

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.

1. Name of Property

Historic name: Marion Courthouse Square Historic District (Additional Documentation)

Other names/site number: Perry County Jail; Zion Chapel Methodist Church

Name of related multiple property listing: N/A

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

2. Location

Street & number: 210 Pickens St. (Perry County Jail); 301 Pickens St. (Zion Chapel Methodist Church)

City or town: Marion State: Alabama County: Perry

Not For Publication: ☐ Vicinity: ☐

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

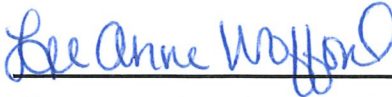
As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,

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:

X national X statewide X local
Applicable National Register Criteria:

X A B C D

	Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer	<u>May 10, 2022</u>
Signature of certifying official/Title:		Date
<u>Alabama Historical Commission</u>		
State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government		

In my opinion, the property <u> </u> meets <u> </u> does not meet the National Register criteria.	
<hr/>	
Signature of commenting official:	Date
<hr/>	
Title :	State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

Marion Courthouse Square Historic District (Additional Documentation)
Name of Property

Perry County, Alabama
County and State

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

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply.)

- Private: ☒
- Public – Local ☒
- Public – State ☐
- Public – Federal ☐

Category of Property

(Check only **one** box.)

- Building(s) ☐
- District ☒
- Site ☐
- Structure ☐
- Object ☐

Marion Courthouse Square Historic District (Additional Documentation)

Perry County, Alabama

Name of Property

County and State

Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing

Noncontributing

1

buildings

sites

structures

objects

1

3

3

Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 1

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

GOVERNMENT: correctional facility (210 Pickens Street)

RELIGION: religious facility (301 Pickens Street)

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

WORK IN PROGRESS (210 Pickens Street)

RELIGION: religious facility (301 Pickens Street)

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

LATE 19TH AND 20TH CENTURY REVIVALS: Colonial Revival (210 Pickens Street)

LATE VICTORIAN: Gothic (301 Pickens Street)

Materials: (enter categories from instructions.)

Principal exterior materials of the property: BRICK

Marion Courthouse Square Historic District (Additional Documentation)
Name of Property

Perry County, Alabama

County and State

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance and condition of the property. Describe contributing and noncontributing resources if applicable. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, type, style, method of construction, setting, size, and significant features. Indicate whether the property has historic integrity.)

Summary Paragraph

This nomination documents two resources in the Marion Courthouse Square Historic District that individually eligible for listing in the National Register under Criterion A at the local, statewide, and national levels of significance for their association with events that took place in 1965, after the end of the period of significance that was established in the 1996 nomination for the historic district. The two resources are the Perry County Jail at 210 Pickens Street and Zion Chapel Methodist Church at 301 Pickens Street

The Perry County Jail, which was listed as a contributing resource (Inventory #79) in the historic district in 1996, is a two-story, hipped-roof detention facility of the Colonial Revival style. Designed in 1938 by Charles H. McCauley Associates and constructed by Daniel Construction Company, it is located at the northeast corner of the intersection of Pickens and West Green Streets in Marion, the county seat of Marion County, Alabama. The site is one block northeast of the county courthouse square, the nexus of downtown Marion, and is a contributing resource in the Marion Courthouse Square Historic District (NRIS #96000111). The brick-veneer building sitting on a white painted concrete water table faces west. The façade is composed of seven bays with a central entrance on the first floor. The recessed entrance door is topped by a simple transom, the entirety of which is surrounded by a cast stone enframing consisting of simple Doric pilasters topped by an entablature that reads "PERRY COUNTY JAIL." The interior retains its original floor plan as well as many of the historic finishes and fixtures. The property retains sufficient integrity to be eligible for the National Register as an individual resource.

Zion Chapel Methodist Church is a front-gable, brick church that stands at the northeast corner of Pickens Street and Jefferson Street/Martin Luther King Parkway and faces west towards Pickens Street and the Perry County Courthouse. A small steeple sits atop a front-gable, projecting vestibule that is centered in the front elevation, and bay windows with pyramidal roofs project from each of the side elevations. The church has wood lancet windows. The church was re-built in brick in 1926 with a different façade. Sometime between 1941 and 1965, the 1926 façade was replaced with brick veneer and a centered vestibule. Because these alterations took place after the end of the period of significance for the historic district, the 1996 historic district nomination identified it as noncontributing (Inventory #82). The church retains integrity to 1965 and is individually eligible for its significant association with historical events in that year. As a result, its status is being changed to contributing.

Marion Courthouse Square Historic District (Additional Documentation)

Perry County, Alabama

Name of Property

County and State

Narrative Description

Location and Setting

The Perry County Jail and Zion Chapel Methodist Church are both located on the east side of Pickens Street in Marion, Perry County, Alabama. The siting of the Perry County Jail and Zion Chapel Methodist Church have long been prominent in Marion's history. The courthouse square is central to the civic life and judicial functions of Marion and Perry County. Pickens Street forms the eastern boundary of Marion's central county courthouse square, which anchors the town's landscape. The streets surrounding the square are laid out in a grid and oriented north-south and east-west.

The jail is immediately northeast of the courthouse square, at the northeast corner of Pickens Street and Green Street, which forms the northern boundary of the courthouse square. To the south of the jail, West Green Street slopes down to meet Alabama Route 14 east of the site (Photo #4). Directly across Pickens Street is a large surface parking lot. The Albert Turner Sr. Courthouse Annex and the James Hood Detention Center are north of the jail site. To the south, crossing West Green Street, is a funeral home, the Marion Post Office, and the Zion United Methodist Church. The jail is placed at a highly visible location within the downtown core of Marion.

The church stands at the northeast corner of Pickens Street and Jefferson Street, which forms the southern boundary of the courthouse square. It is the southernmost building on Pickens Street that faces the courthouse square. The 1930s post office is to its north, and municipal buildings are to its southwest.

Perry County Jail, 210 Pickens Street (previously listed, Photos #1-20)

The Perry County Jail stands on a 0.3-acre site with a frontage of 100 feet along Pickens Street and 145 feet along West Green Street. The front of the site (Photos #1-2, 7) contains a gravel parking area that can accommodate eight vehicles. A chain-link fence topped with barbed wire and set atop a concrete retaining wall surrounds the building. Two concrete stairs reach a central gate. The fenced yard is relatively flat, but the land to the south and east slopes considerably. To the north of the yard is a paved asphalt driveway that leads to a rear parking lot east of the building (Photos #5-7). There is another gate on the eastern portion of the fence, opening to this parking area. On the property's southern edge, six decorative bushes are planted outside the fence along West Green Street (Photo #3). Otherwise, the site within the fence is covered with grass.

In the northwest corner of the front parking area, along the fence, is a memorial to Reverend James Orange (noncontributing object, Photo #7) presented March 2, 2002, by the Southern Christian Leadership Conference and Women's Organizational Movement for Equality Now.¹ Orange was imprisoned at the site in 1965 and is remembered for his vital role in the struggle for voting rights. The monument is composed of black granite with gold wording and details. Immediately south of the memorial is an informational sign installed by the National Park

¹ Jae Jones, "Evelyn G. Lowery: Founded SCLC/Women's Organizational Movement for Equality Now, Inc. (W.O.M.E.N.)," *Black Then*, October 7, 2020

Marion Courthouse Square Historic District (Additional Documentation)
Name of Property

Perry County, Alabama
County and State

Service describing the jail's role in the 1965 voting rights protests. A concrete walkway leads from the gate in the front parking area to the stoop of the main entrance.

Exterior

The Perry County Jail is a two-story, seven-bay building with a brick-veneer laid in a five-course common bond. The veneer is composed of textured brick of various deep hues with glazed bricks randomly placed. Brick quoins, formed by seven courses of projecting bricks separated by one recessed course, articulate the corners of the building. The building sits on a white-painted concrete water table. It has a hipped roof with slate shingles and an original metal gutter on all four sides. The window openings are uniform and contain steel jalousie windows with a brick rowlock sill. The steel panes are hung in two columns of ten panes, with the lower three panes featuring protective metal bars on the interior.

The main entrance on the façade (western elevation) is in the center bay on the first floor and is reached by a flight of five stuccoed-brick steps set within red brick cheek walls (Photo #8). The eight-paneled door is deeply recessed and topped by a single-light transom window. The entrance is surrounded by a cast stone enframing consisting of square pilasters topped by an entablature that reads "PERRY COUNTY JAIL." There are seven windows on the second floor and six on the first floor (Photo #1). Within the water table on the second northernmost bay is a window covered with protective metal bars. There is a vent within the water table on the second southern-most bay. There is a metal downspout between the quoins and the windows on each end of the façade. On the southwest corner of the building, above the water table, is a cornerstone, reading "Perry County Jail, Court of County Commissioners, Irby Pope, Chairman, S.M. Belcher, E.L. Gayle, L.G. Eiland, E.G. Setzer" on the façade and "Federal Emergency Administration of Public Works, Project No ALA-1090-F, Daniel Construction Co., Builders, Chas. H. McCauley, Architect, 1938" on the southern elevation.

The southern elevation, facing West Green Street, has four irregularly spaced windows on the first floor and none on the second floor (Photo #3). Within the water table, there is a vent centered below each window. Three of the windows have all their jalousie panes, while the western-most is open to just bars at the bottom.

The rear, or eastern, elevation has seven bays – like the façade – though it lacks the centrally located entrance (Photo #5). There are six windows on the second and first floors. Above the middle bay is a gentle-sloped dormer with a vent located close to the roof eave. The northernmost bay on the elevation contains a ground-level cast stone doorframe that leads to an interior staircase. The metal door features eight panels. There is a window on this bay located between the first and second floors. Within the water table, there are vents centered under each window except for a window under the second northernmost bay

All the openings on the northern elevation of the building are located in the western half of the elevation (Photos #6-7). Windows flank a large square smokestack on each side on the first and second floors; the first-story window the east of the smokestack is covered with metal. The first floor features a second window to the east, while on the second floor, east of the smokestack, is a metal door leading to metal fire escape stairs.

Marion Courthouse Square Historic District (Additional Documentation)

Perry County, Alabama

Name of Property

County and State

Interior

The Perry County Jail building contains a center entrance which opens to a short hall (Photo #9) that contains a door on its southern wall to an office. The 150 square foot office contains two small closets on its eastern wall and two windows on its western wall. There is another door to a second office on the southern wall. The second, 115 square foot office (Photo #10) has a single window on its western wall and on its eastern wall contains a restroom, a closet, and a door to the main hall. The entrance hall connects to a main hall (Photo #11) running north to south. On the north portion of the main hall's western wall are two doors to a laundry room and kitchen. The 220 square foot kitchen contains two windows on the northern and western walls. On the west portion of the kitchen's southern wall, there is access to a 60 square foot pantry with built-in wood shelving.

Off the main hall are entrances to four cells and two visitation rooms on the eastern wall. The cells each feature a metal bedframe, a ceramic toilet and sink, and a shower enclosure (Photos #13-14). At the southern end of the main hall is a door that leads to a rear hall that follows the southern wall to the eastern wall, then runs along the eastern wall to the staircase. The eastern hall (Photo #12) is divided into two sections: one section is located behind the four jail cells at the southern end of the building while the other is behind the two visitation rooms to their north. The cells and visitation rooms have floor to ceiling metal bars along the rear hall, allowing in light from the eastern elevation windows. Inserted in the wall between the two visitation rooms (Photo #15) is an opening for communication between the two rooms. Short counters are located at the base of the opening; partitions on top of the counters divide the opening into four sections.

Across from the kitchen doors in the north-end of the main hall are two doors that lead to a staircase. The southern door leads upstairs. Nine stairs lead to a landing and nine more lead to an L-shaped hallway that extends west along the northern elevation and south from the stairway. A wall of metal bars with a door are located at the top of the stairs, separating the stairs from the second-floor hallway (Photo #16). The northern hallway (Photo #17) features a door that leads to another hallway running along the length of the western elevation. Off this front hall are four doors. The first door leads to a large day room (Photo #20) while the remaining three enter bunk cells (Photo #18) that feature two levels of built-in metal bunks to house up to eight prisoners.

A door opening at the southern end of east part of the L-shaped hallway leads to a short hallway that terminates at the east wall and provides access to two hallways along the east elevation. In the northern section of this hallway has two sliding doors set within metal bars, each of which open into small cells for solitary confinement. The southern section of this hallway also has two sliding doors set within metal bars, one leading to a smaller day room (Photo #19) and the other to another jail cell.

Interior walls are painted brick, and most rooms have wood baseboards and wood door trim. Interior doors are generally flat or paneled metal or wood with wood trim, with a few exceptions. The jail cells have double-thick metal doors with a small opening with metal door set within each one, and some of the second-floor doors are metal with a single diamond-shaped opening.

Marion Courthouse Square Historic District (Additional Documentation)

Perry County, Alabama

Name of Property

County and State

Zion Chapel Methodist Church, 301 Pickens Street (contributing building, Photos #21-34)²

Zion Chapel Methodist Church stands on a 0.2-acre lot with a frontage of 56 feet along Pickens Street and 132 feet along Martin Luther King Parkway. To the north of the building is the parking lot for the 1930s post office (Photos #21, 24). The parking lot was created after the demolition of an earlier building after 1965; the retaining wall along the northern edge of the church lot may be a remnant of the foundation of the earlier frame building. The church faces west towards the courthouse square and is diagonally across the intersection from a municipal building that was constructed in the late 1960s. A mid-20th-century commercial building stands across Martin Luther King Parkway, and a post-1965 funeral home stands to the east.

The land slopes down slightly to the west and to the south and is generally grassy with scattered shrubbery along the foundation (Photo #21). A concrete sidewalk runs along Pickens Street in front of the building and connects to a wide concrete walkway that leads to the steps up to the front entrance of the church. To the south of walkway is an informational sign installed by the National Park Service describing the church's role in the 1965 voting rights protests (Photo #26).

On the south side of the church, which faces Martin Luther King Parkway, a cluster of crepe myrtle trees are located near the side apse (Photo #23). A sidewalk along this street is mostly overgrown with grass. Near the southwest corner of the property is a metal plaque that was installed in 1991 in memory of Jimmie Lee Jackson.

Noncontributing Objects (2)

A brick monument (Photos #21, 26) sign that is located near the southwest corner of the church was erected after 1965 but before 1996. Cornerstones from the 1884 and 1926 buildings are incorporated into the brick base, above which is a metal sign with a glass front over the sign board.

Near the northeast corner of the lot and adjacent to the sidewalk is a rectangular stone memorial with a polished black surface (Photo #22). Erected in 2002, it bears the inscription "The Civil Rights Freedom Wall of Perry County" at the top and lists those who participated in the Civil Rights Movement in Perry County between 1960 and 2002.

Church (1926): Exterior

The historic church is a front-gabled, brick building with apses on each of the side elevations and a projecting, one-bay, front-gabled vestibule centered in the front (west) elevation. A steeple with a louvered lantern and a pyramidal roof with flared eaves rises from the center of the vestibule to a point just below the peak of the main roof. The main roof is standing-seam metal with boxed eaves and a wood cornice.

The first-story windows on the front and side elevations are single-hung, wood lancet windows with a two-light lower sash and a three-light Gothic upper sash. Most of the windows have

² The architectural description of Zion Chapel Methodist Church was prepared by Evelyn Causey, Alabama Historical Commission.

Marion Courthouse Square Historic District (Additional Documentation)

Perry County, Alabama

Name of Property

County and State

stained glass. The windows date to either 1926 or were part of the 1884 frame church and were re-used during the 1926 re-building. Window openings have rowlock sills.

The façade (Photos #21, 22, 26) features red brick laid in stretcher bond, a rowlock water table, and brick foundation vents. The five concrete steps that lead up to the entrance get progressively narrower, with the lowest step being nearly the width of the vestibule and the top step being the width of the door opening. Metal pipe railings that were added after 1965 are attached to the door surround. Double, six-panel doors occupy the centered door opening, which has a recessed, molded wood surround and a soldier brick lintel. The doors are not wood and likely replaced the six-paneled wood doors that were present in 1965. A historic light fixture is mounted above the doorway. Just below the gable of the vestibule is a wood, rosette window. On each of the side elevations of the vestibule is a single window that is similar in design and materials to the other first-story windows but is smaller.

On the front elevation of the church are two windows, one on each side of the vestibule. A wood cornice with a small pent roof extends from the outer edges of the building to the vestibule, then continues along the side walls and gable of the vestibule. The gable of the church is clad in metal or vinyl shingles that rest flat on the surface.

The stucco or paint that covered the side elevations (Photos #21-24) in 1965 was removed at an unknown date. Also laid in stretcher bond, the brick on the side elevations has a rougher texture and more color variation than the brick on the front elevation. A concrete water table is surmounted by a row of soldier bricks. The fascia board on the side elevations is wider than that on the front elevation.

Each side elevation features two windows in front of the apse, one window in each of the three main faces of the apse, and one window to the rear of the apse. The front two windows on each elevation feature a double column of header bricks along the straight sides of the window openings. At the east (rear) end of the south elevation is a basement-level door opening that is partially below grade. A shed-roofed, open-sided porch shelters the door opening and the steps leading down to it.

Most of the rear (east) elevation is covered by the 1990 addition, but most of the original exterior wall is visible from the interior. The brick on the rear wall is similar to that on the side elevations. On the first story, at the northern end of the east wall, there is a door with recessed, molded wood trim and Gothic three-light lancet transom with stained glass. A small window at the eastern end of the wall looks into the adjacent room in the addition. A circular quatrefoil window is centered in the gable, which is clad in vertical siding.

Church (1926): Interior

The front doors open into a vestibule with wood floors, plaster walls, and square-edged wood baseboards (Photo #27). The painted wood window and door surrounds are flat and square-edged, though there is an outer bead on the trim around the opening that leads to a short hallway (Photo #28) that connects the vestibule to the sanctuary.

Marion Courthouse Square Historic District (Additional Documentation)

Perry County, Alabama

Name of Property

County and State

The hallway and the sitting rooms and restrooms on either side of it are situated beneath the balcony (Photos #28-29, 31). Photographs indicate that the balcony, hallway, and restrooms were added after 1965; the exterior windows, which now look into the sitting rooms and the balcony, are visible along the east wall of the sanctuary in a photograph taken on March 3, 1965, during Jimmie Lee Jackson's funeral.³ The hallway and adjacent rooms feature flat, square-edged, stained wood baseboards and door surrounds. Laminate wood wainscoting and a wood chair rail line the side walls of the hallway. The baseboards, wainscoting, and chair rails that were originally part of the sanctuary remain visible along the exterior walls of the bathrooms. Doors to the sitting room and restrooms are flat wood doors. Double, wood, six-panel doors in the east wall of the hallway lead to the sanctuary.

The sanctuary features a center-aisle plan with narrow side aisles (Photos #30-31). The post-1965 balcony that extends across the western end of the sanctuary features laminate wood paneling on the railings for the balcony and the stairs leading up to it. The balcony has plywood floors and two pews, one placed on each side of a center aisle. In the sanctuary, there are nine rows of wood pews on each side of the center aisle, as well as two in the north apse. All of the pews have arched panel ends and were installed circa 1980 to replace earlier scroll-end wood pews. The openings to the apses are uncased (Photo #32).

The pulpit, choir, and communion table are located on a dais at the east end of the sanctuary, between the side apses and the east wall (Photos #30, 33). The dais extends across the southern two-thirds of the east wall, terminating at the door that was originally an exterior door but currently leads to the 1990 addition. A non-historic ramp extends from the door's threshold to the floor of the sanctuary. The choir occupies the southern portion of the dais and features two risers and a railing with wood-veneer paneling. In the wall above the choir, there is a square window opening with a metal window. The northern portion of the dais features centered stairs, a reader's lectern in the southwest corner, a pulpit in the northwest corner, and a communion table that is centered along the north wall. A laminate wood railing surrounds this portion of the dais. The use of laminate wood paneling and historic photos indicate that the dais was reconfigured after 1965, at the same time that the balcony and restrooms were constructed.⁴

Carpet covers most of the wood flooring. The wood baseboards on the west wall, which was constructed after 1965, are square-edged and flat. Along the exterior walls, the baseboards are taller (approx. 8"), with molding along the top edge. Wood laminate wainscoting with a molded wood chair rail lines the exterior walls. The window surrounds have molding along the outer edge. All of the historic wood trim in the sanctuary is stained. The upper portions of the walls are plastered. The two apses have painted wood beadboard ceilings; similar ceiling materials may remain in place above the acoustic tile that now covers the vaulted ceiling of the sanctuary.

Addition (1990)

The lower two stories of the rear addition are clad in brick laid in a stretcher bond with soldier bricks forming the top course; the third story is clad in vinyl siding (Photos #23-25). The

³ See #6503030220 in the Associated Press (AP) image archives. Information about and a preview of the image are available through apimages.com.

⁴ See #650206059 (February 6, 1965) in the AP image archives, which shows the placement of the pulpit and arrangement of the dais in 1965.

Marion Courthouse Square Historic District (Additional Documentation)

Perry County, Alabama

Name of Property

County and State

addition has a concrete slab foundation and a low-pitched, standing seam metal, front-gable roof. The addition is the same width as the church, but because of a change in grade and the lower roof pitch, it is shorter than the church. The first-story windows are six-over-six metal, while the second- and third-story windows are two-over-two metal. The windows are irregularly spaced, reflecting the interior arrangement of the addition.

On the north elevation, concrete steps lead up from ground level to a second-story door with a fabric awning; a wood bridge extends from the doorway, over the concrete steps, to the parking lot for the adjacent post office (Photo #24). Another exterior door is centered in the first story of the rear (east) elevation. There are no door openings on the south elevation.

On the interior, the original exterior wall of the brick church is visible on the interior on all three levels of the addition. The door in the east wall of the sanctuary opens into a hallway that is on the second floor of the addition (Photo #34). At the north end of the hallway is an exterior door, and a door at the south end of the hallway leads to the pastor's office, which occupies the southwest corner of the addition. An opening in the east wall of the hallway and near the exterior door provides access to the stairs leading to the first story, which features an open space in the center, a kitchen at its northern end, and storage along its western wall, where there is a door to the crawl space beneath the church.

At the south end of the second-floor hallway are double doors in the east wall and a bump-out that contains the stairs to the third floors. The double doors open into a large room that has offices along its north and south walls. The third floor includes a fellowship hall, a kitchen, and storage rooms.

Most of the interior walls in the addition are clad in laminate wood paneling, and the doors are flat with narrow molded trim. The first floor has concrete floors, and the flooring on the upper levels is typically vinyl tile or wood laminate.

Evaluations of Integrity

The Perry County Jail and Zion Chapel Methodist Church retain integrity of location, setting, and association. Both buildings have a well-documented associations with the civil rights protests of 1965 and the murder of Jimmy Lee Jackson, and both remain in their original locations. The properties possess integrity of setting as the courthouse square and two of the three buildings on the east side of Pickens Street between the church and the jail remain standing and have undergone few alterations since 1965.

The Perry County Jail possesses integrity of design, materials, and workmanship. The exterior contains original fenestration and signage. On the interior, the floor plan is unaltered. Notably, the cell where Reverend Orange was held, located in the northwest corner of the first floor, retains its metal-framed bed and ceramic toiletry features. The workmanship of the brickwork and entryway stone surround is well-preserved. The property's integrity of association, location, setting, design, materials, and workmanship contribute to its integrity of feeling. Zion Chapel Methodist Church possesses sufficient integrity of design, materials, workmanship, and feeling to convey its significance and its association with the events of February and March 1965. The 1965 roofline, footprint (including vestibule and side apses), windows, and brick veneer on the

Marion Courthouse Square Historic District (Additional Documentation)
Name of Property

Perry County, Alabama

County and State

front elevation are preserved. The removal of stucco on the side elevation and the construction of the rear addition (which is smaller than the church) do not substantially affect the church's ability to convey its significance. Zion Chapel Methodist Church as it stands today is instantly recognizable in press photographs taken on the day of Jimmy Lee Jackson's funeral.⁵ Similarly, the windows, apses, wood trim, and wall finishes are character-defining features of the interior of the sanctuary that remain intact. As a result, the interior still retains sufficient integrity to convey its significance despite the addition of the balcony and rooms at the west end of the sanctuary and the presence of some non-historic materials on the wainscoting and ceiling.

⁵ See images #650206059 (February 6, 1965), #650303220, #650303261, and #6503010479 (March 3, 1965) and others at apimages.com; and images in the Spider Martin/Alabama Media Group Collection at the Alabama Department of Archives and History (<https://digital.archives.alabama.gov/digital/collection/amg>), especially BN00010087_19; BN0010087_16; and BN0010087_29.

Marion Courthouse Square Historic District (Additional Documentation)
Name of Property

Perry County, Alabama
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.)

- ☒ 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

Marion Courthouse Square Historic District (Additional Documentation)
Name of Property

Perry County, Alabama
County and State

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Social History: Civil Rights

Ethnic Heritage: Black

Period of Significance

1965

Significant Dates

February 18, 1965

March 3, 1965

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

Cultural Affiliation

Architect/Builder

McCauley, Charles H. (Perry County Jail)

Daniel Construction Co. (Perry County Jail)

C.W. Brown (Zion Chapel Methodist Church)

Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance, applicable criteria, justification for the period of significance, and any applicable criteria considerations.)

This amendment to the Marion Courthouse Square Historic District documents that the Perry County Jail and Zion Chapel Methodist Church independently meet the National Register criteria for their association with events that occurred in 1965, outside of the established period of significance (1836-1945) for the district. Because these two buildings independently meet the National Register criteria, 1965 is added as a period of significance for the district. Zion Chapel Methodist Church meets Criteria Consideration A because it is being nominated for its significance in the African American Civil Rights Movement.

The Perry County Jail and Zion Chapel Methodist Church are significant under Criterion A at the national, state, and local level in the areas of Social History: Civil Rights and Ethnic Heritage: Black for their contributions to events in Marion in February and March of 1965 that inspired the Selma to Montgomery march and spurred the passage of the 1965 Voting Rights Act. Both buildings played pivotal roles in civil rights activism leading up to and following the murder of civil rights protester and church deacon Jimmie Lee Jackson at the hands of a white law enforcement officer. Numerous African American Civil Rights Movement supporters were

Marion Courthouse Square Historic District (Additional Documentation)

Perry County, Alabama

Name of Property

County and State

incarcerated in Perry County Jail, which was the intended destination of the February 18th march during which Jackson was shot. The church served as a meeting place for civil rights organizations leading up to the February 18th march, was the starting point for the February 18th march, and was the location of Jackson's funeral service.

Events at Perry County Jail and Zion Chapel Methodist Church in early 1965 escalated the Civil Rights Movement in Perry County, Alabama, the ripples of which were felt at the state and national levels. On February 18, 1965, Reverend James Orange, a field organizer of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC), was imprisoned in the Perry County Jail after organizing a voting rights protest at the Perry County Courthouse with students from Lincoln High School, which served Black students in Perry County.⁶ Orange's detention provoked local and SCLC leaders to organize a nighttime march from nearby Zion Chapel Methodist Church to the jail. After proceeding only fifty feet from the church, law enforcement officials stopped the group of approximately five hundred peaceful protestors. Violence and chaos broke out, with police clubbing and arresting participants. During the turmoil, an Alabama State Trooper shot a local deacon, Jimmie Lee Jackson. Jackson's subsequent death eight days later set off intense outrage from national civil rights leaders. On March 3, 1965, Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. spoke at Jackson's funeral service in Zion Chapel Methodist Church. SCLC responded by proposing a march from Selma (25 miles southeast of Marion) to the state capitol in Montgomery to commemorate Jackson's death and call for redress from Governor George Wallace. The ensuing Selma-to-Montgomery Marches were pivotal in the passage of the Voting Rights Act of 1965, the landmark federal law prohibiting racial discrimination in voting practices. Events at Perry County Jail and Zion Chapel Methodist Church set the stage for Bloody Sunday, the Selma-to-Montgomery March, and other events that profoundly advanced the national African American Civil Rights Movement.

Narrative Statement of Significance (Provide at least **one** paragraph for each area of significance.)

Historical Background: Perry County Jail

The Perry County Jail site was cleared by 1817 when Michael Muckle McElroy constructed a cabin on the location. Two years later, Perry County was formed, and in 1822 the city of Marion was founded. In 1823, a two-story log cabin courthouse was erected in the center square.⁷ The 1850s were prosperous in Marion due to the fertile soil of the surrounding Black Belt, the region across Southern Alabama known for its rich topsoil, supporting cotton plantations. The town saw an increase in the construction of permanent municipal structures. A jail was constructed circa 1852 on the northeast corner of the courthouse square, facing the central Perry County Courthouse, the same site as the present building.⁸ The site has continuously held the function of a detainment facility for over 120 years. The courthouse was replaced with a massive Greek

⁶ Pete Candler, "It Was a Place of Infamy," *Southern Cultures*, Art & Vision, 26, no. 2 (March 2019).

⁷ "Marion Courthouse Square Historic District" (National Park Service), August 1, 1994.

⁸ "Release No. 3334" (Federal Emergency Administration of Public Works., 1938).

Marion Courthouse Square Historic District (Additional Documentation)

Perry County, Alabama

Name of Property

County and State

Revival design in 1854, which is still extant. Downtown commercial Marion grew around the courthouse square.⁹

In 1938 the Federal Emergency Administration of Public Works (FEAPW) -- part of the New Deal -- financed the design and construction of a new county jail to “replace present jail which is... obsolete and inadequate.”¹⁰ Later known as the Public Works Administration, FEAPW provided a grant of \$22,500 to partially fulfill the \$50,000 price of the new two-story fireproof structure.¹¹ The purpose of the program was to finance large-scale public works in response to the Great Depression. A new Post Office in Marion, one block from the jail, was also constructed with FEAPW funds in 1935.¹² Charles H. McCauley Associates of Birmingham designed the jail with Daniel Construction Company providing the labor. McCauley was a University of Illinois educated architect who opened his firm in 1925. His firm designed many buildings in Birmingham, such as City Hall, Avon Theater, Botanical Gardens Conservatory, and Jefferson Hospital. The firm also designed courthouses in Jefferson County, Marion County, and Escambia County, as well as the Elmore County Jail.¹³

Historical Background: Zion Chapel Methodist Church

After the Civil War, African Americans began creating their own houses of worship, separating from white society and asserting their agency. Freedmen in Perry County received assistance from white religious institutions to form their churches. The Methodist Episcopal Church worked to establish black places of worship across the South. Reverend Arad Simon Lakin, a white northern minister, found the Marion Colored Methodist Episcopal Church in 1866.¹⁴ In 1880, the church acquired property on the southeast corner of the courthouse square and constructed a white clapboard structure in 1884. A Sanborn Fire Insurance map from 1884 shows a frame building with a similar footprint as it currently has, with the notation that it was unfinished at that time.¹⁵ The cornerstone read “M.E. Church / 1884” and is preserved in the brick base of the monument sign on the property.

In 1904, the congregation mortgaged the land for \$35 and was later able to pay off the mortgage. In 1926, the congregation built a brick church on the same site and possibly on the existing foundation as the frame church; the cornerstone read “Rebuilt 1926 C.W. Brown / Zion M.E. Memorial.” The 1926 church had three-sided apses towards the rear of the side elevations, similar to those that were part of the earlier frame building, but the façade was reconfigured to include two corner towers. This configuration remained in place until sometime between 1941 and 1965, when the church acquired its present façade. A newspaper reference to a “Dedication

⁹ W. Stuart Harris, *Perry County Heritage*, Vol. 1 (Marion, AL: private printing, 1991).

¹⁰ “Release No. 3334” (Federal Emergency Administration of Public Works., 1938).

¹¹ Ibid.

¹² “Marion Courthouse Square Historic District” (National Park Service), August 1, 1994.

¹³ “Charles McCauley Buildings,” Bhamwiki, https://www.bhamwiki.com/w/Category:Charles_McCauley_buildings.

¹⁴ Valerie Pope Burnes, “From Pre-Civil War to Post-Civil Rights: The Political Lives of African-Americans from Slavery to the 21st Century in Perry County, Alabama” (Ph.D. diss., Auburn University, December 2012), 85-86.

¹⁵ Sanborn Fire Insurance Map, Marion, Perry County, Alabama, November 1884 (https://www.loc.gov/resource/g3974mm.g3974mm_g000701884/?st=gallery), Sheet 1.

Marion Courthouse Square Historic District (Additional Documentation)

Perry County, Alabama

Name of Property

County and State

Week” in 1954 suggests that the present façade was constructed at that time.¹⁶ which has a similar footprint to the original 1884 frame church. The church was later renamed Zion Chapel Methodist Church and remains the only religious institution on the courthouse square.

As was common in the Methodist Episcopal Church, the ministers changed every few years and were typically from out of the local area. In 1943, the congregation offered its building as the temporary home for the George Washington Carver Library, the first library in Marion that was open to African Americans.¹⁷

Perry County in the Jim Crow Era

By the second half of the 19th century, Perry County was a major center of education in Alabama’s Black Belt region. Judson College (1838), Howard College (1842) (later known as the Marion Military Institute in 1887), and Lincoln Normal School (1867) transformed the educational landscape of Perry County. Following the Civil War, the black community placed a strong emphasis on education. The Lincoln Normal School was one of Alabama’s first schools built for African American education when nine former slaves established it with support from the American Missionary Association.¹⁸ The school gained prominence and was regarded as the most notable and influential school for African Americans in Alabama.¹⁹ The Lincoln Normal School educated many notable figures in Perry County, including Coretta Scott King, Albert Turner Sr., and Jimmie Lee Jackson.

In 1954, the Supreme Court ruled in the *Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka* that racial segregation in public schools violated the Fourteenth Amendment’s equal protection clause. The decision reversed the precedent of the 1896 Supreme Court case *Plessy v. Ferguson*, which allowed “separate but equal” facilities for African Americans. In the wake of the *Brown* decision, White Citizen Councils, opposed to integration, were organized across the South. Council members, largely well-off whites, were able to apply subtle tactics through economic means to intimidate Black citizens. In 1956, one hundred and one Southern Congressmen signed the “Southern Manifesto,” which attacked the *Brown* decision as an abuse of judicial power and urged Southerners to lawfully resist desegregation.²⁰ To combat this hostility, African Americans formed direct action organizations such as the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC, 1957) and the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC, 1960). These groups sought political, social, and economic rights for African Americans. SCLC’s primary aim was “achieving full citizenship rights, equality, and the integration of the Negro in all aspects of American life” through non-violent direct action and civil disobedience.²¹

SCLC’s initial leadership was heavily comprised of ministers of Black religious institutions. In many Black communities, church was the dominant institution with ministers having much

¹⁶ Maude Jackson, “Perry County Negro Activities,” *Marion Times-Standard*, March 4, 1954, p. 6 (newspapers.com).

¹⁷ “Library for Negroes To Be Opened May 8,” *Marion Times-Standard*, May 6, 1943, p. 8 (newspapers.com)

¹⁸ James Kaetz, “Lincoln School,” *Encyclopedia of Alabama*.

¹⁹ Burnes, “From Pre-Civil War to Post-Civil Rights.”

²⁰ “Civil Rights in America: Racial Voting Rights,” A National Historic Landmarks Theme Study (National Park Service, 2007, revised 2009); Carroll Van West, “The Civil Rights Movement in Selma, Alabama, 1856-1972,” National Register of Historic Places Multiple Property Documentation Form (Washington, DC: U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service, 2013).

²¹ Burnes, “From Pre-Civil War to Post-Civil Rights,” 192-193 (quoting King).

Marion Courthouse Square Historic District (Additional Documentation)

Perry County, Alabama

Name of Property

County and State

strength. SCLC recognized the power of the churches to provide organization resources and mobilization messaging.²² Sermons connected religious meaning to that of nonviolent action promoted by SCLC and SNCC. SCLC established organizational affiliates, most commonly individual churches or community organizations.

During the Jim Crow era, Perry County was well-known for its harsh voter registration process that disenfranchised many African Americans. According to a release from the Southern Regional Council of Atlanta in 1956, there were 6,351 non-white people over 21 years of age in Perry County, but only about 300 registered Black voters.²³ Hence only 4.7% of the eligible non-white voting population were registered. Similar statistics were found throughout Alabama, where whites made up 70% of the state's population over 21 in 1956, but they constituted 94% of the registered voters.²⁴ The voting registration process in Alabama was highly subjective, with unreasonable requirements to disenfranchise African Americans. For instance, Black applicants needed a registered voter to vouch for them and tell how many words were in the U.S. Constitution prior to registering.²⁵ On another occasion, African American applicants were told the Perry County Board of Registrar's office was closed while simultaneously a group of white voters were registered in a separate section of the Marion courthouse.²⁶

The Voting Rights Movement in Marion

Given the commitment of white Southerners to retaining political power and minimizing black enfranchisement and the increasing pace of the civil rights movement, the Eisenhower administration crafted the 1957 Civil Rights Act, which focused on African American voting rights. The bill authorized the Justice Department to seek civil injunctions to block discriminatory practices by Southern registrars and created a Civil Rights Commission to investigate civil rights infractions.²⁷ However, the 1957 Act did not significantly impact black voter registration rates. In some states, the rate declined due to harsh responses by Southern elected officials.²⁸ Given the ineffectiveness of the 1957 Act and a newfound Democratic Congressional majority, a second Civil Rights Act was drafted to strengthen suffrage rights. The 1960 Act mandated the preservation of election records, allowed records to be examined by the Justice Department, and gave Federal courts the authority to appoint a voter referee who could reconsider rejected applications.²⁹ Many civil rights activists still saw the federal statutes as inadequate.

In 1962, the Department of Justice (DOJ) sought an injunction against the Perry County Board of Registrars, testing the effectiveness of the 1957 and 1960 Civil Rights Acts, which allowed for the appointment of a federal voting referee to physically register voters in places where a pattern of discrimination was apparent. The DOJ claimed that the Board "used higher standards in

²² Allison Calhoun-Brown, "Upon This Rock: The Black Church, Nonviolence, and the Civil Rights Movement," *PS: Political Science and Politics* 33, no. 2 (2000): 170.

²³ C.G. Gomillion, "The Negro Voter in Alabama," *Journal of Negro Education* 26, no. 3 (Summer 1957): 281-282.

²⁴ Gomillion, "The Negro Voter in Alabama," 280.

²⁵ Bertis Deon English, "Civil Wars and Civil Beings: Violence, Religion, Race, Politics, Education, Culture, and Agrarianism in Perry County, Alabama, 1860-1875" (Ph.D. diss., Auburn University, 2006), 23.

²⁶ *Ibid.* 23.

²⁷ "Civil Rights in America: Racial Voting Rights."

²⁸ Van West, "The Civil Rights Movement in Selma."

²⁹ "Civil Rights in America: Racial Voting Rights."

Marion Courthouse Square Historic District (Additional Documentation)

Perry County, Alabama

Name of Property

County and State

examining Negroes than it did for white persons seeking to register as voters.”³⁰ The DOJ found the Board failed to process applications in a timely fashion, notify applicants of reasons for rejection, and register all applicants who met age, citizenship residency, character, reading, and writing requirements. In November 1962, Federal Judge Daniel Thomas ordered the Board to cease these practices. Unfortunately, Thomas’s decree to review applications in a “timely” matter was vague and allowed the Board of Registrars to evade the order. Still, the order provided hope for potential black voters in Perry County.

In the early 1960s, African Americans in Perry County began organizing community groups, such as the Rising Star Association and the Perry County Civic League, to oppose voter registration oppression. Albert Turner and Reverend A. Edward Banks of the Civic League led voter registration drives following the DOJ suit. Seeing limited successes, they started a letter-writing campaign to Federal Judge Thomas, showcasing that the Board of Registrars was not following his mandate. A divisive state and local election cycle in 1962 solidified the need for proper voting rights for African Americans in Perry County.³¹ The governor and U.S. Senate races employed racial rhetoric to encourage platforms of status quo, Southern rights, and excluding black Alabamans from public arenas.

The Rising Star Association and the Perry County Civic League were natural partners of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC) and the Student Non-Violent Coordinating Committee (SNCC). The SCLC recognized the Perry County Civic League as an affiliate group in 1962. These national organizations sent field organizers to Alabama’s Black Belt, including Selma in Dallas County in February 1963 and Marion in Perry County in January 1965. The national organizations concentrated in Alabama due to its low amount of African American registered voters; only 23% of eligible voters were registered.³²

The Rising Star Lodge Hall was the initial base for SCLC and SNCC planning in Perry County, but the base eventually moved to Zion Chapel Methodist Church on Marion’s courthouse square. Because he was not a longtime resident of Perry County and could expect to be dispatched to a new church within a few years, Reverend Lionel Langford was more willing to open his church to mass meetings than ministers who had extensive local connections and were more vulnerable to local economic pressures.³³ Soon after Rev. Langford offered the use of Zion Chapel Methodist Church, the meetings at the church became almost nightly events.³⁴

In 1965, SNCC’s and SCLC’s concentrated work in Selma, just 25 miles southeast of Marion, heightened tensions in Marion. Reverend Martin Luther King, Jr. arrived in Selma on January 2, sparking greater enthusiasm for the cause among Black residents in the region. King was familiar with this region of Alabama as his wife, Coretta Scott King, hailed from Marion. In late January 1965, George Bess of SNCC distributed circulars about events and meetings at Marion’s Lincoln High School located southwest of the Marion town center. SNCC targeted their organizing with students as many Black adults faced threats of losing jobs by participating in protests. Following

³⁰ “County Registrars Are Summoned by Justice Department,” *Marion Times-Standard*, October 25, 1962.

³¹ English, “Civil Wars and Civil Beings,” 238.

³² Burnes, “From Pre-Civil War to Post-Civil Rights,” 173-176.

³³ Congregation member Mary Moore provided this insight into why Rev. Langford was more willing than other local ministers to use the church building for civil rights gatherings.

³⁴ Jack Mendelsohn, *The Martyrs: Sixteen Who Gave Their Lives for Racial Justice* (New York: Harper & Row, 1966), 138.

Marion Courthouse Square Historic District (Additional Documentation)

Perry County, Alabama

Name of Property

County and State

a series of public protests in January 1965, February saw an explosion of demonstrations. On February 1, three hundred African Americans filed out of Zion United Methodist Church, marched to the Perry County Courthouse, and attempted to register to vote. Later that day, a group of Black students performed a sit-in at Neely Theater in the whites-only main gallery on the first floor. The next day eighteen students skipped school to sit at the counter at the Korner Café. While the restaurant served the students, they refused to leave at closing time. The police were called and charged the students along with Bess of SNCC with trespassing. This event caught the attention of the media.

On February 3, over 700 students walked out of the Lincoln School in protest. For the next three weeks, the students boycotted school. The police arrested 547 students on delinquency charges and corralled them temporarily within the yard of the Perry County Jail. A majority of students were bussed to Camp Selma, a state prison just outside of Selma. Parents protested after their children's arrest, and 173 parents were arrested on February 4 for failure to disperse.³⁵ The adults were huddled in the Perry County Jail yard following their arrests, as the jail could not handle the number of arrests.³⁶ For the next two weeks, a cycle of protests, kneel-ins, and nightly mass meetings at Zion Chapel Methodist Church occurred in Marion without any further arrests. During this time period Martin Luther King Jr. made multiple appearances at Zion United Methodist, speaking to crowds of almost 400. The FBI informed Marion Police Chief T.O. Harris that there was a direct connection between the increased rate of, and attendance at, the meetings at Zion Chapel Methodist Church and the SCLC activity in Dallas and Perry Counties.³⁷

The Events of February 18, 1965

On February 18, the pace increased. Hundreds of students marched in the morning and again in the afternoon from Zion Chapel Methodist Church, the active gathering space of civil rights leaders in Marion, across Pickens Street to the County Courthouse. Police arrested SCLC organizer Reverend James Orange on February 18, 1965, for "disorderly conduct" and "contributing to the delinquency of minors" and held him in the Perry County Jail. The local community and neighboring civil rights leaders were outraged over Orange's arrest, and some even feared that he could be lynched.³⁸ The media and law enforcement officials caught wind that SCLC was organizing a nighttime march, the first of its kind in Alabama. Marion and Perry County authorities called in Alabama State Troopers, led by Colonel Al Lingo, as a backup. Nearby, Sheriff James Clark of Dallas County also brought his squad after many civil rights supporters left Selma to participate in the Marion demonstrations. This outside help changed Marion Police Chief T.O. Harris' earlier non-interference policy towards protestors. That night, a mass meeting was held at Zion Chapel Methodist Church with C.T. Vivian of SCLC speaking. The 500 attendees exited the church following the speech with plans to march the short distance to the Perry County Jail and sing freedom songs in tribute to Orange.

Unfortunately, the marchers did not make it far down Pickens Street before Police Chief Harris ordered them to disperse. Due to the group's sheer size, they could not retreat promptly. Some

³⁵ Burnes, "From Pre-Civil War to Post-Civil Rights," 219-220.

³⁶ Louis Menand, "Voting Rights and the Color of Law: Voting Rights and the Southern Way of Life.," *The New Yorker*, July 8, 2013, sec. A Critic at Large.

³⁷ Burnes, "From Pre-Civil War to Post-Civil Rights," 213.

³⁸ Pete Candler, "It Was a Place of Infamy," *Southern Cultures*, Art & Vision, 26, no. 2 (March 2019).

Marion Courthouse Square Historic District (Additional Documentation)

Perry County, Alabama

Name of Property

County and State

marchers stopped to pray. This pause prompted the Alabama State Troopers to surge forward and violently attack the peaceful protestors. The lack of visibility in the darkness increased the chaos. Some protestors, such as Reverend Dobynes, a local Baptist minister, and George Baker, a white college student of SCLC, were arrested and hauled to the Perry County Jail.³⁹ Some of the protestors were able to seek shelter in Mack's Café behind Zion. The Jackson family -- Cager, Viola, Emma Jean, and Jimmie Lee -- retreated to the café, but soon the police surged inside. Jimmie Lee Jackson sought to protect his grandfather and mother from the violence when a white Alabama State Trooper, James Fowler, shot him at point-blank range in the stomach.⁴⁰ Jackson was severely wounded.

The Marion hospital was not equipped to perform a blood transfusion, so he was rushed to Good Samaritan Hospital in Selma. King visited Jackson in the hospital a few days later, then spoke at Zion Chapel Methodist in the evening.⁴¹ Due to the delay in medical attention, he developed a fatal infection. Jimmie Lee Jackson passed on February 26 at age 25. At least ten other protestors were severely injured at the hands of law enforcement officials and were hospitalized. Throngs of white bystanders also beat some reporters and photographers, damaging much of their equipment and lessening the amount of media attention the Marion event received.

Lasting Effects

Jimmie Lee Jackson had two funeral services on March 3, one in Selma and one in Marion, with over 4,000 total attendees. Reverend Martin Luther King Jr. gave the eulogy at the Marion service, held at Zion United Methodist Church. Over 400 attendees filled the church, with 600 others gathering outside the church. Reverend King attributed Jackson's murder to "the irresponsibility of every politician from governors on down who has fed his constituents the stale bread of hatred and the spoiled meat of racism."⁴² The service concluded with the singing of "We Shall Overcome." Many of the mourners followed the hearse down Alabama Highway 14, past Mack's Cafe, to the small, wooded dirt cemetery on Alabama Highway 183 that became Jackson's final resting place.⁴³

Reverend Ralph Abernathy of SCLC preached the memorial sermon for Jackson at Brown's Chapel AME Church in Selma. The two funeral sermons portrayed Jackson as a martyr for the Civil Rights Movement. Also, during his speech, King endorsed SCLC organizer James Bevel's idea of a march four days later to the capital of Montgomery to lay their grief and grievances before Governor Wallace.⁴⁴ It was initially proposed to carry Jackson's body to the governor's mansion, but that idea was discarded. The finalized plan was to march from Selma to Montgomery beginning on Sunday, March 7. Over 200 Perry County residents participated in the effort.⁴⁵ State troopers and sheriff's deputies violently broke up the march, an event known

³⁹ Mendelsohn.

⁴⁰ Roy Reed, "Memorial Service Honors Negro Slain in Alabama Rights March," *The New York Times*, March 1, 1965, Fowler claimed self-defense as the cause of the shooting, however this has been heavily disputed over the years.

⁴¹ Gary May, *Bending Towards Justice: The Voting Rights Act and the Transformation of American Democracy* (New York: Basic Books, 2013), 79.

⁴² Charles E. Cobb, *On the Road to Freedom: A Guided Tour of the Civil Rights Trail* (Chapel Hill, N.C.: Algonquin Books of Chapel Hill, 2008).

⁴³ Burnes, "From Pre-Civil War to Post-Civil Rights."

⁴⁴ Reed, "Memorial Service Honors Negro Slain in Alabama Rights March"

⁴⁵ Van West, "The Civil Rights Movement in Selma."

Marion Courthouse Square Historic District (Additional Documentation)

Perry County, Alabama

Name of Property

County and State

universally as “Bloody Sunday.” The march gained much notoriety from the intense police violence encountered. The media attention in Selma prompted President Lyndon B. Johnson to call for voting rights legislation on March 15 on national television. Within two weeks, the Voting Rights Act bill was before Congress, and it passed the Senate by 79 to 18 and the House by 328 to 74.

The Voting Rights Act of 1965 was a civil rights watershed event. Signed into law by Johnson on August 6, 1965, the law prohibited discriminatory voting practices based on race. On August 20, federal examiners were sent to Perry County to assist African Americans registering to vote. Cager Lee, Jimmie Lee Jackson’s grandfather, went to the county courthouse that day and successfully registered to vote at the age of 82. Within a month, over three thousand African Americans registered to vote in Perry County. By the end of 1965, Black voters outnumbered white voters in fifteen counties in Alabama’s Black Belt. The protests in Marion on February 18 and Jimmie Lee Jackson’s death were clear catalysts for the Selma to Montgomery March, which was a major turning point in the local struggle for voting rights and the national Civil Rights Movement.

Perry County Jail and Zion Chapel Methodist Church after 1965

The Perry County Jail continued to serve as a detainment facility until the 1980s. The county built the new James Hood Detention Center two lots to the north of the former jail. Although memorial plaques and informational signage have been erected on the site to commemorate its civil rights history, the building has sat vacant for over thirty years. In 2018, Beyond Fifty Years, a local nonprofit group, received a \$500,000 African American Civil Rights Grant from the National Park Service to rehabilitate the Perry County Jail to a voting rights museum.

Zion Chapel Methodist Church continues to serve an active congregation.

Marion Courthouse Square Historic District (Additional Documentation)
Name of Property

Perry County, Alabama

County and State

9. Major Bibliographical References

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Marion Courthouse Square Historic District (Additional Documentation)

Perry County, Alabama

Name of Property

County and State

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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): _____

Marion Courthouse Square Historic District (Additional Documentation)
Name of Property

Perry County, Alabama
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property N/A (see Verbal Boundary Description)

Use either the UTM system or latitude/longitude coordinates

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates

Datum if other than WGS84: _____

(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

- | | |
|--------------|------------|
| 1. Latitude: | Longitude: |
| 2. Latitude: | Longitude: |
| 3. Latitude: | Longitude: |
| 4. Latitude: | Longitude: |

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

The affected resources are within the boundaries of the Marion Courthouse Square Historic District.

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

N/A

11. Form Prepared By

name/title: Hanna Stark

organization: The Center for the Preservation of Civil Rights Sites, Weitzman School of Design, University of Pennsylvania

street & number: 304 Duhring Wing, 234 South 34th Street

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date: March 21, 2022

Marion Courthouse Square Historic District (Additional Documentation)
Name of Property

Perry County, Alabama
County and State

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Maps:** A **USGS map** or equivalent (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO, TPO, or FPO for any additional items.)

Photographs

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels (minimum), 3000x2000 preferred, at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map. Each photograph must be numbered and that number must correspond to the photograph number on the photo log. For simplicity, the name of the photographer, photo date, etc. may be listed once on the photograph log and doesn't need to be labeled on every photograph.

Photo Log

Name of Property: Marion Courthouse Square Historic District Additional Documentation

City or Vicinity: Marion

County: Perry County State: Alabama

Perry County Jail

Photographer: Belinda Stewart Architects

Date Photographed: May 3, 2019

- 1 of 34. Perry County Jail, west elevation.
- 2 of 34. Perry County Jail, south and west elevations.
- 3 of 34. Perry County Jail, south elevation.
- 4 of 34. Perry County Jail, south and east elevations.
- 5 of 34. Perry County Jail, east elevation.
- 6 of 34. Perry County Jail, east and north elevations.

Marion Courthouse Square Historic District (Additional Documentation)
Name of Property

Perry County, Alabama
County and State

- 7 of 34. Perry County Jail, north and west elevations, showing noncontributing object (monument) in foreground.
- 8 of 34. Perry County Jail, detail of entrance, looking east.
- 9 of 34. Perry County Jail, interior, first floor, looking east from entrance towards foyer.
- 10 of 34. Perry County Jail, interior, first floor, SW corner office, looking SW.
- 11 of 34. Perry County Jail, interior, first floor, main hall, looking north.
- 12 of 34. Perry County Jail, interior, first floor, east hall, looking south.
- 13 of 34. Perry County Jail, interior, first floor, SE jail cell, looking SW towards main hall.
- 14 of 34. Perry County Jail, interior, first floor, jail cell, looking east towards east hall.
- 15 of 34. Perry County Jail, interior, first floor, visitation room, looking east towards east hall.
- 16 of 34. Perry County Jail, interior, stairs to second floor, looking west from stair landing.
- 17 of 34. Perry County Jail, interior, second floor, north hall, looking west.
- 18 of 34. Perry County Jail, interior, bunk cell, looking east.
- 19 of 34. Perry County Jail, interior, east (small) day room, looking NE.
- 20 of 34. Perry County Jail, interior, NW (large) day room, looking NE.

Zion Chapel Methodist Church

Photographer: Theo M. Moore, II, Alabama Historical Commission
Date Photographed: March 4, 2022

- 21 of 34. Zion Chapel Methodist Church, west (front) and south elevations, with adjacent post office in background left.
- 22 of 34. Zion Chapel Methodist Church, west (front) and north elevations, showing noncontributing monument.
- 23 of 34. Zion Chapel Methodist Church, south elevation, showing 1990 addition on right.
- 24 of 34. Zion Chapel Methodist Church, north elevation of church (on R) and north and east (rear) elevations of 1990 addition (on L).
- 25 of 34. Zion Chapel Methodist Church, east (rear) elevation of 1990 addition.
- 26 of 34. Zion Chapel Methodist Church, west (front) elevation, showing noncontributing sign and detail of entrance.
- 27 of 34. Zion Chapel Methodist Church, interior, vestibule, looking south.
- 28 of 34. Zion Chapel Methodist Church, interior, looking east from vestibule towards sanctuary.

Marion Courthouse Square Historic District (Additional Documentation)
Name of Property

Perry County, Alabama

County and State

- 29 of 34. Zion Chapel Methodist Church, interior, sitting room and bathroom, looking south.
- 30 of 34. Zion Chapel Methodist Church, interior of sanctuary, looking SE from balcony.
- 31 of 34. Zion Chapel Methodist Church, interior of sanctuary, looking west towards main entrance and balcony.
- 32 of 34. Zion Chapel Methodist Church, interior, north wall of sanctuary, showing apse and wood windows.
- 33 of 34. Zion Chapel Methodist Church, interior, sanctuary, looking NE, showing dais with pulpit, communion table, and lectern.
- 34 of 34. Zion Chapel Methodist Church, interior of 1990 addition, looking south along original exterior wall of the historic church.

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for nominations 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.). We may not conduct or sponsor and you are not required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number.

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for each response using this form is estimated to be between the Tier 1 and Tier 4 levels with the estimate of the time for each tier as follows:

Tier 1 – 60-100 hours
Tier 2 – 120 hours
Tier 3 – 230 hours
Tier 4 – 280 hours

The above estimates include time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and preparing and transmitting nominations. Send comments regarding these estimates or any other aspect of the requirement(s) to the Service Information Collection Clearance Officer, National Park Service, 1201 Oakridge Drive Fort Collins, CO 80525.

Marion Courthouse Square Historic District (Additional Documentation)
Name of Property

Perry County, Alabama
County and State

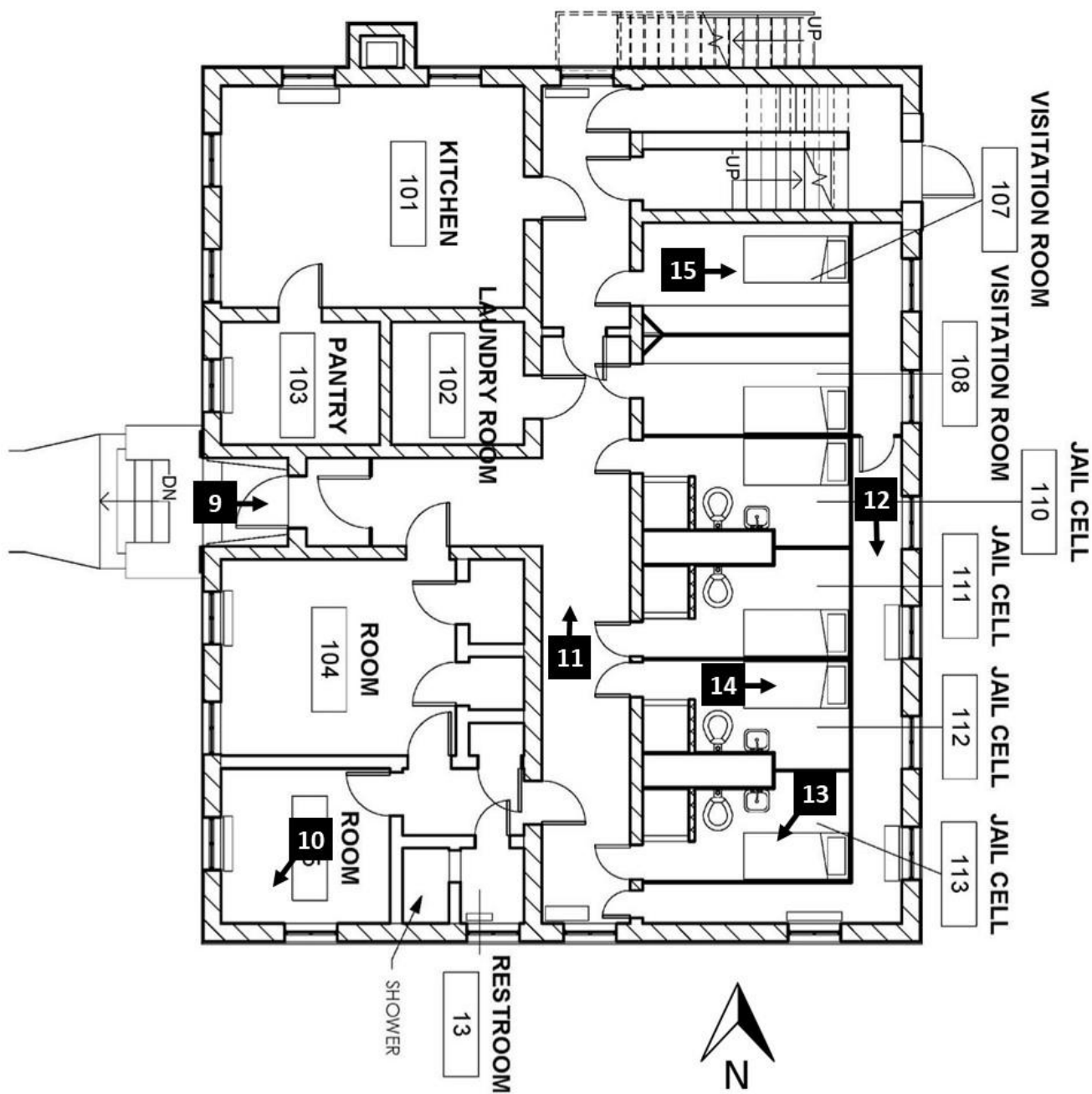
Location Map & Exterior Photo Key



Marion Courthouse Square Historic District (Additional Documentation)
Name of Property

Perry County, Alabama
County and State

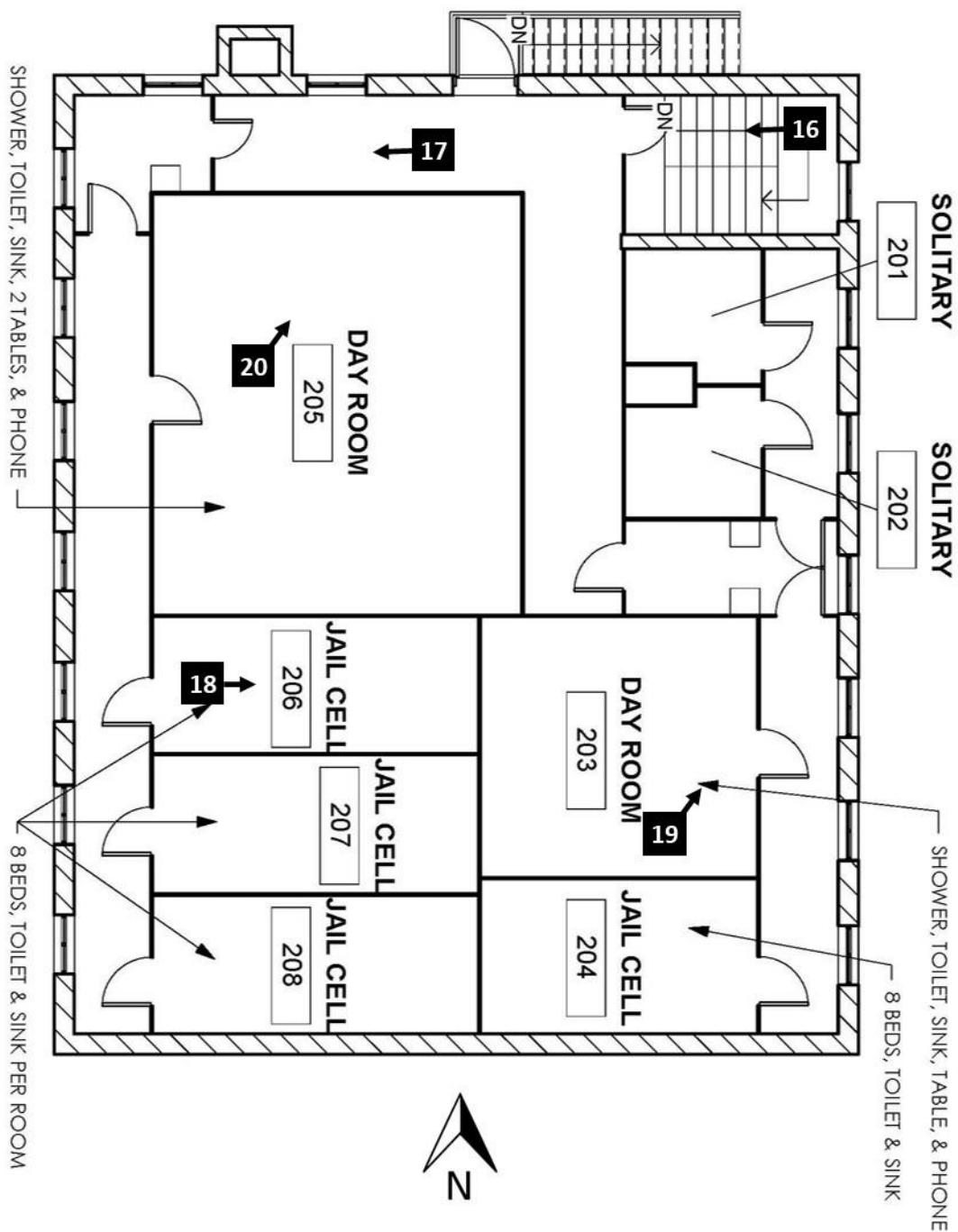
Perry County Jail: First-Floor Plan and Photo Key



Marion Courthouse Square Historic District (Additional Documentation)
Name of Property County and State

Perry County, Alabama

Perry County Jail: Second-Floor Plan and Photo Key



Marion Courthouse Square Historic District (Additional Documentation)

Perry County, Alabama

Name of Property

County and State

Zion Chapel Methodist Church: Floor Plan and Photo Key

