

STATE OF ALABAMA

ALABAMA HISTORICAL COMMISSION
725 MONROE STREET
MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA 36130
PHONE: 832-6621



ALABAMA INVENTORY AND WORKSHEET FOR LANDMARKS

COUNTY Butler

PRESENT NAME Lomax-Hannon Junior College HISTORIC NAME A.M.E. Zion Theological Institute

LOCATION (Street and number) Conecuh Street

TOWN (Give directions if rural) Greenville

PRESENT USE Educational Institution HISTORIC USE Educational Institution

OWNERSHIP: Public () Private (x) Public acquisition being considered ()

OWNER'S NAME Lomax-Hannon Junior College

MAILING ADDRESS P. O. Box 366

Greenville, AL

CONDITION: Excellent () Good () Fair (x) Ruins ()

INTEGRITY: Original Site (x) Moved () When? _____

From where? _____ Give details in significance.

THREATS: No () Yes (x) By What? Original building in need of repairs

RESTORATION WORK: Being considered (x) Underway () Completed () Not planned ()

SURROUNDING ENVIRONMENT: Open land (x) Woodland () Scattered buildings ()
High building density () Commercial () Industrial ()
Residential (x) Rural ()

If there are numerous buildings in the area, could this structure be part of a Historic District?

SIGNIFICANCE: Why is this important (x) associated with events, persons, or movements
Local (x) State () National ()
() a good example of a type or style of structure
() other

Explain: (Expand on the significance of the building. If architecturally significant, give details being very specific. Additional data on what aspects of the community's development the building represents, or a specific event, trend or person related to the building's importance.)

ZION THEOLOGICAL BUILDING
LOMAX-HANNON JR. COLLEGE
GREENVILLE, BUTLER COUNTY

Listed on the Alabama Register of Landmarks and Heritage, the Zion Theological Building is the only remaining early structure of the Lomax-Hannon Industrial High School which was established in 1893 by the A.M.E. Zion Church to provide higher education for blacks in Butler and the surrounding counties.

The structure dates from 1911 and served both as a boy's dormitory and as classrooms for theological students. During the early decades of this century, the building also served to house delegates to the Tuskegee Institute-conducted farmers conferences held in Butler County.

The two-story brick structure, which has a medium pitched hipped roof, arched window heads and a brick entrance tower, has lost the original dormer windows and tower roof and has suffered some interior remodeling. School officials wish to restore the structure as a physical link with the history of black education in Alabama.

A.M.E. ZION THEOLOGICAL INSTITUTE

BUTLER COUNTY

The Lomax- Hannon Junior College, located in Greenville, was founded by the A.M.E. Zion Church to aid in the education of the black youth of the state. Founded in 1893 by Bishop J. W. Alstork and several A.M.E. ministers as the Lomax-Hannon Industrial High School, the school served as the only high school for blacks in Butler County.

Today the school is completely modern and only one of the original structures remain, the Theological Building which also served as a boys' dormitory. The building is a two-story brick structure with a hipped roof. Now, in need of extensive repairs, the building has been altered. Originally there were dormers on three sides of the roof and a pyramidal roof topped the main entrance, but these have all been removed.

In 1898 the present site of the school was purchased. Since it was the only high school for blacks in the vicinity, children came from miles to school, many needed a place to stay, so dormitories were constructed. In 1909 the girls' dormitory was completed and in 1911 one for the boys. This boys' dormitory, also known as the Theological Building, had classrooms on the first floor and dormitory space on the upper floor. Many ministers of the A.M.E. Zion Church got their foundations for the ministry at this school.

Also known as the A.M.E. Zion Theological Institute it was the site for several Butler County Farmer's Conferences. These meetings were held in many southern counties of Alabama in the early decades of this century. Professor W. M. Rakestraw, manager of the farms at Tuskegee presided over these conferences.

Lomax-Hannon Junior College reflects the development of the education of the Blacks from the educational fundamentals to the advanced studies offered there today.

While our Founding Father's were still busy in the effort to spread the borders of the A.M.E. Zion Church, they early discovered the necessity of founding and organizing^a school for our youth.

In 1893 Bishop J. W. Alstork and some ministers founded Lomax-Hannon Industrial High School (now Lomax-Hannon Junior College) in Greenville, Alabama. At this time there were no high schools in Butler or surrounding counties for Negro children. The present sight was purchased in 1898. Since it was the only high school in this vicinity, children came from miles around to attend this school. It was very necessary that dormitories be built for boys and girls. Since they had no capital these dedicated men put their time and energy in raising funds to build these much needed dormitories. They worked diligently from 1898 to 1909 before they had money enough to complete the girls' dormitory; and until 1911 before the boys' dormitory or Theological Building was completed. The first floor of this building was used to teach theology. Here many ministers of the church got their foundation for the ministry. Several rooms on this floor were used as class rooms also. The upper story was used as a dormitory for boys for many years.

During the early decades of this Century Tuskegee Institute
Conducted Farmers Conferences in many southern counties of

Alabama. When Butler County Farmer's Conference for the Negro Farmers met at Lomax-Hannon this dormitory was used to house the delegates. Professor W. M. Rakestraw, manager of the farms at Tuskegee presided over these conferences once each year.

For many years young men have lived in this building. Some received a foundation for higher education and learned to be useful citizens of our country. Now because of lack of funds and need of repairs this building has lost its usefulness. Our young men students are temporarily living in another building. This building is needed far more now than it was in 1911.

LOMAX-HANNON JUNIOR COLLEGE

P. O. BOX 366
GREENVILLE, ALABAMA 36037

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

October 29, 1975

Mr. Warner Floyd, Executive Director
Alabama Historical Commission
725 Monroe Street
Montgomery, Alabama 36130

Dear Mr. Floyd:

This communication is in direct response to the telephone request of Ms. Mary L. Price of your office on Tuesday, October 22, 1975.

Mr. Flyod, Lomax-Hannon Junior College of Greenville, Alabama is very proud to present the A.M.E. Zion Theological Institute Building for your consideration as an historic site worthy of restoration. This building is the oldest building, still standing, in Greenville and Butler County orginally built for educational use.

Attached please find photographs of the building and a historic review of its service to Greenville, Butler County and the State of Alabama. Additional records and authentication is enroute to us by mail. This information will be forwarded when received.

In prayful anticipation of the Commission's affirmative response.

Very sincerely,



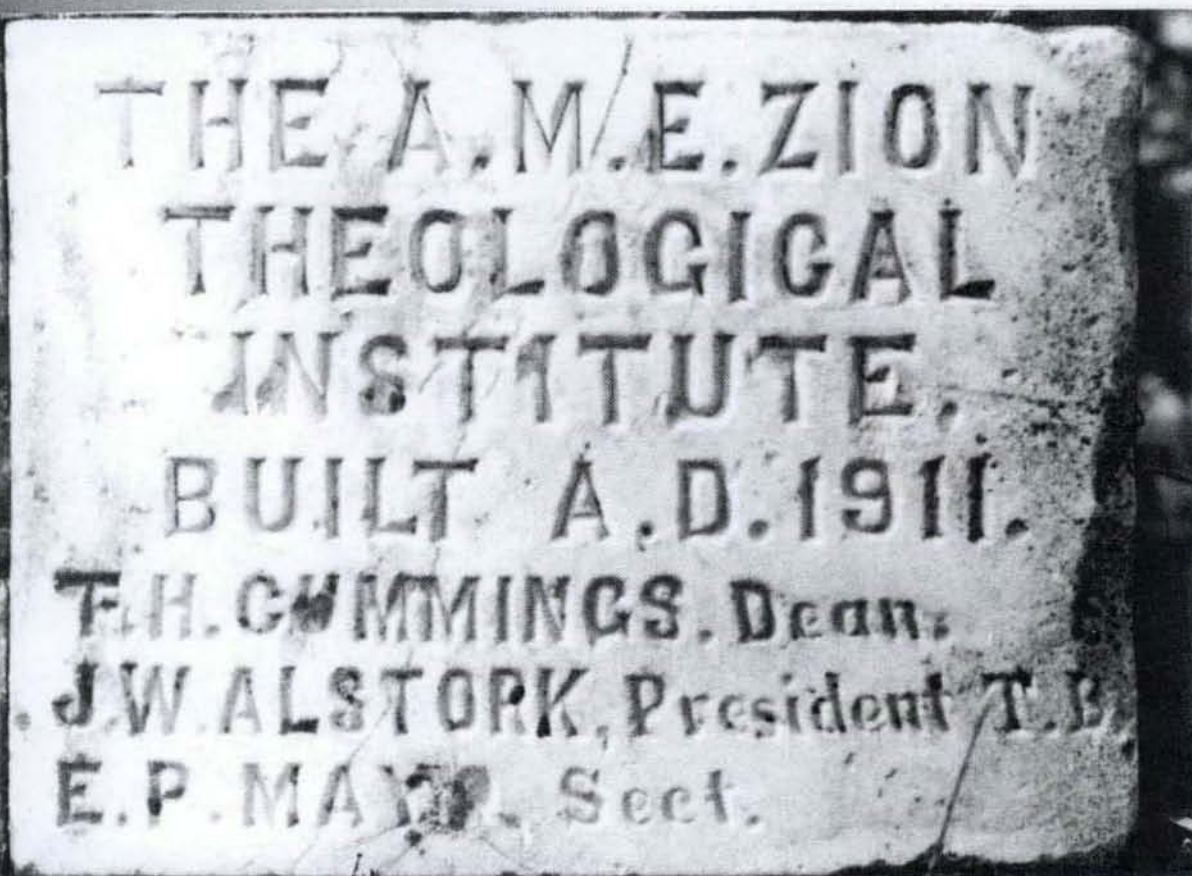
C. Mifflin Smith
President

CMS/dph
Enclosures

LOMAX-HANNON
JUNIOR COLLEGE
GREENVILLE, ALA.
AME ZION
THEOLOGICAL
INSTITUTE
(1975 PHOTO)



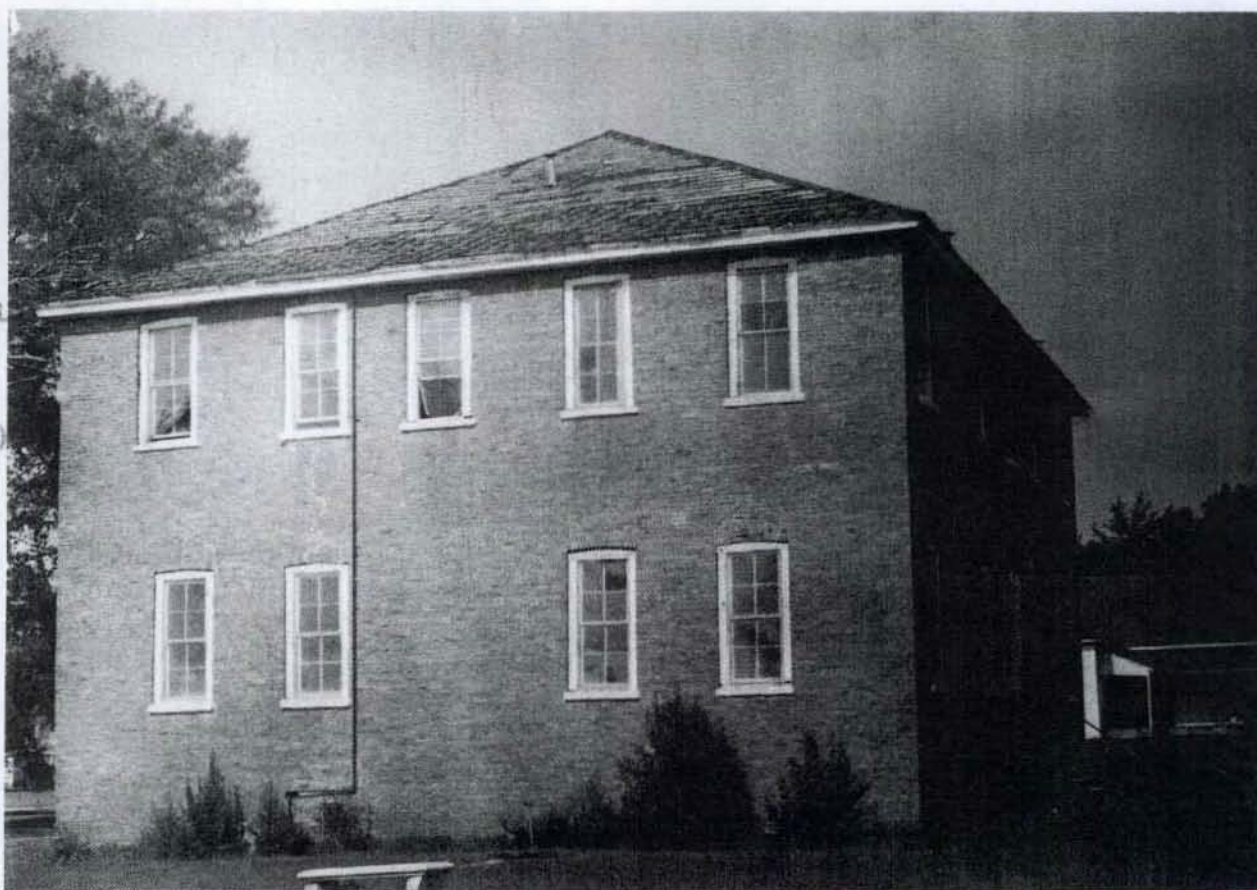
LOMAX-HANNON
JUNIOR
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NORTHEAST
VIEW: AME ZION
THEOLOGICAL
INSTITUTE
CORNERSTONE
GREENVILLE,
ALABAMA



LOMAX-HANNON
JUNIOR COLLEGE
GREENVILLE, ALA
AME ZION
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(1975 PHOTO)



AME ZION
THEOLOGICAL
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(1975 PHOTO)



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1.4 MI TO ALA 185

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(GREENVILLE WEST)

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