeple Church type. Statewide, this is the third most common rural church type and the second most common (tied with the Steeped El type) identified in the sampling used for this nomination. Surprisingly, all three examples of the Side Steeple Church examples are relatively intact with only minor exterior alterations. Mount Zion and Mount Nebo exhibit the fewest exterior changes, and both have been restored. Through the retention of its setting, historic outbuildings, and its cemetery Mount Zion is the best example of both a rural church architectural type and small rural landscape.

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**Verbal Boundary Description**

The church property consists of two parcels equaling three acres as described below:

A lot of ground narrow by its lines, beginning at a post set 10-50 chains east of the center of the LN Section 32 T50N R11W from which post is white oak 12 inches diameter being SW 3WS Links thence East 400 chains to a post from which a white oak 20 inches diameter being S 41/2 E 38 links: Thence North 250 links to a post from which a white oak 20 inches in diameter being N40 1/2 E 12 links: Thence West 400 chains to a post from which a white oak 20 inches diameter being S 35 E 11 Links: Thence South 250 links to the beginning, containing one acre.

And

Beginning at the South East corner of the North East quarter fo the South West Quarter of Section 32, Township 50, Range 11, Thence North 3 chains and seventeen links to a stone. Thence West 3 Chains and seventeen to a stone, Thence South 3 chains and seventeen links to a stone. Thence East three chains and seventeen links to the beginning. Containing one acre. Also one acre more or less lying due west of the above described land and due East of the land now belonging to said church.

**Verbal Boundary Justification**

The property includes the land on which the church sits and adjacent property containing the church cemetery, all of which is historically associated with the church.



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**Photo Log**

The following is true for all photographs:

Mount Zion Church and Cemetery

Boone County, Missouri

Photographer: Bonnie Durk

Date: September 2012

Digital images on file with the photographer and at the Missouri State Historic Preservation Office, Jefferson City, Missouri

1. West elevation, looking east southeast.
2. West elevation, looking east northeast.
3. South elevation, looking northeast.
4. North elevation, looking west southwest.
5. East elevation, looking west.
6. Interior, looking east.
7. Interior, looking west.
8. Coal shed, looking east.
9. Privy, looking south.
10. Cistern.
11. Cemetery, looking east from parking lot.
12. Cemetery, looking west.
13. Cemetery, looking northeast.

**Figure Log:**

1. Sketch Floor plan.
2. Site Plan.
3. Locational map.
4. Geographical data map.

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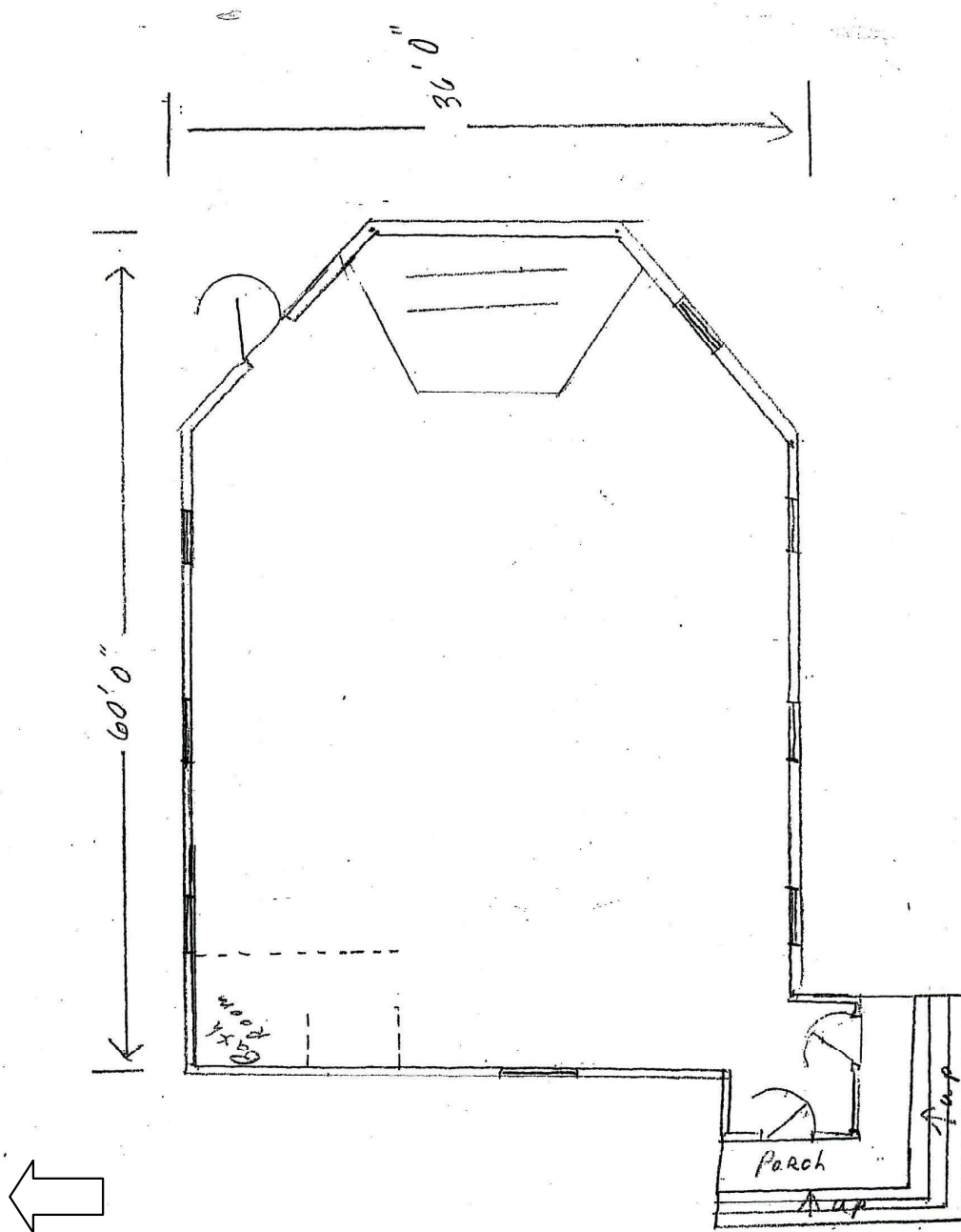
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Figure 1: Sketch Floor Plan



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Figure 2: Site Plan



1. Mount Zion Church
2. Privy
3. Coal shed
4. Cemetery
5. Parking

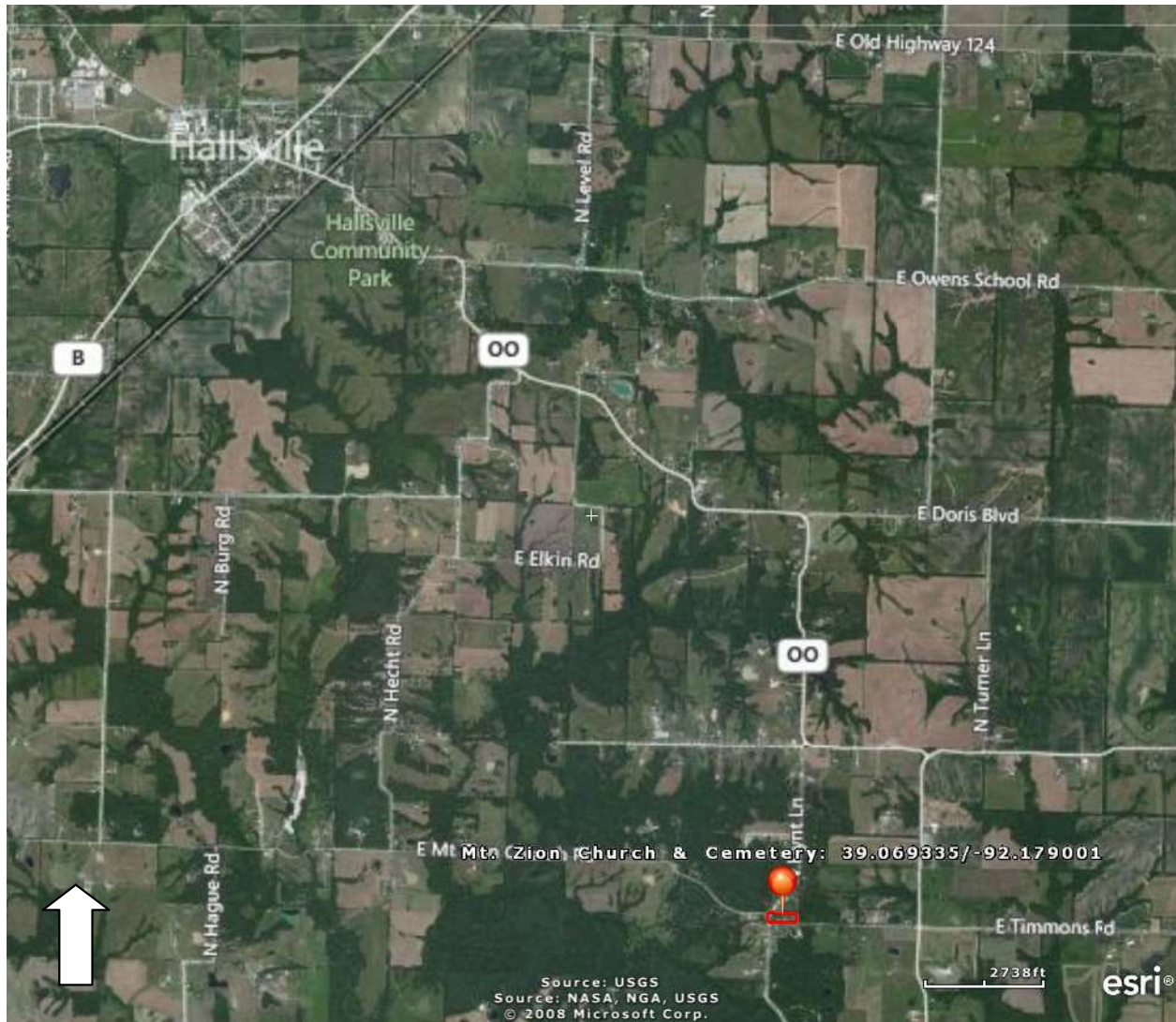
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Figure 3: Location Map.



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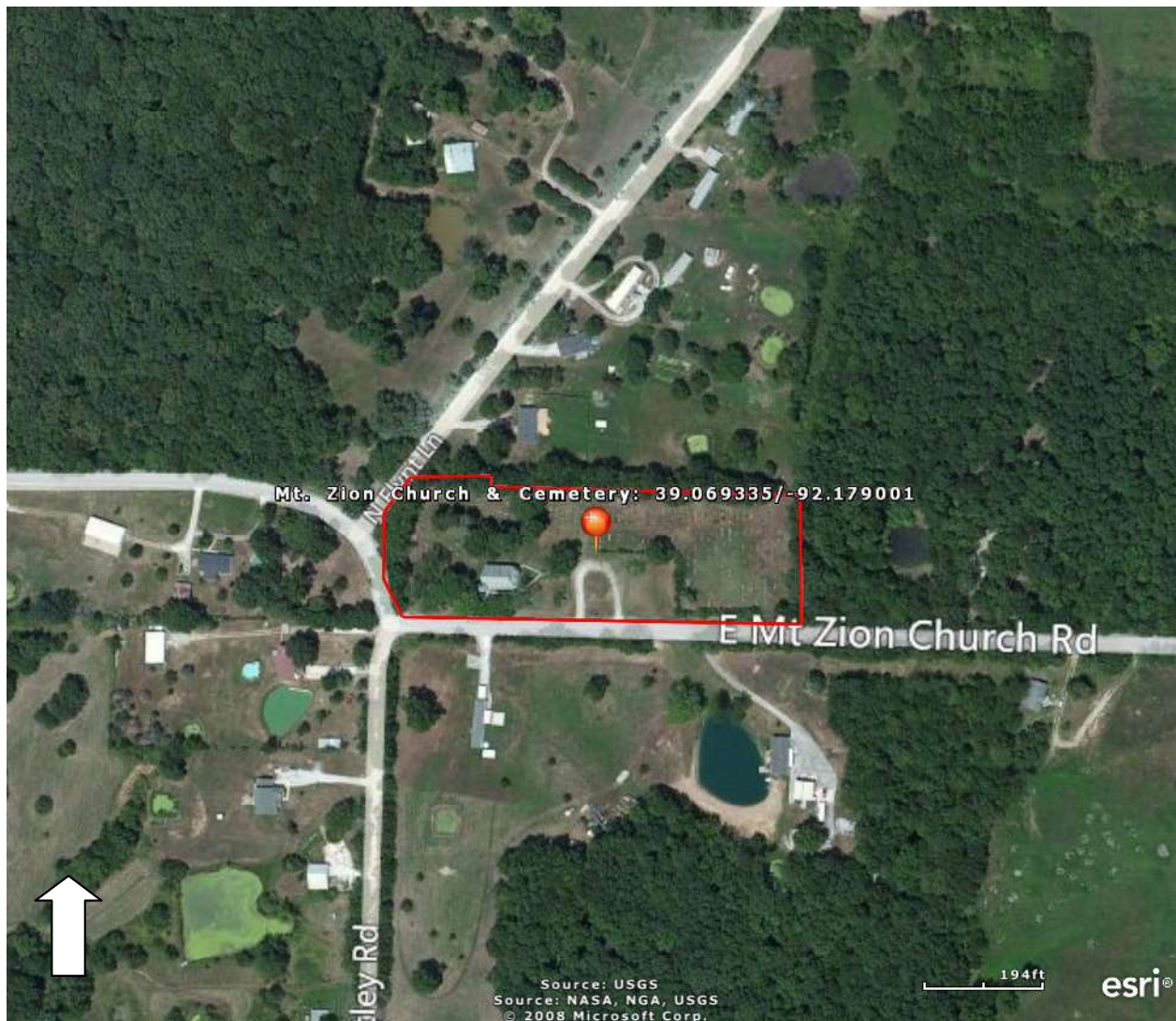
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**Figure 4:** Geographical Data map with decimal degree reference.

Mount Zion Church & Cemetery

Hallsville vic., Boone County, Missouri

Center point reference: Latitude: 39.069335 Longitude: -92.179001





ROUSE  
EDDY ROUSE  
BORN 1850  
DIED 1918  
MAY 10 1918  
WIFE OF J. W. ROUSE

WIFE OF J. W. ROUSE  
DIED 1918  
MAY 10 1918

ELKIN  
WIFE OF J. W. ROUSE  
DIED 1918  
MAY 10 1918

BUILT BY THE CHURCH 1880























DENNIS  
MAY 15 1875  
OCT 10 1945

BROWN  
MAY 15 1875  
OCT 10 1945

HUNTON  
MAY 15 1875  
OCT 10 1945

HUNTON  
MAY 15 1875  
OCT 10 1945

AVILLE  
MAY 15 1875  
OCT 10 1945

HUNTON  
MAY 15 1875  
OCT 10 1945





UNKNOWN  
SEVEN  
CONFEDERATE  
SOLDIERS  
WHO DIED  
IN DEFENSE  
OF THEIR  
COUNTRY  
DECEMBER 28, 1861

WALKER GREER

WALKER GREER  
BORN 1862  
DIED 1865

