

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

For NPS use only
received _____
date entered _____

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

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

1. Name

historic Mount Zion United Methodist Church

and/or common

2. Location

street & number North side of SR 1503, 0.1 mile east of
the jct. with SR 1624 N/A not for publication

city, town Crabtree vicinity of ~~congressional district~~

state North Carolina code 037 county Haywood code 087

3. Classification

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

4. Owner of Property

name Mount Zion Church Administrative Board
Mr. John Rogers, Chairman

street & number Route 1, Box 266A

city, town Clyde N/A vicinity of state North Carolina 28721

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Registry of Deeds

street & number Haywood County Courthouse

city, town Waynesville state North Carolina 28786

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Haywood County Historic Sites Survey has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date 1982-83 federal state county local

depository for survey records N.C. Division of Archives and History, Western Office

city, town 13 Veterans Drive
Asheville, state North Carolina 28805

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		date _____

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Mt. Zion United Methodist is a small rural church located in the valley of Crabtree Creek, a remote and beautiful farming section of northern Haywood County in the mountains of western North Carolina. Built in 1883, the brick structure is probably the oldest church building in Haywood County, and though its form is typical of gable-front rural churches throughout the state, nineteenth century brick churches are rare in the mountain region, and the quality of its brickwork and detail is unusual.

The church has been altered significantly during three separate rehabilitation projects undertaken since 1950, but its rare early brickwork and portions of its original sanctuary detailing remain basically intact. The nomination takes as its boundary the legal boundary of a small, .4 acre tract owned by the church and occupied solely by the church structure.

The original church building is three bays wide and four deep. Brick is laid in 1:6 common bond. On the gable front elevation, the lower brick face is recessed slightly behind the plane of the surrounding wall, giving the impression of a long horizontal panel containing the entrance with corner posts at either end. The entrance was reworked in the mid-twentieth century, with the two separate doors typical of Methodist churches replaced with one central double-leaf door flanked by small one-over-one sash windows with stained glass.

The windows of the side bays have segmental arch heads and are filled with one-over-one sash windows with stained glass, which like that of the front windows was installed about 1952.

The roof, which is covered with asphalt shingles, overhangs the gable ends, where there are boxed returns. A simple, two-part frieze (not original) carries across each side elevation beneath the narrow, boxed cornice, but does not continue with the returns into the gable ends.

A small, three-part steeple was placed above the entrance at the gable peak during a 1984 rehabilitation project. It replaced a small, louvered belfry that had been on the building since early in this century.

The interior of the sanctuary has been altered with the addition of twentieth century pews and furnishings and by the introduction of exposed roof "trusses" (not functional) which conceal tie rods added in 1984 to prevent spreading of the brick side walls. However, the diagonal sheathing in the shallow apse, the arched frame around the apse opening, and the turned balustrade screening the pulpit area behind the altar are all original to the building.

In 1981 a Sunday School annex was added behind the church, with the congregation making a conscious effort complement the older building without overpowering it, distracting from it, or replicating it. This gabled brick structure is set back from the church on an axis perpendicular to the church roofline. It is attached to the back of the church with a narrow enclosed hallway. The windows of the new building have segmental arch heads to mimic those of the old sanctuary building, though they are wider and are fitted with twin windows.

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/ humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

Specific dates 1883 **Builder/Architect** Abner and Joe Shank (?) and others

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

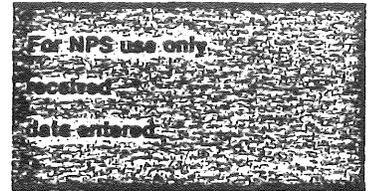
Mount Zion United Methodist Church houses one of the oldest active congregations in Haywood County and is probably the oldest church building remaining in the county. With labor provided by members of the congregation, the brick structure was erected in 1883 near the site of a mid-nineteenth century log building, now lost, which served as the first church. The simple, sturdy, gable front building stands in an unspoiled mountain valley and survives as a rare western North Carolina example of a nineteenth-century rural brick church. Though sustaining significant alterations both interior and exterior during three separate rehabilitation projects undertaken since 1950, the building's nineteenth-century brickwork and portions of its interior detailing survive.

Criteria Assessment:

- A. Associated with the nineteenth century religious development of rural western North Carolina.
- C. Embodies characteristics of traditional nineteenth century gable-front church buildings in western North Carolina, here executed in brick with some modern alterations.

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The Mt. Zion United Methodist Church is one of Haywood County's oldest continually active congregations. The present building was completed in 1883, near the site of the original 1850 structure. It is located in the Crabtree community, near the town of Clyde, in northeastern Haywood County.

Haywood County was formed in 1808 from Buncombe County. From the county's inception Methodism has had a strong influence. The first frame house in the county, that built by Jacob Shook, had a room which served as a place of Methodist worship.¹ The Mt. Zion Church, originally called Mount Zion Methodist Episcopal Church, South, was organized around 1850, and a log church was built on land donated to the congregation by Joseph McCracken.² The Crabtree community which houses the congregation was, and is, a rural community, with most of its residents employed in farming and the raising of livestock. Many of its early settlers were of Scotch origin, but as the Presbyterian church maintained a relatively low profile in the area, the more evangelical Methodists and Baptists were able to make many converts. Like Haywood's other antebellum Methodist churches Mt. Zion was largely served by "circuit riders" who divided their duties among a number of congregations.³

The congregation of Mount Zion replaced its log church with a new brick building in 1883. The new church was located only yards from the older one, on land donated by Joseph Marcus Lafayette "Mark" McCracken, a local Confederate hero, and grandson of Joseph McCracken.⁴ The building was perhaps the first brick building in the Crabtree community. For many years after its construction it was simply known as "The Brick Church."⁵ The church's trustees at the time of the construction of the new church were Winfield Ferguson, J. T. Kirkpatrick, and A. T. Rogers.⁶

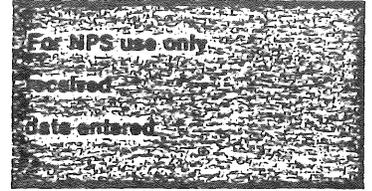
Mount Zion's largest enrollment came in the latter part of the nineteenth century. In the 1890s around 40 people attended worship services, while 30 attended the Sunday school founded in 1894 by J. T. Kirkpatrick. At this time Crabtree was one of Haywood's most populous townships, with over 1,200 people in 1900. In this century the township has declined in population, with a consequent decline in church membership.⁷

Despite this decline in membership the church has been kept in good repair. In 1907 a bell was contributed to the church by Ben Kirkpatrick, who died a short time afterwards of tuberculosis contracted during the Spanish-American War. In 1915 the church foundation was repaired. During that same year new pews were added. In the 1930s the first church (log) building was torn down and the site was turned into a parking lot. In 1952 stained glass windows replaced the clear windows, while new doors were added. In recent years the church congregation has added new pews and pulpit furniture, a new piano, a new heating system, and a new cross for the steeple.⁸ Construction is underway for a new fellowship hall, while a centennial celebration was scheduled for 1983. Dr. George Schreyer is the pastor, splitting his duties among Mount Zion, Davis Chapel, and Crabtree Methodist churches.⁹

Although it has never been a particularly large church Mount Zion's congregation has kept its church in good repair. Most of the church's membership comes from

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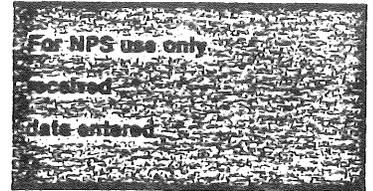


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families who have worshipped at Mount Zion for several generations. "Many old families of the area are tied to the church history, and those of present generations continue to go there even though they live outside the Upper Crabtree community."¹⁰ Mount Zion is a thriving example of the small community church so important to the religious development of Haywood County.

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FOOTNOTES

¹W. Clark Medford, The Middle History of Haywood County (Waynesville, North Carolina: N.p., 1968), 66-68, hereinafter cited as Medford, Middle History; W. C. Allen, The Annals of Haywood County, North Carolina (Waynesville, North Carolina: N.p., 1935), 216-219, hereinafter cited as Allen, Annals of Haywood County.

²Frances Rogers, "Mount Zion United Methodist Church: A History, 1850-1890," Unpublished manuscript, copy in file, 13, 22-25, hereinafter cited as Rogers, "Mount Zion." Haywood County Deed Book F, p. 447.

³Medford, Middle History, 68; Allen, Annals of Haywood County, 216-220; Rogers, "Mount Zion," 13-15.

⁴Rogers, "Mount Zion," 4-6, 18-21; Haywood County Deed Book V, p. 319; Book Y, p. 420. McCracken served as a courier for Generals Ransom and Clingman during the war. He was captured and wounded on at least one occasion. His escape on horseback made him a hero. After the war he served as a county commissioner, and was an influential backer of a number of civic movements, including the establishment of an agricultural fair for the county.

⁵Rogers, "Mount Zion," 5.

⁶Haywood County Deed Book V, p. 319.

⁷Rogers, "Mount Zion," 5-8; Medford, Middle History, 49.

⁸Rogers, "Mount Zion," 8-10; Waynesville Mountaineer, December 17, 1980.

⁹Rogers, "Mount Zion," 8. Waynesville Mountaineer, December 17, 1980.

¹⁰Waynesville Mountaineer, December 17, 1980.

9. Major Bibliographical References

See continuation sheet

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property .4 ± acres

Quadrangle name Clyde, N.C.

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UMT References

A

1	7	3	2	7	5	3	0	3	9	4	1	6	0	0
Zone		Easting				Northing								

B

Zone		Easting				Northing								

C

Zone		Easting				Northing								

D

Zone		Easting				Northing								

E

Zone		Easting				Northing								

F

Zone		Easting				Northing								

G

Zone		Easting				Northing								

H

Zone		Easting				Northing								

Verbal boundary description and justification

See attached plat. Boundary of nominated property outlined in red.

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

state	N/A	code	county	N/A	code
-------	-----	------	--------	-----	------

state	code	county	code
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11. Form Prepared By

name/title Michael T. Southern, Survey Specialist
Jim Sumner, Researcher

organization Survey and Planning Branch
Archaeology and Historic Preservation Section date

street & number North Carolina Division of Archives and History
109 E. Jones Street telephone (919) 733-6545

city or town Raleigh, state North Carolina

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national state local

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

State Historic Preservation Officer signature William J. Pringle

title State Historic Preservation Officer date December 6, 1985

For NPS use only

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

date

Keeper of the National Register

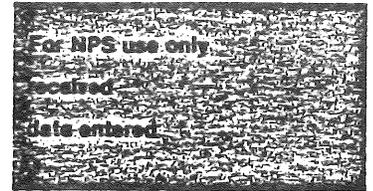
Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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Continuation sheet

BIBLIOGRAPHY

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Allen, W. C. The Annals of Haywood County, North Carolina. Waynesville, North Carolina. N.p., 1935.

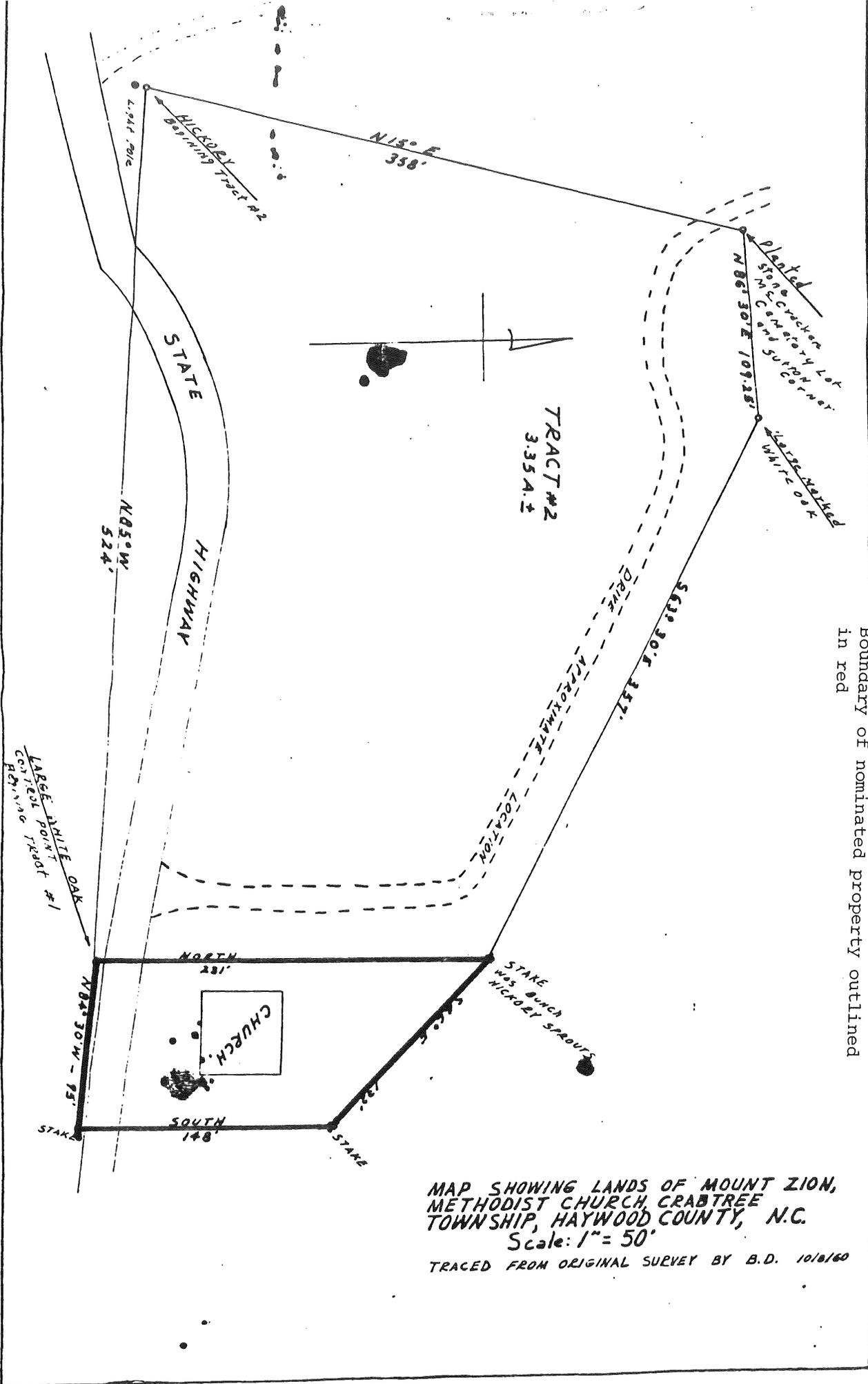
Haywood County Deed Books. Microfilm copies. Raleigh: Division of Archives and History.

Medford, W. Clark. The Middle History of Haywood County. Waynesville, North Carolina: N.p., 1968.

Rogers, Frances. "Mount Zion United Methodist Church: A History, 1850-1980." Unpublished manuscript. Copy in file.

Waynesville Mountaineer. December 17, 1980.

Mt. Zion United Methodist Church
 Haywood County
 Boundary of nominated property outlined
 in red



MAP SHOWING LANDS OF MOUNT ZION,
 METHODIST CHURCH, CRABTREE
 TOWNSHIP, HAYWOOD COUNTY, N.C.
 Scale: 1" = 50'

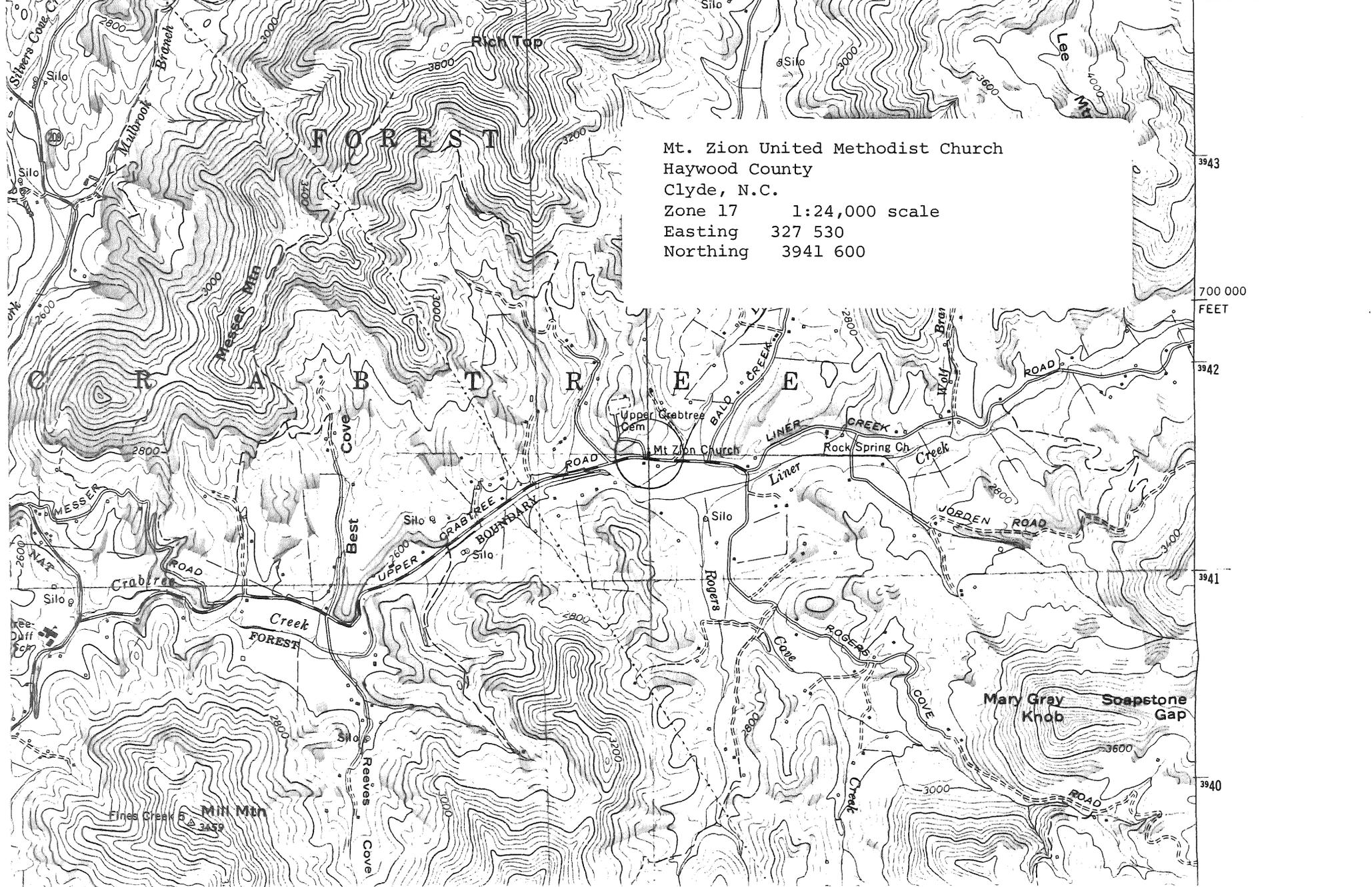
TRACED FROM ORIGINAL SURVEY BY B.D. 10/8/60

UNITED STATES
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY
TOPOGRAPHIC BRANCH

CLYDE QUADRANGLE
NORTH CAROLINA-HAYWOOD CO.
7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC) 183-SW

(SANDY MUSH 183-NE)
445 III NE

183-NW 325 326 55' 327 840 000 FEET 328 329 330 82° 52' 30" 35° 37' 30"



Mt. Zion United Methodist Church
Haywood County
Clyde, N.C.
Zone 17 1:24,000 scale
Easting 327 530
Northing 3941 600

3943
700 000
FEET
3942
3941
3940

