United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

See instructions in How to Complete National Register Forms
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic Mount Zion Baptist Church

and or common Mount Zion Baptist Church

2. Location

street & number 301 N. W. 9th Street

city, town Miami

state Florida 33136 code FL county Dade code FL 025

3. Classification

Category

district X building(s)

site

Ownership

X public

X private

both

Public Acquisition

Accessible

X yes: restricted

X being considered

X work in progress

X unoccupied

Status

X occupied

Present Use

X agriculture

X commercial

X educational

X entertainment

X government

X industrial

X military

X museum

X park

X private residence

X religious

X scientific

X transportation

X other:

4. Owner of Property

name Mt. Zion Baptist Church

street & number 301 N. W. 9th Street

city, town Miami

state Florida 33136

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Dade County Courthouse

street & number 75 W. Flagler Street

city, town Miami

state Florida 33130

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Historic Preservation Survey

has this property been determined eligible? __ yes __ no

date June, 1985

federal __ state X county X local

depository for survey records Bureau of Historic Preservation

city, town Tallahassee

state Florida 32399-0250
7. Description

<table>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>_______ good _______ ruins _______ altered</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>_______ fair _______ unexposed</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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</table>

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET
DESCRIPTION:

Condition: Fair

The Mount Zion Baptist Church building is a large two-story masonry structure executed in a Mediterranean Revival architectural style. Construction of the church began in 1928 according to plans provided by the architect William Arthur Bennet.1 With the main sanctuary of the church completed in 1941.2

Situated on the northwest corner of N. W. 9th Street and N. W. 3rd Avenue, the church is a rectangular plan structure built of reinforced concrete atop a concrete foundation. The lower story of the church is dedicated to a large auditorium and classroom space, while the taller upper story is dedicated to sanctuary use. As originally planned, the principal entrance to the church was located at the south, facing a projecting gable portico. At present, the principal entrance is located at the east, placed within a recessed porch that spans five bays of the elevation parallel to N. W. 3rd Avenue. The exterior of the church building is clad in stucco, and its gable roof is clad in asphalt shingles. A square corner tower, rising to a height of four stories, is capped by a pyramidal hipped roof. The corners of the tower are highlighted by masonry quoins rising from the second story to the roofline.

The principal elevation of the church features three bays set within a gable end facing N. W. 3rd Avenue. The center bay contains the projecting gable portico with double staircases ascending to it from the sidewalk level. Below the portico is an entrance to the lower story. Within the gable end is a stylized quatrefoil window set within a masonry surround. The east elevation is characterized by an open porch that is comprised of a recessed arcade five bays long. Each bay is defined by a simple Tuscan column supporting a classically-inspired entablature. The porch is situated at the level of the second story and reached through double stairs rising parallel to the sidewalk. This elevation is five bays long and has had its original window openings blocked up. There is an entrance from each end of the porch into a vestibule that leads to the sanctuary.
The original fenestration of the church has been slightly altered through the blocking up of some windows. An old photograph of the church reveals that the church had nine-over-nine, double-hung sash windows set within wooden frames. Many of these windows have been replaced with more contemporary double-hung windows set within metal frames.

The interior of the sanctuary is rectangular in plan and contains an altar at its northern end. Behind the altar is a choir gallery, and behind it is a baptismal font. Four aisles divide the sanctuary into three main seating areas which contain the original wooden pews. A shallow balcony is found parallel to the south wall. A cross section of the sanctuary reveals a basilica-type space with a peaked ceiling following the ridge of the gable roof, and lower ceiling heights on either side. The interior is rather plain and devoid of decorative ornamentation. The only windows that bring natural light into the space are found high above the floor level, located underneath the roof eaves. Although there have been minor modifications to the building's architectural fabric, the original design intent is readily perceived.
8. Significance

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<td>communications</td>
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Specific dates 1928

Builder/Architect Bennett; Bragg

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET
STATEDMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE:

Specific Dates: 1928

Architect: William Arthur Bennet

Builder: H. S. Bragg

The Mount Zion Baptist Church is architecturally significant as it is one of the few examples of the Mediterranean Revival style found in Overtown, a neighborhood within downtown Miami originally known as "Colored Town." The church building also houses one of the oldest and most prominent black congregations in South Florida, founded in 1896. The present church building also possesses important historical associations with the pastorate of Reverend J. R. Evans at the church.

The exterior of Mount Zion Baptist Church embodies the distinctive physical characteristics of the Mediterranean Revival style of architecture. The visual composition of the building is architecturally noteworthy for its adaptability to the area's climate. The tall ceiling and the placement of the porch along the longer elevation assist in alleviating the impact of the hot climate on the interior. The appearance of the building is also significant because it is one of the most imposing buildings remaining in Overtown, an area with few buildings of any architectural significance. The scale and location of the church make it one of the "anchor" landmarks of the Overtown neighborhood.

The present building houses a congregation that was organized on 17 September 1896. The first church building consisted of a palmetto shack located near the courthouse. A frame structure was eventually erected on the present site only to be damaged by the hurricane of 1926. As a result of the damage, the congregation worshipped for two years in a tabernacle built from the wreckage. Construction of the present church building began in 1928, with the congregation worshipping in the basement until 1941, when the sanctuary was finally completed.
The present church building was constructed under the direction of Reverend J. R. Evans, one of the most prominent religious leaders of Overtown. Reverend Evans was born in Brownville, Tennessee, in 1870 and went on to study at Roger Williams College. He became dean, and eventually president of the college, but preferred the "active ministry" and pastored in several churches in Tennessee and Kentucky. Under his pastorate, which he assumed in 1918, the enrollment of Mt. Zion Baptist Church exceeded 1,400 parishioners. Reverend Evans was also active in the city's interracial and interdenominational activities. He died in 1947.

Although the architect of the church has been identified through the application for a building permit, research has not provided any biographical information on him.

NOTES
1. City of Miami, Building and Zoning Department, Building Permit Applied for 11 April 1928.
3. See note 2 above.
4. Dade County Historic Survey, "Site Inventory Form" for 310 N. W. 9th Street, "Statement of Significance."
6. See note 5 above.
7. See note 5 above.
8. See note 2 above.
10. See note 9 above; and "Rev. J. R. Evans' Work in Miami," Miami Times, 16 August 1947.
11. See note 9 above.
9. Major Bibliographical References

Please see Bibliography for Cover Nomination

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property: less than 1 acre

Quadrangle name: Miami

Quadrangle scale: 1:24000

UTM References

A
Zone 11
Easting 58030
Northing 2850570

B
Zone
Easting
Northing

C

D

E

F

G

H

Verbal boundary description and justification:

Miami, Lots 19 and 20, less street, and a portion of Lot 19 further described as follows:

Please see continuation sheet

boundary follows historic/legal boundary

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>state</th>
<th>code</th>
<th>county</th>
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<tbody>
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11. Form Prepared By

name/title: Sarah Eaton / Vicki L. Welcher, Historic Sites Specialist

organization: Bureau of Historic Preservation

date: October, 1988

street & number: 500 South Bronough

telephone: (904) 487-2333

city or town: Tallahassee

state Florida

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

___ national ___ state ___ local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature: [Signature]

date: October 17, 1988

For NPS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

date

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

Chief of Registration
United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Section number 10  Page 1  Mount Zion Baptist Church

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION:

Lots 19 and 20, less street, and a portion of Lot 18 further described as follows: beginning 6.89+ feet north of the southeast corner of Lot 18, thence running N. 24°9'08''W. along the easterly right-of-way line of I-95 for 86.64+ feet, thence continuing N. 29°09'26''W. along the right-of-way line of I-95 for 39.15+ feet to the westerly line of Lot 18, thence running N. along the westerly line for 27.87+ feet to the northerly line of Lot 18, thence running E. along the northerly line for 50.01+ feet, thence running S. along the easterly line for 143.15+ feet to the point of beginning, of Block 27 of the plat of MIAMI NORTH (PB B41)
VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION: Lots 19 and 20, less street, and a portion of Lot 18 further described as follows: beginning 6.89+ feet north of the southeast corner of Lot 18, thence running N. 240°08' W. along the easterly right-of-way line of I-95 for 86.64+ feet, thence continuing N. 29°09'26" W. along the right-of-way line of I-95 for 39.15+ feet to the westerly line of Lot 18, thence running N. along the westerly line for 27.87+ feet to the northerly line of Lot 18, thence running E. along the northerly line for 50.01+ feet, thence running S. along the easterly line for 143.15+ feet to the point of beginning, of Block 27 of the plat of MIAMI NORTH (PB B-41)
The following properties were also entered in the National Register but were excluded from a previous notice:

KEY: Property Name, Multiple Name, Address/Boundary, City, Vicinity, Reference Number, NHL status

FLORIDA
Dade County
Atlantic Gas Station
Downtown Miami MRA
668 N.W. 5th St.
Miami 12/29/88 88003060

Mount Zion Baptist Church
Downtown Miami MRA
301 N.W. 9th St.
Miami 12/29/88 88003059

KENTUCKY
Shelby County
Allen, J. B., House
Shelby County MRA
KY 53, .5 mi. N of Chestnut Grove
Chestnut Grove vicinity 12/27/88 88002867

Ballard, William H., House
Shelby County MRA
KY 53, .5 mi. E of McMakin Rd.
Shelbyville vicinity 12/27/88 88002936

Bank of Simpsonville
Shelby County MRA
Third and Railroad Sts.
Simpsonville 12/27/88 88002878

Basket Farm
Shelby County MRA
KY 395, 1 mi. S of KY 1779
Clay Village vicinity 12/27/88 88002848

Bethel Church
Shelby County MRA
US 60, 1 mi. W of Clay Village
Clay Village vicinity 12/27/88 88002907

Bird Octagonal Mule Barn
Shelby County MRA
KY 43, 3 mi. S of Cropper
Cropper vicinity 12/27/88 88002858

Bird's Nest
Shelby County MRA
KY 43, 3 mi. S of Cropper
Cropper vicinity 12/27/88 88002859

Bird, Philomen, House
Shelby County MRA
KY1005/Vigo Rd., E of Beards Rd.
Bagdad vicinity 12/27/88 88002917
MT. ZION BAPTIST CHURCH
301 N.W. 9 STREET

location

site plan
Mount Zion Baptist Church
ZONE: 17
EASTING:  580180
NORTHING: 2851680

Miami, Florida
USGS 7.5 Minute Series (Topographic)
1988 (Photorevised 1990)
Scale = 1:24,000
DADE COUNTY HISTORIC SURVEY
SITE INVENTORY FORM

Site Name (Address)  301 N.W. 9 Street

Other Names for Site  Mt. Zion Baptist Church

Other Nos. for Site

City & Zip Code  Miami, Florida  33136

Location  Miami North 3-41

subdivision name  27 N  19 & 20 RW

block no.  100

lot no.  100

County  Dade

Survey Date  1998

Owner of Site: Name:  Dade County

Address:  Urban Renewal

Occupant, Tenant, or Manager: Name:  Rodriguez, Ivan A. (Dade County Historic Survey)

Type of Ownership:  □ Private  □ Corporate  □ Municipal

□ Other  Remarks:

Condition of Site:  □ Excellent  □ Good  □ Fair

□ Deteriorated  Remarks:

Threats to Site:

□ Zoning ( )  □ Development ( )

□ Deterioration ( )  □ Transportation ( )

□ Other (See Remarks)  □

Integrity of Site:

□ Altered  □ Unaltered

□ Original Site  □ Restored ( ) Date:

□ Moved ( ) Date:  □ Destroyed ( ) Date:

Remarks:

Reporter (or local contact):

Name:  Rodriguez, Ivan A. (Dade County Historic Survey)

Address:  Dade County Park and Recreation Department

50 S.W. 32 Road; Miami, Florida  33129

Name of Project:  Dade County Historic Survey

Recorder:

Name & Title:  Monroe, Elizabeth B. (HSS)

Address:  FDAHRRM

Previous Survey(s):  enter activity/title of survey/name/date/repository

UTM Coordinates

Zone  Easting  Northing

Photographic Record Numbers  79DA046 Frame 29  79DA046 Frame 30
- Location of Site (Specific):
  Map Reference (incl. scale & date)

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809

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A POLYGON LOCATING THE PROPERTY

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<th>LONGITUDE</th>
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<tr>
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OR

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES

800

UTM Coordinates:
Zone Easting Northing

890

Description of Site:
Site Size (approx. acreage of property)

833

Condition of Site:
Check one
☐ Excellent 863
☐ Good 863
☐ Fair 863
☐ Deteriorated 863
☐ Ruins 863
☐ Unexposed 863
☐ Retrofitted 863

Integrity of Site:
Check one or more
☐ Altered 858
☐ Ruins 858
☐ Unexposed 858
☐ Destroyed 858
☐ Original Site 858
☐ Restored (1) Date 858
☐ Moved (1) Date 858

Condition of Site (Remarks): (     )

863

Threats to Site:
Check one or more
☐ Zoning () (878
☐ Transportation () (878
☐ Water () (878
☐ Deterioration () (878
☐ Borrowing () (878
☐ Other (See Remarks below): 878

Threats to Site (Remarks):

879
### HISTORIC SITE DATA SUPPLEMENT

**Site Name:** 301 N. W. 9 Street

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**Remarks & Recommendations:**

---

835== 16
Significance:

This masonry construction church represents a typical example of Mediterranean architecture in Dade County in 1928. It is architecturally noteworthy for its size, adaptability to the area's climate cohesiveness within the neighborhood and straightforward functional character.

It was built in 1928. The original owner was Mount Zion Baptist Church. The architect was William Arthur Bennett. This building replaced an earlier structure on the site which also housed the church.

The Mount Zion Church was one of the earliest Black congregations in Miami, founded before 1904. The minister from 1918 to his death in 1949 was Rev. J. R. Evans. He oversaw the building of the present structure when the earlier frame building was destroyed in the hurricane of 1926.

Bibliography:

Published


Unpublished
Miami. Building and Zoning Department, Building Permits, 1923 to Present.

Original Use:
- Private Residence 838=*
- Apartment Building 838=*
- Hotel 838=*
- Commercial 838=*
- Other: 838=*

Areas of Significance:
- Architecture 910=*
- Commerce 910=*
- Exploration & Settlement 910=*
- Social/Humanitarian 910=*
- Other: 910=*

Present Use:
- Private Residence 850=*
- Apartment Building 850=*
- Hotel 850=*
- Commercial 850=*
- Other: 850=*

Culture/Phase American 840=*

N.R. Classification Category: Building 916=*

Specific Dates: Beginning +1928 844=*

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<tr>
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<td>Structural System(s)</td>
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**Feature of Structure (942):**

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<td>Chimney Location</td>
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<td>Window Type</td>
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**Materials (882):**

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<td>Interior Walls</td>
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**Quantitative Data (950-960):**

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<th>2; with three story bell tower</th>
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14
OTHER NOTABLE FEATURES OF BUILDING (FREE TEXT) (865==):

ROOF STRUCTURAL SYSTEM:

MAIN ENTRANCE: south, facade center; wood panel doors with plain stucco surrounds; up 19 tiled steps in two separate flights parallel with facade.

WINDOW PLACEMENT: 1st floor five bays, 2nd floor five bays, 3rd story tower 1 bay.

WINDOW SURROUNDS AND DECORATION: windows with masonry sills; 2nd story bay facade left and right with keystone; bulls-eye at 2½ story, facade center with quadrant quoining.

PORCHES, VERANDAS, GALLERIES AND BALCONIES:

EXTERIOR ORNAMENT AND COLOR: Pink, beige with white trim; bell tower at S.E. corner with quoining above 1st story string course (tower only) string course below bulls-eye at gable end with quoining at extreme west end above decorative boxed gable; over slight protection; high watertable flanking 2nd story entrance stairs.

OTHER (SPECIFY): Entrance at 1st story; rectangular recessed portico with fluted banding of perimeter; no elevation; cornerstone with inscription on tower; 1st story facade end, east side; main entrance at 2nd story wraps east side with porch and 2 entrances, up 13 steps with similar architectural feature.


OUTBUILDINGS (FEATURES OF SITE) (876==): Expressway 95 directly west of site.

SURROUNDINGS (CLASSIFICATION) commercial

RELATIONSHIP TO SURROUNDINGS (FREE TEXT) (859==): at N.W. corner N.W. 3 Ave. and N.W. 9 St.
HISTORICAL STRUCTURE FORM
FLORIDA MASTER SITE FILE

Original
_X update

SITE NAME Mount Zion Baptist Church
HISTORIC CONTEXTS Boom Times
NAT. REGISTER CATEGORY Building
OTHER NAMES OR MSF NOS None
COUNTY Dade
PROJECT NAME CRAS of I-395
DHR NO 4259
LOCATION (Attach copy of USGS map, sketch-map of immediate area)
ADDRESS 301 NW 9th Street
CITY Miami
VICINITY OF / ROUTE TO Northwest corner of NW 9th Street and NW 3rd Avenue
SUBDIVISION N/A
PLAT OR OTHER MAP FDOT Aerial Photographs
TOWNSHIP 53S RANGE 41E SECTION 37 1/4 SW 1/4-1/4 SE
IRREGULAR SEC? X Y X N LAND GRANT Unknown
USGS 7.5' MAP Miami, Florida, 1988/1990
UTM ZONE 17 EASTING 580180 NORTHING 2851680
COORDINATES: LATITUDE D M S LONGITUDE D M S

HISTORY
ARCHITECT: William A. Bennett
BUILDER: H.S. Bragg
CONST DATE 1928 CIRCA RESTORATION DATE(S): N/A
MODIFICATION DATE(S): N/A
MOVE: DATE N/A ORIG LOCATION N/A
ORIGINAL USE(S) House of Worship
PRESENT USE(S) House of Worship

DESCRIPTION
STYLE Mediterranean Revival
PLAN: EXTERIOR Rectangular
INTERIOR Unknown
NO.: STORIES 2.0 OUTBLDG 0 PORCHES 1 DORMERS 0
STRUCTURAL SYSTEM(S) Masonry
EXTERIOR FABRIC(S) Stucco
FOUNDATION: TYPE Continuous MATLS Masonry
INFILL N/A
PORCHES: Entrance porch/shed/masonry supports/N&S
ROOF: TYPE Gable/pyramidal SURFACING Composition shingles
SECONDARY STRUCS. Corner tower
CHIMNEY: NO. OF MTLS N/A LOCNS N/A
WINDOWS DHS, metal, 8/8; fan, metal, multi; fixed, metal, 4
EXTERIOR ORNAMENT Stucco
CONDITION Good SURROUNDINGS Urban
NARRATIVE (general, interior, landscape, context; 3 lines only)
See continuation sheet.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL REMAINS AT THE SITE
FMSF ARCHAEOLOGICAL FORM COMPLETED? Y X N (IF Y, ATTACH)
ARTIFACTS OR OTHER REMAINS None observed.
REASSURANCE OF SITE
AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE: Community Planning and Development, Architecture

ELIGIBLE FOR NAT. REGISTER? \( \times y \) \( n \) likely, need info inf inf
SIGNIF. AS PART OF DISTRICT? \( \checkmark \) \( x n \) likely, need info inf inf
SIGNIFICANT AT LOCAL LEVEL? \( \checkmark y \) \( _n \) likely, need info inf inf

SUMMARY ON SIGNIFICANCE (Limit to three lines provided; see page 3)
See continuation sheet.

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* * * DHR USE ONLY* * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * DHR USE ONLY * *

**DATE LISTED ON NR**
**NR LISTED**

**KEEPER DETERMINATION OF ELIG. (DATE):**
-YES ___
-NO ___

**SHPO EVALUATION OF ELIGIBILITY (DATE):**
-YES ___
-NO ___

**LOCAL DETERMINATION OF ELIG. (DATE):**
-YES ___
-NO ___

**OFFICE**

* * * DHR USE ONLY* * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * DHR USE ONLY * *

REASSURANCE INFORMATION:
NAME: Sherry Anderson, Mark Leon
DATE: 19950426
AFFILIATION: PIPER ARCHAEOLOGY/JANUS RESEARCH

PHOTOGRAPHS (Attach a labeled print bigger than contact size)
LOCATION OF NEGATIVES: PIPER ARCHAEOLOGY / JANUS RESEARCH
NEGATIVE NUMBERS: Roll 9509-2, Exp. #14, Facing NW

M A P
Street/plat map, not USGS

Not to scale

REQUIRED: USGS MAP OR COPY WITH SITE LOCATION MARKED
SITE NAME Mount Zion Baptist Church

A. NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION OF SITE (Use back page and continuations)

This Mediterranean Revival house of worship is located on the northwest corner of NW 9th Street and NW 3rd Avenue in Township 53 South, Range 41 East, Section 37 (Miami Quadrangle 1988, Photoinspected 1990) in Miami, Florida. Although construction of the building was begun in 1928, the church was not completed until 1941. Of a rectangular plan, this masonry structure is clad in stucco and sits on a continuous concrete foundation. The main mass of the building has a gabled roof sheathed in asphalt shingles. A four-story tower with quoin detailing and a pyramidal roof is situated at the southwest corner of the building. The principal entrance is located under a gabled portico on the second floor of the west elevation. The current entrance is marked by a five-bay recessed porch on the east side. Both entrances are ascended by double stairs. Arched windows and a stylized quatrefoil window in the gable end distinguish the building's fenestration. Many of the windows have been blocked up or are replacement types.

B. DISCUSSION OF SIGNIFICANCE (Use back of page and continuations)

This church was designed by William Arthur Bennet and constructed by H.S. Bragg, a prominent Overtown builder. It is one of the few examples of the Mediterranean Revival style in the Overtown area and is one of the few landmarks remaining in the historic center of Overtown. The building houses one of the oldest congregations in the area, organized in 1896, and it is associated with Reverend J.R. Evans, a prominent advocate in community activities. Although the building has been minimally altered by new roofing and the replacement and reconfiguration of some of its original windows, it still maintains a high degree of historic physical integrity. For these reasons, this building was nominated for the National Register of Historic Places as part of the Miami Multiple Resource Area. It was listed on the National Register in 1988.

C. HISTORY AND BIBLIOGRAPHY OF PAST WORK AT SITE (Use back of page and continuation sheet if necessary)

Florida Department of State
Miami, Florida
USGS 7.5 Minute Series (Topographic)
1988 (Photorevised 1990)
Scale = 1:24,000
8DA2359
Mount Zion Baptist Church
Miami
Mark D. Leon
01/05/94
Janus Research/Piper Archaeology
Roll 9509-2, Exp. #14, Facing NW
Facing NW
## FLORIDA MASTER SITE FILE
### HISTORIC SITE DATA SHEET

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