

**Dallas Landmark Commission
Landmark Nomination Form**

1. Name

historic: Zion Hill Missionary Baptist Church
And/or common: Oak Cliff Assembly of God Church
Date: January 18, 2001

2. Location

Address: 919 Morrell Avenue
Location/neighborhood: East Oak Cliff

Block: 3376 lot: TR land survey:
tract size:

3. Current Zoning

Current zoning: TH-3 (D)

4. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agricultural	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational	<input type="checkbox"/> residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public	Accessibility	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	Acquisition	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other, specify

5. Ownership

Current Owner: Zion Hill Missionary Baptist Church

Contact: Melba Johnson, Williams

Phone: 214/942-8145

Address: 1406 Carson Street

State: Texas

Zip: 75216

City: Dallas

6. Form Preparation

Date: January 18, 2001

Name & Title: Melba Williams, church member

Organization: Zion Hill Missionary Baptist Church

Contact: Melba Johnson, Williams

Phone: 214/942-8145

7. Representation on Existing Surveys

Alexander Survey (citywide)	local	state	national	National Register	
H.P.L. Survey (CBD)	<i>A: x</i>	<i>B</i>	<i>C</i>	Recorded TX Historic Ldmk	
Oak Cliff			<i>D</i>	TX Archaeological Ldmk	
Victorian Survey					
Dallas Historic Resources Survey, Phase	_____	_____	high	medium	low

For Office Use Only

Date Rec'd: _____ Survey Verified: Y N by: _____ Field Check by: _____ Petitions Needed: Y N
 Nomination: Archaeological Site Structure(s) Structure & Site District

8. Historic Ownership

original owner: Oak Cliff Assembly of God Church
significant later owner(s): Zion Hill Missionary Baptist Church

9. Construction Dates

original: 1942
alterations/additions: 1957

10. Architect

original construction: 1942/Rev. J. C. Hibbard
alterations/additions: 1957

11. Site Features

natural:
urban design: x

12. Physical Description

Condition, check one:

excellent
 good
 fair

deteriorated
 ruins
 unexposed

unaltered
 altered

Check one:
 original site
 moved(date _____)

Describe present and original (if known) physical appearance. Include style(s) of architecture, current condition and relationship to surrounding fabric (structures, objects, etc). Elaborate on pertinent materials used and style(s) of architectural detailing, embellishments and site details

Continuation Sheet

Item # 12 Physical Description

OAK CLIFF ASSEMBLY OF GOD CHURCH

The Oak Cliff Assembly of God Church is presently named Zion Hill Missionary Baptist Church at 919 Morrell Ave. It is located in East Oak Cliff, at lot (2) block G/3394 of Belvedere addition to the City of Dallas, Texas; according to the revised map recorded in volume 3, page 424 map records of Dallas, County.

CHURCH LOCATION AND AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Church is located about three miles northeast of the Trinity Corridor, a project that has great potential for proximal Trinity River and downtown expansion programs. This 1200 capacity building with education facilities has improved the quality of life and has been instrumental in joining the community together.

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION

The Assembly of God is an important historical site because of its unique architectural detailed masonry and tradition brick. The cone-shaped, red rock church bell tower enhances this whole outer structure. This spacious land perpetuated a climate for growth, such as two major additions to its church building. In the year of 1921 a 30x40-frame building at 919 Morrell was replaced with 1200 capacity brick building that takes in a whole block facing Morrell Street.

SANCTUARY (1942)

At the principal façade of the church, the exterior wall is complemented by its cone-shape, red rock structure. The cone-shape, red rock structure encompasses the corners of the building at a right angle facing both Morrell and Fernwood streets. The red rock structure is extended a few feet above the height of the roof of the building. A church bell can be seen through the tower, which is on top of the rock structure. On top of the bell tower is a large lighted cross that revolves and can be seen for miles. Additional features included a small stained glass window situated in the center of the bell tower wall. Stained glass windows are distributed liberally in other parts of the sanctuary.

continuation Sheet

Item # 12 Physical Description

SANCTUARY

Other exterior features include a red inclining rock wall that supports the landscape and church. This unique red rock of the inclining wall is made of the same rock pattern that was used at the entry on Morrell Street.

Before entering the sanctuary, there is a welcoming reception room with two bathrooms; also from the reception area is a flight of stairs that leads to the church balcony, without interruption into the main auditorium. Two large, brown, wooden poles at the rear of the sanctuary support the church balcony. Underneath the floor of the balcony, several radiant glass chandeliers can be seen upon entering the sanctuary. The sanctuary is built on an inclined plane, which facilitates easy viewing throughout the auditorium and balcony. The furniture is made of rare oak material that has been maintained since the opening of the church. A beautiful baptismal pool provides a centerpiece at the back of the pulpit and choir stand. The door facings are made of hard wood. The room infields into very high ceilings; with eloquent lighted, glass chandeliers. The walls are about one half paneled, going vertically; while the other half have been done up in sheet rock and painted white.

NURSERY/CHOIR ROOM

A nursery room with a cheerful background of yellow is situated directly behind the pulpit on the north side of the sanctuary. It is equipped with two bathrooms and a large built in bookcase. A large comfortable choir room is situated on the Eastside of the sanctuary. There are facades from the nursery into the choir room and eventually into the sanctuary.

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM # 12 PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION EDUCATIONAL ROOM

Part of the 1945 expansion, included an educational room on the Westside; that is adjacent to the sanctuary. The education room is now used for a Sunday school room. It is supplied with its own piano and pulpit/choir stand. There is a door leading into the pastoral and study from the Sunday school room, on the West Side. A large portion of the wall, on the eastside, of the room has been left opened with petitioned, brown folding doors; that enhances a close physical atmosphere into the church sanctuary. There is a main church entry leading into the educational room from Morrell Street.

RECREATIONAL HALL/DAY CARE NURSERY

In 1957 another educational building was built next to the existing educational facility on the southwest side with a façade to Morrell Street. This facility is now used for community functions; recreation hall and day care nursery. The recreational room is lighted with antique chandeliers; with class rooms and day care nursery rooms on both sides of the recreational hall. Directly behind the recreation room lies a hallway that connects to the library, basement and a large kitchen. The 12x14 library includes built in bookshelves, various tables, chairs and other library aids.

Another door leads to stairs that protrudes into the basement. The kitchen is the next room going eastward; it is a large, modern, equipped room.

At the end of the exiting hallway, still going Eastward; there is a closed in tunnel leading horizontally to the sanctuary. Zion Hill demolished an old exiting, frame structure that was used for classrooms in the seventies at this site. The removal of the old structure, provided space that facilitated this closed in walkway. The effort affords protection from inclement weather conditions and it also provided an entry from the walkway to the alley that makes assessable deliveries.

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM # 12 PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION

OUT DOOR FACILITIES/PARKING LOT

The out door facilities consist of two recreational sites and a parking lot. The first recreational area is adjacent to the Sunday school room on the Eastside. The courtyard is enclosed by buildings and provides a quite surrounding for functions; such as cook-outs. The second recreational site is a fenced in area that is adjacent to the recreational hall on the foremost Westside. This area is covered with grass and is equipped with playground equipment; while it is used primary for play. The parking lot is at the intersection of Fernwood and Morrell Streets has a cox fence through out its circumference. It is partially paved and has an entrance at both Morrell and Fernwood Streets.

NEAR BY HISTORICAL SITES

The Monroe Shops Building is an 80-year-old historical building that is adjacent to Dart's Illinois Transit Center. This East Oak Cliff corner stone plans improvement to the area quality of life. Other landmark sites include 10th Street and East Waco.

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM # 13 HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE

BUILDING HISTORY (OAK CLIFF ASSEMBLY OF GOD)

The humble beginnings of the Oak Cliff Assembly of God had its start in 1921 from what was called Old 4th Grand Church that came to the Oak Cliff area from Dallas proper. Following the move to Oak Cliff, open-air meetings were held. The location was on a vacant lot in the area of what was known as Thomas Hill at Morrell and Harlendale Streets. Before the completion of the open-air meetings; plans had been made to erect a canvas tent at Clarendon and Ewing Streets, near the present location of the Dallas Zoo.

In 1923, the people began building the first church, a 30x40 frame building, all labor was donated. This white frame building became known as Beverly Avenue Pentecostal Church. In 1927, Beverly Avenue was renamed Morrell Streets. The church name was changed to Oak Cliff Pentecostal Church.

In 1934-1942 World War II had been declared; more ideas had been integrated and new religious concepts were adopted. Oak Cliff pentecostal Church became to be known as Oak Cliff Assembly of God. Through out the course of war many changes took place and many crisis arose. During that time building material were short and men had gone in service for country. The building stood incomplete waiting for men to return home. In 1942-1945 though building material and men were still short the building was completed and people moved in the year of 1945. Later the church felt that they needed more space for education. In 1957, an educational wing was added to the exiting building; where portions of the old building had been left and torn down. The old structure had been removed in order to sacrifice a new one. However as the years passed and the congregation grew larger and stronger; the Assembly of God moved to the present location at 4400 South R.L. Thorton Freeway.

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM # 13 HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE

**BUILDING HISTORY (ZION HILL MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH)
1931-2001**

Zion Hill gained its roots from Salem Baptist Church in 1931 with four members. The congregation held their first meeting in the Pythian Temple on Elm Street; after leaving Pythian Temple, the congregation moved to the "Tabernacle", where the foundation was made of sawdust. The church raised \$3000.00 dollars during that phase. A brick building was completed and paid for on Bole and Flora Streets. Later the church property was sold at Flora and Bole and the proceeds went to the purchase of the Oak Cliff Assembly of God Church at Morrell and Fernwood Streets, which served as one of the first African American congregation in East Oak Cliff. Thereby the Oak Cliff Assembly of God Church grew stronger and moved to a new location. The present church body is located at R. L. Thornton Freeway.

CONTINUATION SHEET

13 HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE

PROMINENT PEOPLE AND EVENTS (ASSEMBLY OF GOD)

*1934-1939 The Assembly of God went on air for the first time
On station WRR
Rev. J. C. Hibbard*

*1942-1945 The radio ministry was extended to add to radio station
KSKY*

*1946 "Female Influence" on post World War II church revival,
during extreme inclement weather condition.
Evangelist Anna B. Locke*

*1947 Rev. Oral Roberts, founder of Oral Roberts University
brought his huge tent to Dallas and erected it near Burnett Field.
(Old professional Baseball Park Location)
Rev. Noah*

1960 Assembly of God Church move to new location

ZION HILL MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH

1930-1960 Church was organized 1931, first meeting was held at Phythian Temple, Elm Street.

*First financial drive, raised 1,300
Rev. Bilbrew.*

*First brick structure at Boll and Flora paid off
Rev. Alexander*

1961 The City of Dallas expansion program, church property was sold.

1967 Moved to the Assembly of God Church

ZION HILL CONTINUED

1978 *Zion Hill built closed in walk way from Sanctuary to recreation site*

1985 *Day Care Nursery established*

1986 *Set up pole voting facilities for citizens*

1987 *Church scholarship, educational program established
Rev. Thomas*

1990 *Gov. Ann Richards, visit church, "guest speaker"*

1995 *Church basket program established for the needy*

1996 *R. N. directed, nurses' guild established*

First church parade on 69th church anniversary held, started from Corinth Blvd. to church; set up booth, health fair stand, fun and games, parade was marshaled by Barbara Malory Caraway Counsel woman.

2000 *Black History Observance, John Wiley Price, first Black County Commissioner, as guest speaker.
Rev. Whitaker*

ITEM # 13 HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE

ASSEMBLY OF GOD MINSTERS

Rev. George W. Pitts 1921-1922
Rev. Floyd Baker 1922-1923
Rev. Milton Summers 1924_1925
Rev. Willlie Dunn 1926
Rev. Finis Dake 1927
Rev. J. R. Richardson 1927
Rev. William Coyle 1928-1930
Rev. Clifford Andrews 1930-1934
Rev. J. C. Hibbard 1934-1939
Rev. C. C. Robinson 1939-1942
Rev. Carl Alcorn 1942-1945
Rev. H. C. Noah 1945-1953
Rev. Roy Stewart 1953-1954
Rev. H. C. Noah 1954-1978
Rev. David Godwin 1979-1984
Rev. Alan Groff 1984-1988
Rev. Tom Wilson

ZION HILL MISSIONARY BAPTIST

January 25, 1931-2000
Rev. M. B. Bilbrew
Rev. S. T. Alexander
Rev. C. Cyphers
Rev. B. T. Alexander
Rev. J. J. Finley
Rev. A. F. Thomas
Rev. J. E Whitalker

BIBLIOGRAPHY

BUILDING INSPECTION DIVISION PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT CITY OF DALLAS

*Beverly avenue Pentecostal church, Architect/M. T. Thompson
Inspection #1775, date 4-30-24*

*Oak Cliff Assembly of God Church, Contractor/S. J. Rushing,
Permit, 63725, checked and approved, 9-21-40*

*Church Education Building Contractor/ S. J. Rushing, permit
#64531, checked and approved 1-23-51*

SURVEY,

W. H. Hord, Abst/560-875, Filed 2-10-87

ZION HILL DAY CARE NURSERY

Building Inspection, certification of Occupancy 10-30-85

HISTORY OF ASSEMBLY OF GOD

Compiled by W. S. January, 1981

HISTORY OF ZION HILL BAPTIST CHURCH

Taken from Church Notes

ZION HILL MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH

*69th Church Anniversary “Retiring the Debt”, Dallas Morning News
“Photo*

July 9th – July 16, 2000

INTERVIEWERS:

Mr. James Castleberry, church member, January 10, 2001

Mr. Jim Reynolds, church member, January 4, 2001

Cozadene Martin, member of Assembly of God Church, January 16, 2001

NOTE: DOCUMENTS ARE ENCLOSED AT THE BACK

Church history, building permits, and other misc.

15. Attachments

District or Site Map

Additional descriptive material

Site Plan

Footnotes

Photos (historic & current)

Other: _____

16. Inventory of Structures-Historic District Only (Page 10 of 10)

Please complete this form for each structure in a proposed historic district

a. Location and Name

b. Development History

Original owner:

Architect/builder:

Construction/alteration dates:

c. Architectural Significance

Dominant style:

Condition:

Alterations:

d. Category

*Contributing _____
excellent example of an
architectural style that is
typical of or integral to the
district; retaining essential
integrity of design*

*Compatible _____
supportive of the district in age,
style and massing but is not
representative of the significant
style, period and detailing, or
area of significance typical of
the district*

*Non-contributing _____
intrusive; detracts from the
character of the district*

e. Statement of Significance

Today the Zion Hill Church consist of approximately three hundred members with about eight of the original members remaining in the congregation. Our foremost goals are to resolve indebtedness on our church noteand to inspire young people to become useful adults in society.

Our church endeavors and allows the community to hold civic and crime watch meetings that foster the needs of the low and moderate-income neighbors in our community. Our church has also maintained a day care nursery program in the pass. Zion Hill has set up and has provided pole-voting facilities for our citizens. We are dedicated to saving all souls with persistence in our neighboring Hispanics and other nationalities. The Zion HillMissionary Church is a very important local landmark with a strong American heritage from 1921 through the new millenium. The Zion Hill Missionary Baptist Church is representative of the growth of two different cultures and how they served their communities.

17. Designation Criteria

History, heritage and culture: Represents the historical development, ethnic heritage or cultural characteristics of the city, state, or country.

Historic event: Location of or association with the site of a significant historic event.

Significant persons: Identification with a person or persons who significantly contributed to the culture and development of the city, state, or country.

Architecture: Embodiment of distinguishing characteristics of an architectural style, landscape design, method of construction, exceptional craftsmanship, architectural innovation, or contains details which represent folk or ethnic art.

Architect or master builder: Represents the work of an architect, designer or master builder whose individual work has influenced the development of the city, state or country.

Historic context: Relationship to other

distinctive buildings, sites, or areas which are eligible for preservation based on historic, cultural, or architectural characteristics.

Unique visual feature: Unique location of singular physical characteristics representing an established and familiar visual feature of a neighborhood, community or the city that is a source of pride or cultural significance.

Archeological: Archeological or paleontological value in that it has produced or can be expected to produce data affecting theories of historic or prehistoric interest.

National and state recognition: Eligible of or designated as a National Historic Landmark, Recorded Texas Historic Landmark, State Archeological Landmark, American Civil Engineering Landmark, or eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places.

Historic education: Represents an era of architectural, social, or economic history that allows an understanding of how the place or area was used by past generations.

Recommendation

The Designation Task Force requests the Landmark Commission to deem this nominated landmark meritorious of designation as outlined in Chapter 51 and Chapter 51A, Dallas Development Code.

Further, the Designation Task Force endorses the Preservation Criteria, policy recommendations and landmark boundary as presented by the Department of Planning and Development.

Date:

*Chair
Designation Task Force*

*Chair
Designation Task Force*

Historic Preservation Planner