Mount Zion Historic District
M:23-53

Montgomery County, MD

Mt. Zion is a small, predominantly black community located at the intersection of Zion and Brookeville Roads, near the town of Brookeville in northeastern Montgomery County. The historic district boundaries include Mt. Zion Church property(property includes a contemporary church building and the historic schoolhouse), and several adjacent residential lots, with houses dating to around the turn-of-the-century.

Mt. Zion is historically notable as an African-American community established in the county after the Civil War by freed slaves. Prior to the Civil War, blacks were attracted to this part of the county because of the anti-slavery sentiment that prevailed amongst the local Quaker and Methodist community in the Olney-Brookeville-Sandy Spring area. In spite of the loss of the historic Mt. Zion Church, the community survives as an important and tangible reminder of the county's African American history. The property meets Criterion C of the Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
MD INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES

Inventory No. M:23-53

==========

1. Name of Property

==========

historic name Mt. Zion Historic District
common/other name _____

==========

2. Location

==========

street & number _____ not for publication _____
city or town Brookeville vicinity X state Maryland code MD
county Montgomery code _____ zip code _____

==========

3. State/Federal Agency Certification N/A

==========

==========

4. National Park Service Certification N/A

==========

==========

5. Classification

==========

Ownership of Property (Check all that apply)

X private
____ public-local
____ public-State
____ public-Federal

Category of Property (Check only one box)

X building(s)
____ district
____ site
____ structure
____ object

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing	Non-contributing	
5	4	buildings
____	____	sites
____	____	structures
____	____	objects
5	4	Total

Is this property listed in the National Register?
Yes ____ Name of Listing _____ No X

==========

6. Function or Use

==========

Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat:	Sub:
Religion	Church
Education	School
Domestic	Single family

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat:	Sub:
Religion	Church
Domestic	Single family

==========

7. Description

==========

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)

Vernacular

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

foundation
roof
walls
other

Narrative Description (Describe the historic and current condition of the property.)

See Continuation Sheet No. 7-1

==========

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)

__X__ 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.)

____ A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.

____ B removed from its original location.

____ C a birthplace or a grave.

____ 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.

==========

Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions)
Religion
Education

Period of Significance 1865-1920

Significant Dates 1865
1872

Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

Cultural Affiliation

Architect/Builder

Narrative Statement of Significance (Explain the significance of the property.)

See Continuation Sheet No. 8-1

==========
9. Major Bibliographical References
==========
(Cite the books, articles, legal records, and other sources used in preparing this form.)

"History of Mt. Zion M.E. Church," n.d.

Fly, Everett L. and La Barbara Wigfall, "Northeastern Montgomery County Black Oral History Study," 1983.

MacMaster, Richard K. and Ray Eldon Hiebert. *A Grateful Remembrance: The Story of Montgomery County, Maryland, 1776-1976.* Rockville, MD.: Montgomery County Historical Society, 1976.

Montgomery County Historical Society, Rockville, MD., Vertical Files.

Montgomery County Land Records, Montgomery County, Maryland.

Richards, Katherine. "Neighbor Complains of Auto Repair Business Near Homes,"*Olney Gazette*, July 17, 1996.

Snyderman, Lois. The Maryland Historical Trust Inventory Form "Mt. Zion," 1985.

Maps and Drawings

Hopkins, G.M., *Atlas of Fifteen Miles around Washington, including the County of Montgomery, Maryland*, 1879.

Martenet and Bond, *Map of Montgomery County*, 1865.

==========

10. Geographical Data

==========

Acreage of Property _____

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.) The Mt. Zion Historic District occupies several contiguous lots on Tax Map PB 80 in Montgomery County, Maryland. The tax parcels comprising the proposed boundaries are: P100, P101, P102, P103, P151, P152, P153, P155, P170, P173, P205, P206, P224, P225, P260, P262.

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The proposed boundaries include all of those parcels which contain contributing resources, or open space.

==========

11. Form Prepared By

==========

name/title Kim Williams
organization M-NCPPC date December 10, 1998
street & number 8787 Georgia Avenue telephone 301-563-3403
city or town Silver Spring state MD zip code _____

==========

12. Property Owner

==========

name _____
street & number _____ telephone _____
city or town _____ state ___ zip code _____

==========

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Mt. Zion is a small, predominantly black community located at the intersection of Zion and Brookeville Roads, near the town of Brookeville in northeastern Montgomery County. Although the historic Mt. Zion Church has been replaced by a contemporary building, Mt. Zion still retains its feeling as a small, rural crossroads community in a fast-developing area. In addition, the Mt. Zion School, built in 1872, still survives, along with the church parsonnage and several residential buildings.

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION

Historically a more vibrant community than today, complete with a church, a school, several stores and multiple residences, Mt. Zion consists of more than a dozen lots, clustered south of Brookeville Road on the east and west sides of Zion Road. At the center of the crossroads is the Mt. Zion Church, a contemporary structure located on the site of the original 1866 church building, and the original frame schoolhouse, built in 1872. A surviving group of six historic houses line Zion Road leading to the church from present-day Laytonsville Road. Most of these houses are two-story, two-and three-bay frame dwellings built around the turn of the century.

Set back from the southwest corner of the intersection stands Mt. Zion Methodist Church (1974), a one-story concrete block structure covered with a gable roof. A belltower stands just in front of the church to the east and a cemetery to the west. The Snowden family burial ground is located to the south of the building. To the east of the church building and facing Zion Road is the 1872 schoolhouse. Built in 1872, the schoolhouse is a small, rectangular building constructed of wood frame and clad with board and batten siding. It is set upon a stone pier foundation (filled in with concrete block) and is covered with a gable roof sheathed with corrugated tin. A brick chimney protrudes from on center of the south slope of the roof. The schoolhouse is a single bay wide and four bays deep. The front of the building is defined by a single, central entry. The entry is reached by a wooden stair, set upon concrete block piers and has a wood replacement door. The side bays are defined by 6/6 windows. A small concrete block addition is located on the north side of the former schoolhouse.

South of the church and school lot located to either side of Zion Road are six dwellings. The church parsonage, located on the west side of Zion Road, is a 2-1/2-story, three-bay, frame American foursquare built in the 1920s. The house is clad with wood weatherboard, features a hipped roof with hipped dormers and a

half-hipped front porch. The parsonage is no longer used as such, but is still owned by the church.

The house numbered 19914 Zion Road is just south of the parsonage. Called the Selby House, this two-story, three-bay, gable-roof dwelling was erected around the turn of the century. It has a shed roof front porch and a two-story rear ell addition. The house is clad with aluminum siding and has 6/6 windows.

Continuing south, the next two houses on the west side of Zion Road are contemporary dwellings, while that at 19808 Zion road, referred to as the Snowden house, was built circa 1900. It was owned by the Snowden family since about 1910. It is a two-story, three-bay, central-entry frame structure with a shed-roof front porch. It has vinyl siding and is covered with a gable roof.

On the east side of Zion Road is a row of four houses. The one numbered 19919 and referred to as the DeLa Cruz house is the only intact and historic house of the group. Probably built in the first part of this century, it is a two-story, two-bay frame house covered with a gable roof. Its walls are currently clad with asbestos shingles.

Further south on the east side of Zion Road and next to the De La Cruz house is an abandoned and deteriorating single-story frame structure.

The northwest corner of the intersection is currently the site of the Mt. Zion auto repair business which occupies the entire one-acre parcel. The site is home to wood piles, outbuildings, a satellite dish, a boat and many vehicles. A pole barn is currently under construction on the site; the entire parcel is somewhat of a blight on the community. The northeast corner of the intersection is open fields associated with Bon Secours, a large farm at the center of which stands an impressive Italianate-style dwelling set back from, but facing Brookeville Road.

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The crossroads community of Mt. Zion is historically notable as a small African-American community established in the county after the Civil War by freed slaves. Prior to the Civil War, blacks were attracted to this part of the county because of the anti-slavery sentiment that prevailed amongst the local Quaker and Methodist community in the Olney-Brookeville-Sandy Spring area. In spite of the loss of the historic Mt. Zion Church, the community survives as an important and tangible reminder of the county's African American history. The property meets Criterion C of the Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties.

Historic Context

Mt. Zion traces its origins as a crossroads community to the early 1860s. At that time, a Catholic church, clearly shown on the 1865 Martenet and Bond map, stood on the future site of the small community.[1] Following the Civil War, former slaves acquired small tracts of land near the crossroads, and in 1866, a group of African Americans organized and erected the Mount Zion Methodist Church and free school on an acre of land made available to them by local, white landowner, James Stabler.[2] Prior to building the church, the group had been worshiping in a log cabin on the plantation of Charles Brooke[3] and at the Sharp Street Methodist Church in Sandy Spring. With financial help from the Freedmen Aid Society[4] and encouraged by a promise of building materials from the Christian Association of Baltimore City, the group bought an acre of land from James Stabler for $100.00 and contributed their labor to erect a combined church and school. This building stood at the southwest corner of the intersection until it was destroyed by fire in the 1960s.

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[1] The Catholic Church served the community until its membership declined in the early 1900s and the remaining congregation moved to Brookeville. The church was adapted into a residence and vegetable stand, and eventually burned down.

[2] Northeastern Montgomery County Black Oral History Study, 1983.

[3] Charles Brooke was a Quaker and son of Richard Brooke.

[4] Richard K. MacMaster and Ray Eldon Hiebert, *A Grateful Remembrance: The Story of Montgomery County, MD*. (Rockville, MD,1976), 190.

The building served the dual purpose of church and school until 1873, when a small frame schoolhouse was erected next to the church. The school was erected using part of the $50,000 of funds appropriated in 1872 by the Maryland General Assembly for the support of colored schools. The Assembly directed that one colored school was to be established in each election district. Hamilton Snowden, a resident of Mt. Zion, applied to the Board of School Commissions for funds to build a school. Successful in his bid, the school was built and named the Griffith School in honor of the Thomas Griffith family. Reverend L.D. Snowden was the first minister of the Mt. Zion Methodist Episcopal Church.

By 1879, as shown on the 1879 G.M. Hopkins map, Mt. Zion was a recognized crossroads community, consisting of a Catholic church, the Mt. Zion Methodist Church, a schoolhouse and several residences lining Mt. Zion Road. The names associated with these residences are marked as Brown, Snowden, Johnson, Cooke, and Herbert. The crossroads settlement served area blacks for a radius of up to seven miles. Most of these residents cultivated small (less than two acres), self-sufficient farms and hired out for day jobs, driving freight wagons to and from Washington, D.C. and Baltimore for area mills. In the early 20th century, a small drygoods store and a grocery store were located at the southeast corner of Zion and Brookeville Roads. The drygoods, operated by Thomas Brown later became the Mt. Zion Post Office.[5]

By 1920, the second generation of Mt. Zion residents began to move away in search of better jobs. By 1940, the Griffith School had closed its doors, and although the Methodist church remained, Mt. Zion ceased to serve as focal point of the local black community. Today, Mt. Zion survives with a church, former school and residences as a quiet, rural community.

[5] The Brown Store was torn down in the 1950s when the county widened the intersection.

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HISTORIC CONTEXT:

Geographic Organization:
Piedmont

Chronological/Development Period (s):

Agricultural-Urban Transition (1815-1870)

Prehistoric/Historic Period Theme (s):

Architecture, Landscape Architecture, and Community Planning

RESOURCE TYPE(S)

Category: Building

Historic Environment: Rural

Historic Function (s): DOMESTIC/Single Dwelling
RELIGION/Church
EDUCATION/School

Known Design Source: Unknown

MOUNT ZION HISTORIC DISTRICT (M: 23-53)

Casual User Application

M-NCPPC
MONTGOMERY COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF PARK AND PLANNING
THE MARYLAND-NATIONAL CAPITAL PARK AND PLANNING COMMISSION
8787 Georgia Avenue - Silver Spring, Maryland 20910-3760

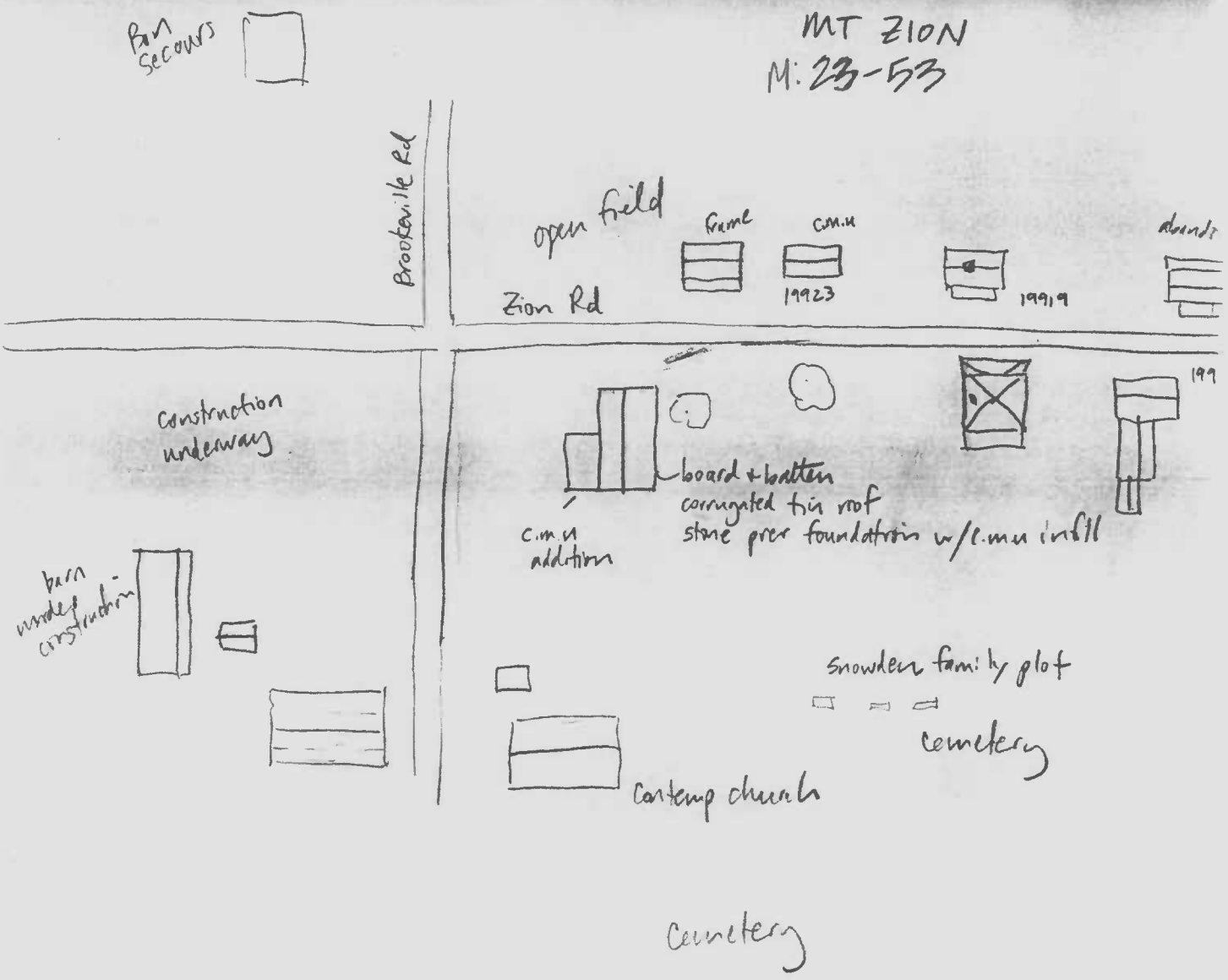
N

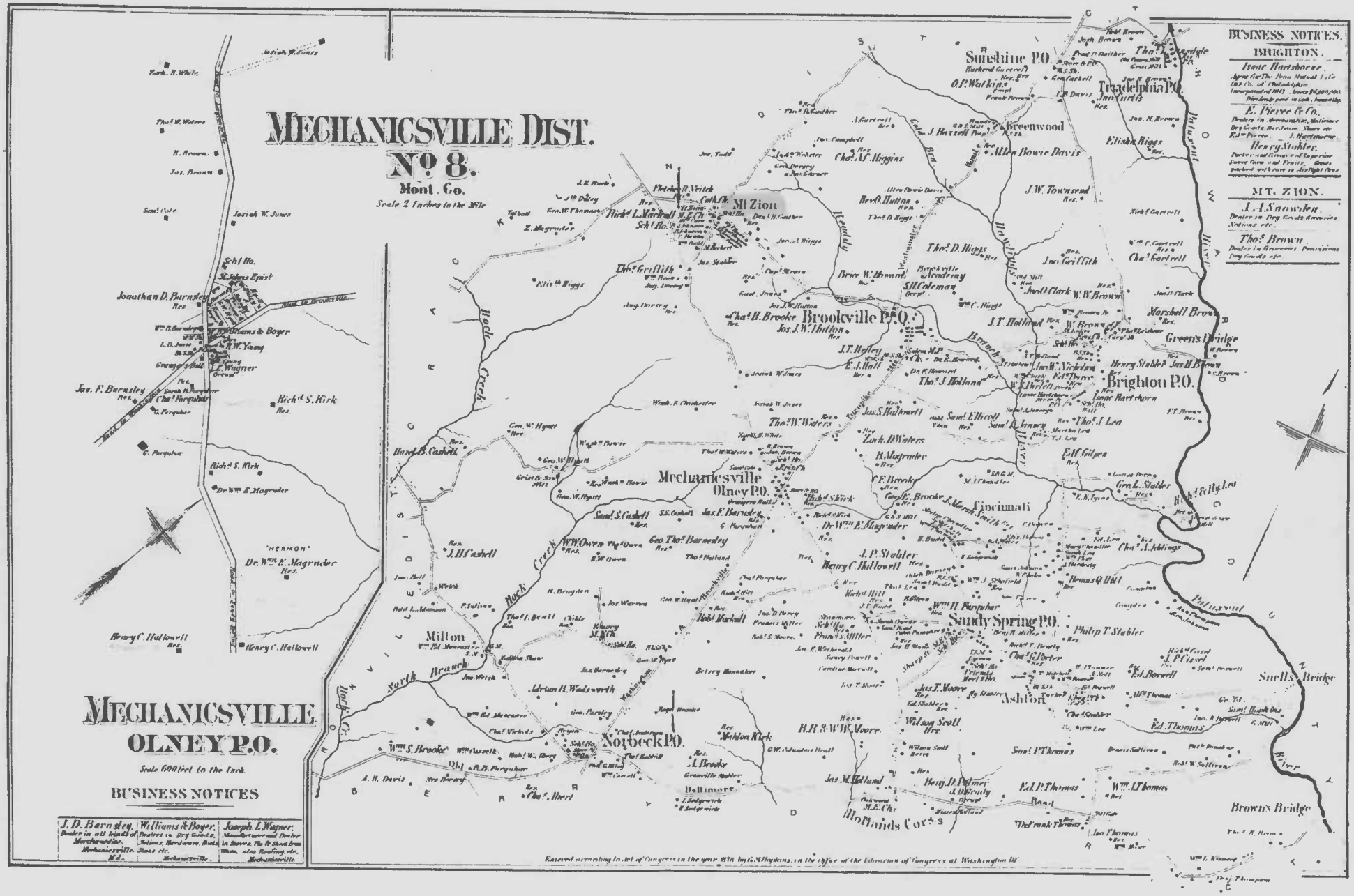
Scale 1' = 200"

Research & GIS Technology
Research & Technology Center

2←

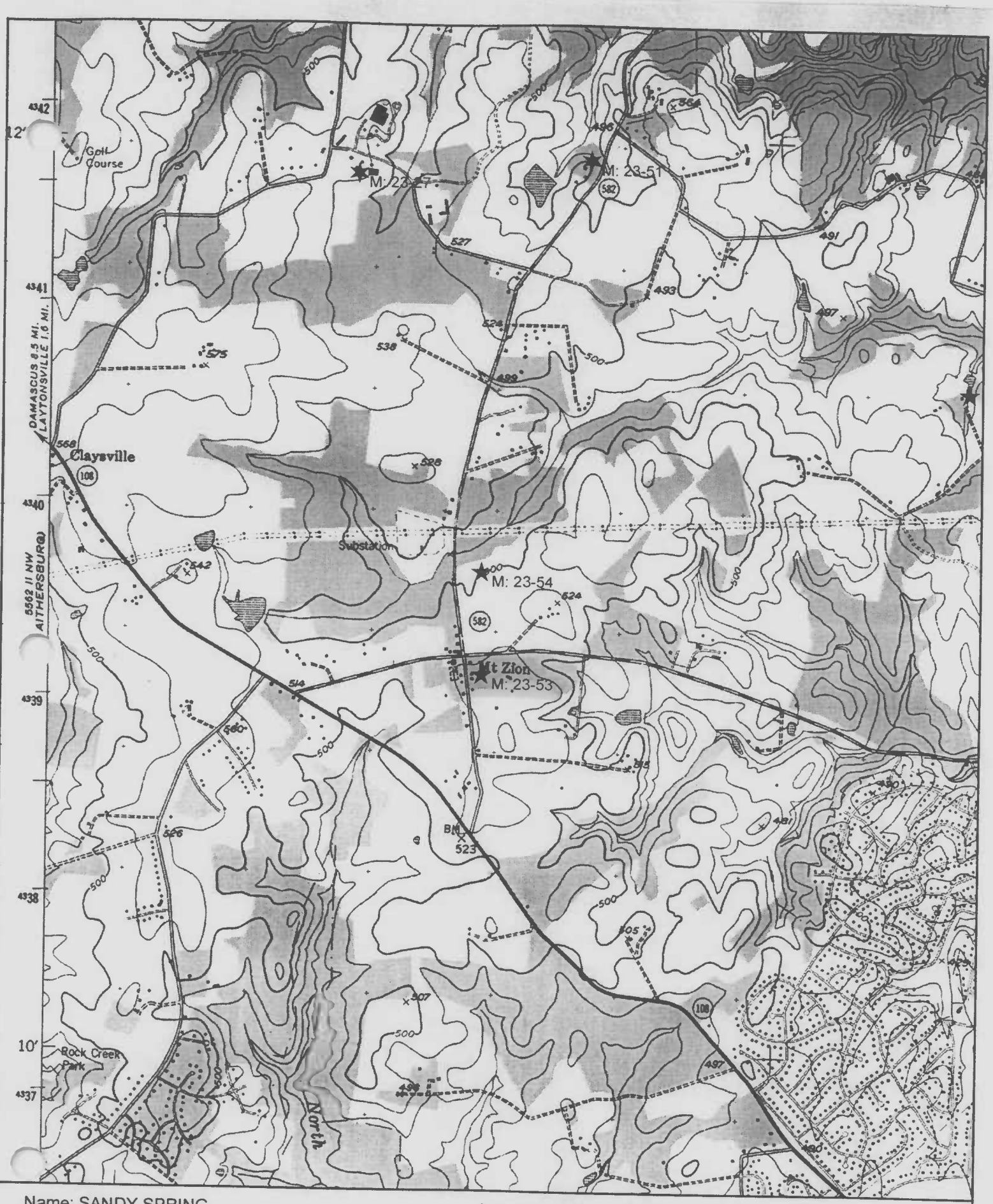
MT ZION
M: 23-53





M:23-53

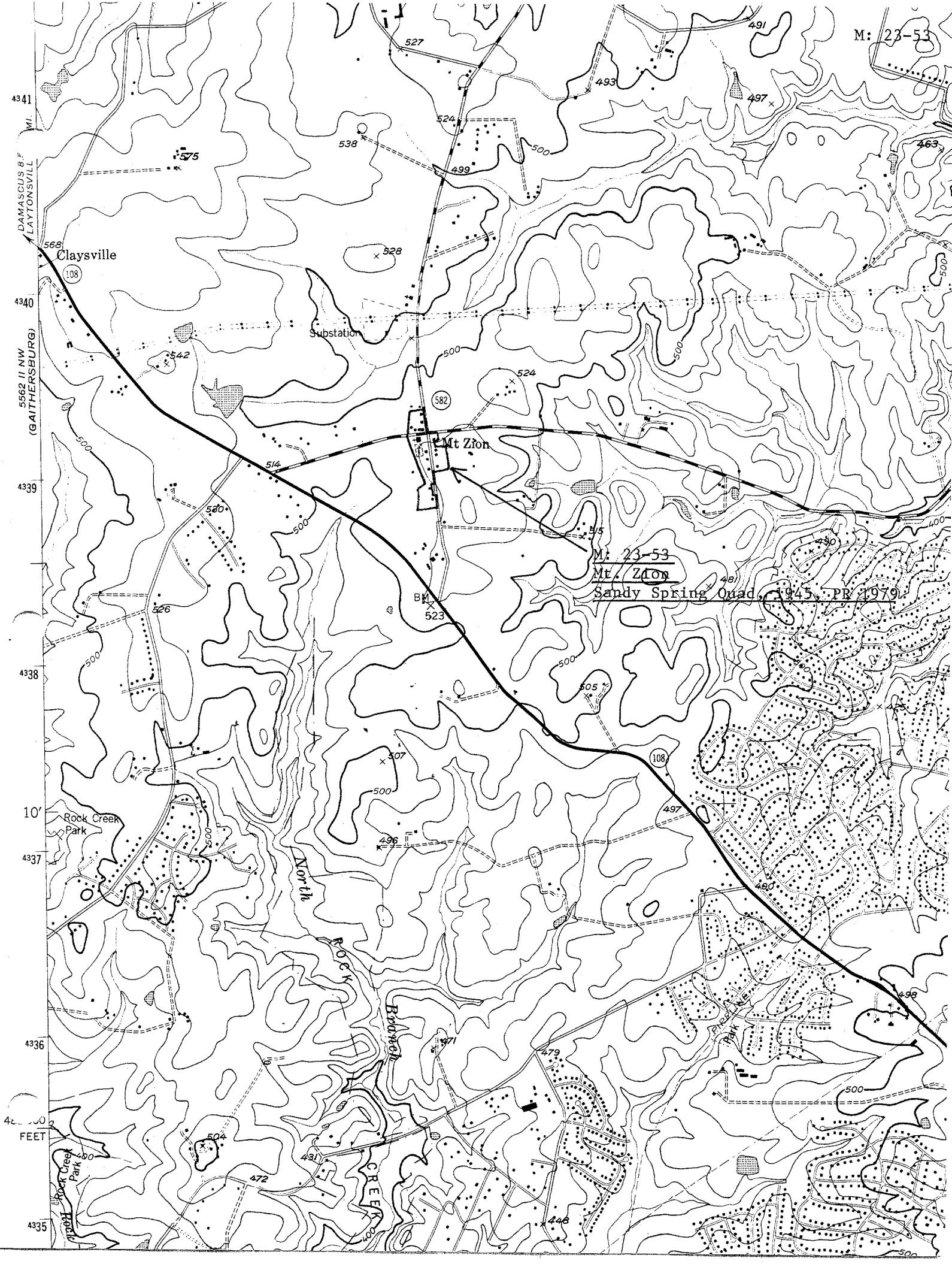
Hopkins, G.M., comp. *Atlas of Fifteen Miles around Washington, including the County of Montgomery, Maryland*, 1879. Reprint. Rockville, MD.: Montgomery County Historical Society, 1975.



Name: SANDY SPRING
Date: 7/13/99
Scale: 1 inch equals 2000 feet

Location: 039° 11' 12.9" N 077° 05' 58.4" W
Caption: MT. ZION HISTORIC DISTRICT (M: 23-53)

Copyright (C) 1997, Maptech, Inc.


M: 23-53
M: 23-53
Mt. Zion
Sandy Spring Quad, 1945, PR 1979
Claysville
Mt Zion
Substation
Rock Creek Park
North Rock Branch
CREEK
DAMASCUS 8.F
LAYTONSVILL
5562 II NW
(GAITHERSBURG)
10'
FEET
4341
4340
4339
4338
4337
4336
4335
108
582
BM
523
568
575
538
527
524
528
542
514
530
526
505
507
496
497
491
493
499
463
481
490
498
471
479
504
431
472
448
500
400

STOP
STOP
1 4'95

M.
23-53
MT. ZION HISTORIC DISTRICT
MONTGOMERY CO., MD
KIM WILLIAMS
1-4-09
MARYLAND SHPO
LOOKING NW FROM SE CORNER OF INTERSECTION
OF ZION / BROOKEVILLE RDS
1 OF 7

1 4'99

MT

23-53

MT. ZION HISTORIC DISTRICT

MONTGOMERY CO., MD

KIM WILLIAMS

1-4-99

MARYLAND SHPO

PARSONAGE ON ZION ROAD, EAST ELEVATION

2 OF 7

4.99

M:
23-53
MT. ZION HISTORIC DISTRICT
MONTGOMERY CO., MD
KIM WILLIAMS
1-4-99
MARYLAND SHPO
19914 ZION RD, EAST ELEVATION
3 OF 7

1991

MI
23-53
MT. ZION HISTORIC DISTRICT
MONTGOMERY CO., MD
KIM WILLIAMS
1-4-99
MARYLAND SHPO
10919 ZION RD; WEST ELEVATION
4 OF 7

M:
23-53
MT. ZION HISTORIC DISTRICT
MONTGOMERY CO., MD
KIM WILLIAMS
1-4-09
MARYLAND SHPO
19923 ZION RD, WEST ELEVATION
5 OF 7

M:
23-53
MT. ZION HISTORIC DISTRICT
MONTGOMERY CO., MD
KIM WILLIAMS
1-4-09
MARYLAND SHPO
ABANDONED HOUSE, ACROSS FROM 10914
MT. ZION ROAD, WEST ELEVATION
6 OF 7

23-53
MT. ZION HISTORIC DISTRICT
MONTGOMERY CO., MD
KIM WILLIAMS
1-4-09
MARYLAND SHPO
MT. ZION SCHOOL, SW CORNER OF MT. ZION RD
AND BROOKEVILLE RD.
7 OF 7

Capsule Summary

Mt. Zion Historic District (Montgomery County #23/53)

Intersection of Brookeville and Zion Roads

Brookeville, Maryland

Public/Private - 1863 - Present

The community of Mt. Zion is historically significant because it is one of the approximately 14 small Black communities which were established in northeastern Montgomery County after the Civil War by freed slaves. Even before emancipation, Blacks were attracted to this part of the County because of the anti-slavery sentiments of local Quakers and Methodists, particularly strong among the Quakers in the Sandy Spring-Olney area.

Blacks settled in Mt. Zion as early as 1863, but the period of strongest growth was immediately following the Civil War, when former slaves were given or in some cases purchased small tracts of land near the crossroads of Brookeville and Zion Roads. They earned a living by working as farmhands for white tobacco farmers or by becoming masons, carpenters, and blacksmiths and they grew much of their food on their own small plots of land or on land which they worked as tenant farmers.

A Catholic Church stood at the NW corner of the crossroads by 1865 and in the late 1860's Mt. Zion residents erected a Methodist Episcopal Church on the SW corner and used it as both a church and school until a small frame schoolhouse was built, adjacent to the church, in the mid-1870's. The schoolhouse is

still standing and is used occassionally for church-related functions. By 1880, Mt. Zion was a well-established community, with a school and church which served Black residents for many miles around.

In the early years of the 20th Century, a small dry goods store and a grocery store were located at the SE corner of Zion and Brookeville roads; one of the stores, operated by Thomas Brown, later became the Mt. Zion Post Office. The Brown store was torn down in the 1950's when the County widened the intersection.

Although Mt. Zion no longer has its own school, store or post office, it remains much as it was in the late 19th century, a small black community in a quiet rural setting.

M:23-53

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC: Mt. Zion

AND/OR COMMON: Same

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER: Brookeville Rd. and Zion Rd.

CITY, TOWN: Brookeville ___ VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT: 8

STATE: Maryland

COUNTY: Montgomery

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY
- X DISTRICT
- ___ BUILDING(S)
- ___ STRUCTURE
- ___ SITE
- ___ OBJECT

OWNERSHIP
- ___ PUBLIC
- X PRIVATE
- ___ BOTH

PUBLIC ACQUISITION
- ___ IN PROCESS
- ___ BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS
- X OCCUPIED
- ___ UNOCCUPIED
- ___ WORK IN PROGRESS

ACCESSIBLE
- ___ YES: RESTRICTED
- ___ YES: UNRESTRICTED
- X NO

PRESENT USE
- ___ AGRICULTURE
- ___ COMMERCIAL
- ___ EDUCATIONAL
- ___ ENTERTAINMENT
- ___ GOVERNMENT
- ___ INDUSTRIAL
- ___ MILITARY
- ___ MUSEUM
- ___ PARK
- ___ PRIVATE RESIDENCE
- ___ RELIGIOUS
- ___ SCIENTIFIC
- ___ TRANSPORTATION
- X OTHER: Black History

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME: Various private owners Telephone #:

STREET & NUMBER:

CITY, TOWN: ___ VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.: Montgomery County Courthouse

Liber #:

Folio #:

STREET & NUMBER:

CITY, TOWN: Rockville

STATE: Maryland

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE: None

DATE:

___ FEDERAL ___ STATE ___ COUNTY ___ LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

CITY, TOWN:

STATE:

7 DESCRIPTION

M:23-53

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
__EXCELLENT	__DETERIORATED	__UNALTERED	X__ORIGINAL SITE
X GOOD	__RUINS	X ALTERED	__MOVED DATE_____
__FAIR	__UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

See attachment

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

8 SIGNIFICANCE

M:23-53

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
PREHISTORIC	__ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	__COMMUNITY PLANNING	__LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	__RELIGION
__1400-1499	__ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	__CONSERVATION	__LAW	__SCIENCE
__1500-1599	__AGRICULTURE	__ECONOMICS	__LITERATURE	__SCULPTURE
__1600-1699	__ARCHITECTURE	__EDUCATION	__MILITARY	__SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
__1700-1799	__ART	__ENGINEERING	__MUSIC	__THEATER
X 1800-1899	__COMMERCE	__EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	__PHILOSOPHY	__TRANSPORTATION
X 1900-	__COMMUNICATIONS	__INDUSTRY	__POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	X OTHER (SPECIFY) Black History
		__INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1863-present BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

See attachment

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

M:23-53

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Black Oral History Study: Northeastern Montgomery County, Everett and LaBarbara Fly, 1983.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY _____

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

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

STATE COUNTY

STATE COUNTY

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE Lois Snyderman

DATE July, 1985

ORGANIZATION Montgomery County Historic Preservation Commission

STREET & NUMBER

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN Rockville, Md.

STATE

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 267-1438

M:23-53

MT. ZION

7. DESCRIPTION

Mt. Zion is a small, predominently Black community located at the crossroads of Brookeville and Zion Roads, near the towns of Brookeville and Olney. Although this part of the County has undergone intensive development in the last 20 years, Mt. Zion has retained its rural setting.

The Mt. Zion community consists of approximately two dozen buildings, primarily frame and residential. The historic structures are located (with one exception) south of Brookeville Road, on the east and west sides of Zion Road.

According to the publication Black Oral History Study: Northeastern Montgomery County (Everett & La Barbara Fly, 1983) the historic boundaries of the Mt. Zion settlement closely followed the community's current boundaries. A number of the older residences have been replaced in recent years, but those remaining are generally one-and-one-half and two-story frame dwellings with three bay facades and porches across the width of the main facade. Central doorways are flanked by double-hung sash windows. Chimneys are small and internal, either centrally positioned or at a gable end.

Beginning at the SW corner of the intersection, the first structure on the west side of Zion Road is the Mt. Zion Methodist Episcopal Church, a white, one-story, concrete block building with a gable roof; a belltower stands just in front of the church. The present building was erected in 1974 to replace a one-and-one-half-story, three bay by three, gable-roofed frame church which was built on the site in the 1860's and destroyed by fire in 1968.

The original church was built by emancipated blacks who, after worshipping for a time in a log cabin on the plantation of Charles Brooks, a Quaker, and at the Sharp Street Methodist Church in Sandy Spring, decided to build a church of their own. Encouraged by a promise of building materials from the Christian Association of Baltimore City. Mt. Zion residents bought an acre of land from James Stabler for $100, and, with the help of the Association erected a bulding which was used as both a church and school.

The church served a dual funtion until 1873, when a school house was built, using part of the $50,000 apppropriated in 1872 by the Maryland General Assembly for the support of colored schools. The Assembly directed that one colored school was to be established in each election district. Hamilton Snowden, a resident of Mt. Zion, applied to the Board of School Commissions for funds to build a school in the community. The school is still standing on the west side of Zion Road, adjacent to the

Description (cont.)

church. It is used ocassionally for church functions, although it has not been used as a school since 1957.

The old schoolhouse is a one-story, one bay by four, gable-roofed frame structure covered in board and batten siding.

There are entrances at each gable end. The building has a seamed tin roof and four 6/6 double-hung sash windows in each of the side walls. A short flight of steps leads to a small wooden porch at the entrance at the east gable end and there is a chimney on the south roof slope. A one-story, two-bay, flat-roofed concrete block addition has been built on the north elevation. A few tombstones at the rear and south side of the church form a small cemetery.

Continuing south on the west side of Zion Road, the next structure, by far the most imposing building in Mt. Zion, was built for use as the Church parsonage. Erected in the 1920's, it is no longer used as a parsonage but is still owned by the church.

The former parsonage is a square, two-story, white frame building, three bays by two, with a hipped roof and 2/2 double-hung sash windows. Shed-roofed one-story porches stretch across the width of both the main (east) elevation and the rear (west) elevation. The entrance to the house is in the right bay of the main facade and the front porch is supported by turned posts with decorative brackets. The east roof slope has a shed-roofed, double-window dormer and there are chimneys on the north and south roof slopes. Painted white with dark green trim, the parsonage appears to be in fair condition.

The next house, at 19914 Zion Road, (now referred to as the Selby house) was erected around the turn-of-the-century. A two-story frame structure with 3 bays and a center entrance, the house has a side-gabled roof and a one-story, shed-roofed porch extends across the main (east) elevation. A two-story, two-bay gable-roofed section has been added to the rear and there is a one bay, shed-roofed addition on the south elevation. The Selby house is covered with aluminum siding and has 6/6 double-hung sash windows.

Continuing south, the next two houses on the west side of Zion Road are more recent additions to the community. The Snowden property, however, at 19808 Zion Road, dates from about 1900. It has been owned by the same family since 1910, when it was purchased by the present Mrs Snowden's grandfather. According to Mrs. Snowden, who was born in the house in 1917, when her grandfather acquired the house it was 10 years old and consisted of one room downstairs and two rooms upstairs; it has since been considerably enlarged.

The Snowden house is a two-story, gable-roofed, three bay frame house with a center entrance. A one-story shed-roofed porch, supported by four

Description (cont.)

wooden posts, extends across the width of the main (east) facade. There is a one-story, two bay, shed-roofed addition on the south elevation and a one-and-one-half story, one bay addition at the rear, with a shed-roofed porch. The roof is tin and the house is covered with aluminum siding.

To the south of the Snowden's is the J.H. Burton Nursery, located on land bought by the Burtons from Mrs. Snowden's grandfather.

On the east side of Zion Road, only the house at 19919 Zion Road is of any historic interest. Probably erected in the late 1800's or early 1900's, the main block of the De La Cruz house is a two-story, three bay by one, gable-roofed frame structure with a center entrance and a one-story, shed-roofed porch across the width of the main (west) facade. The roof on both the main block of the house and the porch is of tin. The house has a center chimney and the first floor windows are 6/6 double-hung sash. There is a two-story, shed-roofed addition at the rear, with an additional chimney.

Across Brookeville Road, near the NW corner of the intersection, is the Prather house, at 20014 Zion Road. Built by the grandfather of the woman who currently occupies the house, the late 19th century residence is a two-story, three bay, gable-roofed frame structure with a one-story shed-roofed porch across the main (east) elevation. The Prather house has a tin roof, a central entrance and a one-story, shed-roofed addition across the rear (west) elevation. There is a brick chimney at the north gable end. According to the current owner, 80 year old Mrs. Prather, her brother, who would have been 100 years old last October, was born in the house.

M:23-53

MT. ZION

8. SIGNIFICANCE

The community of Mt. Zion is historically significant because it is one of the approximately 14 small Black communities which were established in northeastern Montgomery County after the Civil War by freed slaves. Even before emancipation, Blacks were attracted to this part of the County because of the anti-slavery sentiments of local Quakers and Methodists. Anti-slavery attitudes were particularly strong among the Quakers in the Sandy Spring - Olney area.

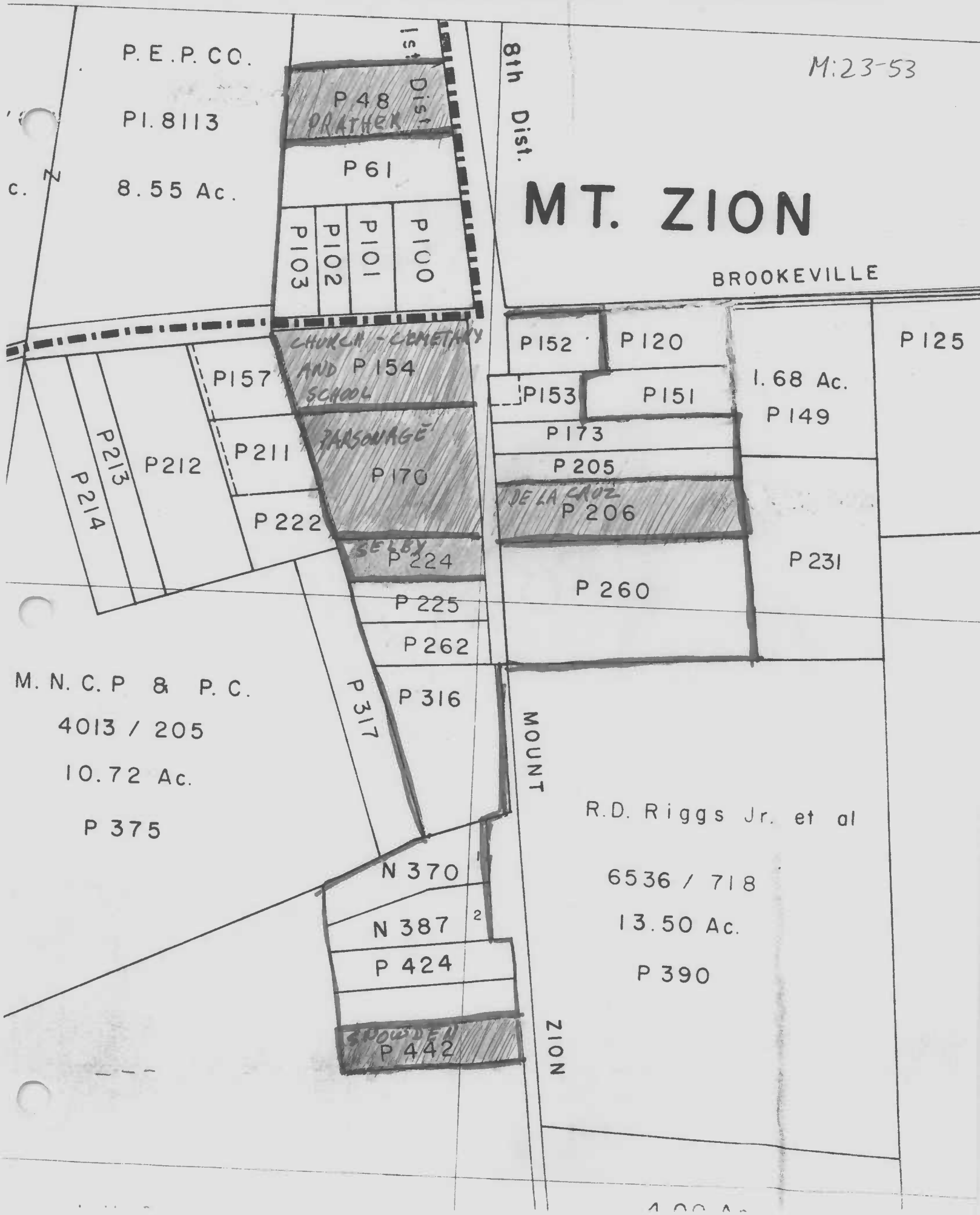
Blacks settled in Mt. Zion as early as 1863, but the period of strongest growth was immediately following the Civil War, when former slaves were given (or, in some cases, purchased) small tracts of land near the crossroads of Brookeville and Zion Roads. They earned a living by working as farmhands for white tobacco farmers or by becoming masons, carpenters, and blacksmiths and they grew much of their food on their own small plots of land or on land which they worked as tenant farmers.

Religion was important in the Black communities. In Mt. Zion, a Catholic Church stood at the NW corner of the crossroads by 1865. The church moved to Brookeville in the early 1900's when its membership declined. In the late 1860's Mt. Zion residents purchased an acre of land on the SW corner for religious and educational purposes. The Methodist Episcopal Church erected on the property stood until the 1960's, when it was destroyed by fire; it was soon rebuilt however.

The original Church was also used as a school until a small frame schoolhouse (named the Griffith School in honor of the Thomas Griffith family) was built, adjacent to the church, in the mid-1870's. The schoolhouse is still standing and is used occassionally for church-related functions. By 1880, Mt. Zion was a well-established community, with a school and church which served Black residents for many miles around.

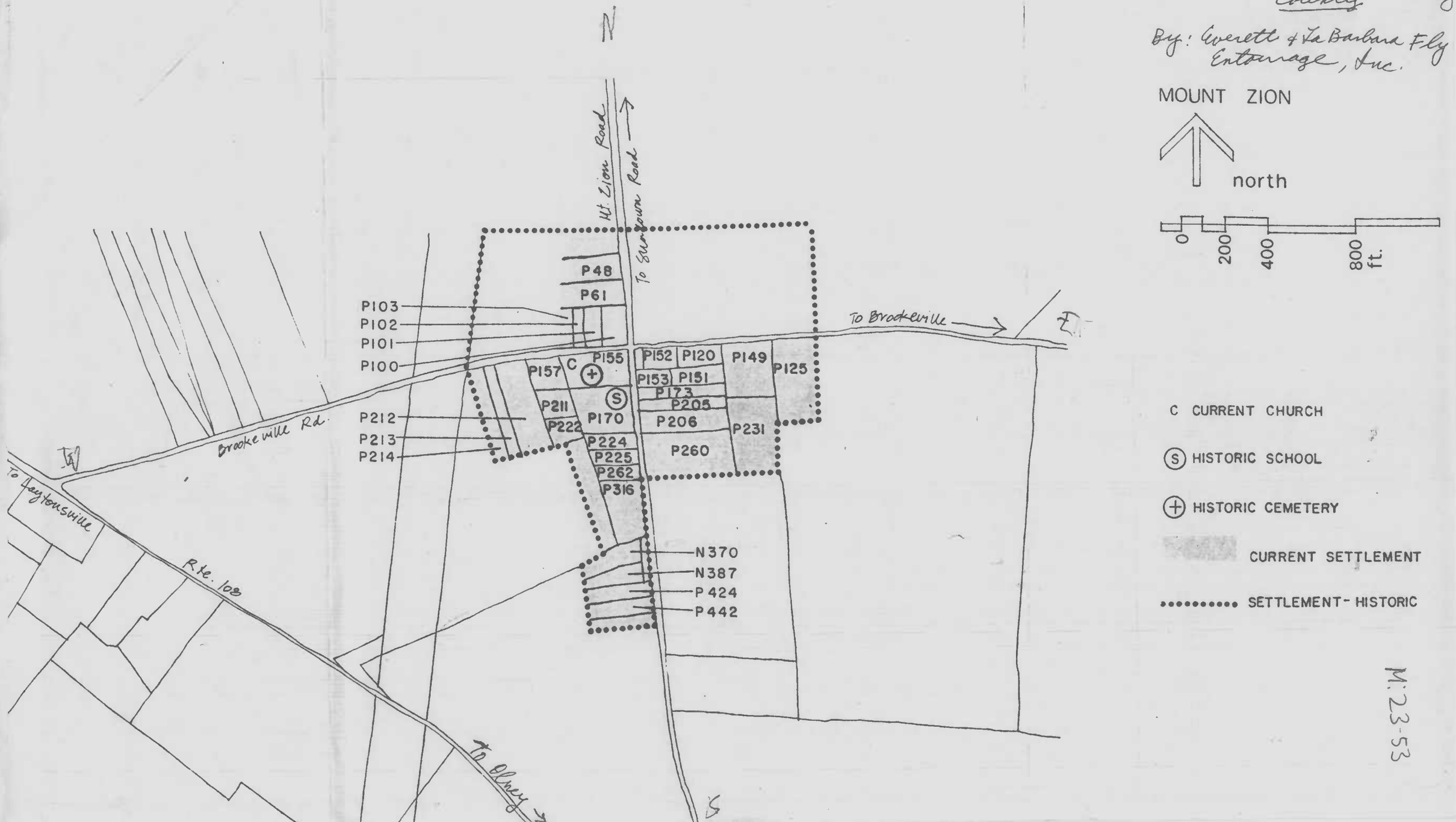
In the early years of the 20th Century, a small dry goods store and a grocery store were located at the SE corner of Zion and Brookeville roads; one of the stores, operated by Thomas Brown, later became the Mt. Zion Post Office. The Brown store was torn down in the 1950's when the County widened the intersection.

Although Mt. Zion no longer has its own school, store or post office, it remains much as it was in the late 19th century, a small black community in a quiet rural setting.


M:23-53
P.E.P.CO.
P1.8113
8.55 Ac.
1st Dist.
8th Dist.
P48
ORATHER
P61
P103
P102
P101
P100
MT. ZION
BROOKEVILLE
CHURCH - CEMETERY
AND P154
SCHOOL
P157
P211
PARSONAGE
P170
P212
P213
P214
P222
SELBY
P224
P225
P262
P316
P317
P152
P120
P125
P153
P151
1.68 Ac.
P149
P173
P205
DE LA CRUZ
P206
P231
P260
M.N.C.P & P.C.
4013 / 205
10.72 Ac.
P375
MOUNT
R.D. Riggs Jr. et al
6536 / 718
13.50 Ac.
P390
N370
N387
P424
SNOWDEN
P442
ZION

Northeastern Montgomery County

By: Everett & Ta Barbara Fly
Entourage, Inc.



M:23-53

Name: Prather House (Mt Zion H.D. Mi 23/53)

Location: 20014 Zion Rd, north of intersection of Zion & Brookeville Rds, on west side of Zion Rd

Facade: East

Photo taken: May, 1985 - L. Sugdenman

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Name: _____; at NE corner of intersection Zion & Brookeville Roads, (Mt. Zion H.D., M:23/53)

Facade: West

Photo taken: May, 1985 – L. Engelman

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Name: Black school house (Mt. Zion H.D., Mi 23/53)

Location: West side Zion Rd, near intersection Zion and Brookville Roads

Facade: East

Photo taken: May, 1985 - L. Snyderman

Name: Selby House (Mt. Zion H.D., M:23/53)
Location: West side Zion Rd (19914 Zion Rd.)
(S. of intersection)
Facade: East
Photo taken: May, 1985 - L. Snyderman

Name: Snowden House (Mt. Zion H.D. Mi 23/5-3)
Location: West side Zion Rd (19808 Zion Rd)
(S. of intersection)
Facade: East
Photo Taken: May, 1985 - L. Snydeman

Name: Church Parsonage (Mt. Zion H.D., M: 23/53)

Location: West side Zion Rd (S. of intersection)

Facade: East

Photo Taken: May, 1985 - L. Snyderman

Name: De La Cruz House (Mt. Zion H.D., M:23/53)
Location: East side Zion Rd, S. of intersection,
19919 Zion Rd.
Facade: West
Photo Taken: May, 1985 - L. Snyderman

M #23-53

1605585529

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST WORKSHEET

NOMINATION FORM
for the
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES, NATIONAL PARKS SERVICE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

1. NAME

COMMON:

AND/OR HISTORIC: Mt. Zion

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER: Brookeville Road and Zion Road

CITY OR TOWN: Brookeville

STATE: Maryland

COUNTY: Montgomery

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP		STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
■ District ☐ Building ☐ Site ☐ Structure ☐ Object	☐ Public ■ Private ☐ Both	Public Acquisition: ☐ In Process ☐ Being Considered	■ Occupied ☐ Unoccupied ☐ Preservation work in progress	Yes: ☐ Restricted ☐ Unrestricted ■ No

PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

☐ Agricultural	☐ Government	☐ Park	☐ Transportation	☐ Comments
☐ Commercial	☐ Industrial	■ Private Residence	☐ Other (Specify)	
☐ Educational	☐ Military	■ Religious		
☐ Entertainment	☐ Museum	☐ Scientific		

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME: Various private owners

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:

STATE:

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC: Montgomery County Courthouse

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: Rockville

STATE: Maryland

Title Reference of Current Deed (Book & Pg. #):

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY: None

DATE OF SURVEY: ☐ Federal ☐ State ☐ County ☐ Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:

STATE:

M:23-53

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One) ☐ Excellent ■ Good ☐ Fair ☐ Deteriorated ☐ Ruins ☐ Unexposed	
	(Check One) ■ Altered ☐ Unaltered	(Check One) ☐ Moved ■ Original Site

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (If known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The houses are mostly 1-1/2 and two story, frame buildings with three bay facades. Central doorways are flanked by double hung sash windows. Chimneys are small and internal, either centrally positioned or interior at the gable end. The houses all have porches across the facade.

There is an old church or school with board and batten siding. The central doorway is the only facade opening. The sidewalls have four 6/6 double hung sash windows.

There is a store with a gabled facade with a central doorway flanked by windows. The first floor windows are all shuttered, with solid board shutters. There is a two story house wing to the west.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

M:23-53

8. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD *(Check One or More as Appropriate)*

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

SPECIFIC DATE(S) *(If Applicable and Known)*

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE *(Check One or More as Appropriate)*

- Aboriginal
  - ☐ Prehistoric
  - ☐ Historic
- ☐ Agriculture
- ☐ Architecture
- ☐ Art
- ☐ Commerce
- ☐ Communications
- ☐ Conservation
- ☐ Education
- ☐ Engineering
- ☐ Industry
- ☐ Invention
- ☐ Landscape Architecture
- ☐ Literature
- ☐ Military
- ☐ Music
- ☐ Political
- ☐ Religion/Philosophy
- ☐ Science
- ☐ Sculpture
- ☐ Social/Humanitarian
- ☐ Theater
- ☐ Transportation
- ☐ Urban Planning
- ☐ Other *(Specify)*

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Mt. Zion was a community of freed slaves that dates largely from after the Civil War. There had earlier been a Roman Catholic Church where the present Methodist Episcopal Church stands.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

M:23-53

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY							OR	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES					
CORNER	LATITUDE			LONGITUDE				LATITUDE			LONGITUDE		
	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds		Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
NW	°	'	"	°	'	"		°	'	"	°	'	"
NE	°	'	"	°	'	"							
SE	°	'	"	°	'	"							
SW	°	'	"	°	'	"							

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY:

Acreage Justification:

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
Christopher Owens, Park Historian

ORGANIZATION
M-NCPPC

DATE
11 Nov. 74

STREET AND NUMBER:
8787 Georgia Avenue

CITY OR TOWN:
Silver Spring

STATE
Maryland

12. State Liaison Officer Review: (Office Use Only)

[illegible] of this property in

#23-53

NAME MT. ZION

LOCATION MT. ZION RD, W. SIDE, OLNEY, MD.

FACADE SE

PHOTO TAKEN 11/11/74

M. DWYER

#23-53

NAME MT. ZION CHURCH | SCHOOL

LOCATION MT. ZION Rd OLNEY, Md

FACADE SE

PHOTO TAKEN 11|11|74 MDWYER