



Internal Rating: _____

WEST VIRGINIA HISTORIC PROPERTY INVENTORY FORM

Street Address Hite Road, S side	Common/Historic Property Name/ Both Zion Baptist Church	Field Survey # Jefferson County 2005-2006 Survey No. 307	Site # (SHPO Only) JF-0735
Town or Community Johnsontown	County Jefferson	Negative No. Jefferson County 2005-2006 Survey Roll 22, Negative 13	NR Listed Date n/a
Architect/Builder unidentified	Date of Construction c. 1898	Style other church	
Exterior Siding/Materials weatherboard	Roofing Material standing-seam metal	Foundation stone	
Property Use or Function Residence Commercial Other <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	UTM # 18/250773/4358308		
Survey Organization & Date Taylor & Taylor Associates, for the Jefferson County Historic Landmarks Commission, 2005-2006	Quadrangle Name & Date Middleway, WV		
Part of What Survey/FR# Jefferson County 2005-2006 Survey			

Sketch Map of Property
or Attach Copy of USGS Map

See Survey Report



Present Owners	Owner's Mailing Address
Phone #	
Describe Setting	_____ Acres
This property is located in rural Jefferson County, in the unincorporated village of Johnstown. The community cemetery associated with the church is east of the building and was surveyed separately (Survey Site No. 308).	
Description of Buildings or Site (Original and Present)	_____ 1 _____ Stories _____ 3 _____ Front Bays
One-story vernacular building of wood construction with gable roof and gable-end orientation, with an open sided pyramidal roofed belfry on the facade. Fenestration is flat-topped, with four bays along each side and three bays on the facade. Some windows retain original exterior operable shutters.	
(Use Continuation Sheets)	
Alterations <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No If yes, describe	
Additions <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No If yes, describe	
Describe All Outbuildings	
None	
(Use Continuation Sheets)	
Statement of Significance	
Johnstown was established by free African Americans who were brought to Jefferson County as slaves in the 1720s by German Quakers homesteading with Joist Hite but were immediately released upon their arrival. They went on to be servants for Hite and his companions and founded Johnstown, the only free African-American community in Virginia prior to the Civil War. The settlement grew from a 14-acre grant given to George W. Johnson and his wife, Betsy, from Thomas Hite. A school operated in the village from 1876-1933 and this church was erected in the Spring of 1898 at the urging of the Rev. Chester Wainwright, pastor of the Wainwright Baptist Church in Charles Town. The church is now used only occasionally, particularly for once-yearly homecomings. Johnstown appears eligible for the National Register as a historic district under Criterion A for its association with <i>ethnic heritage</i> and this building would be a contributing element in such a district; it also appears individually eligible.	
(Use Continuation Sheets)	
Bibliographical References	
See Survey Report	
(Use Continuation Sheets)	
Form Prepared By:	Date: July, 2006
Name/Organization: David L. Taylor, Principal, Taylor & Taylor Associates, Inc.	
Address: 9 Walnut Street	
Brookville, PA 15825	
Phone #: 814-849-4900 e-mail: taylorandtaylorinc@adelphia.net	

West Virginia Division of Culture and History
State Historic Preservation Office

**WEST VIRGINIA HISTORIC PROPERTY FORM
CONTINUATION SHEET**

NAME Johnsontown Cemetery

SITE # Jefferson County 2005-2006 Survey No. 308



West Virginia Cemetery Survey Form

1. Site Number (OFFICE USE ONLY): JF- 308
2. Cemetery Name, Historic: Johnsontown Cemetery Cemetery Name, Common same
3. County: Jefferson 4.7.5' Quadrangle Name: Middleway, WV
5. UTM Zone: 18 Easting: 250824 Northing: 4358293
6. Location: S side, Hite Road
7. Ownership: Public: Municipal County _____ State _____ Federal _____
Private: Family _____ Church _____ Denomination _____
Fraternal _____ Other _____
8. Burial Population : _____
9. Predominant Surnames: _____
10. Mass Grave: Yes ___ No ___ Explain: Unknown
11. Public Accessibility: Unrestricted
Restricted _____
For permission to visit, contact: n/a
12. Access into Cemetery: By foot By car _____
13. Terrain: flat
14. Bounded by: Fence _____ Wall _____ Hedge _____ Other _____
15. Condition: Well maintained Poorly maintained _____ Overgrown, easily identifiable _____
Overgrown, unidentifiable _____ Unidentifiable, but known to exist through tradition or other means
(identify source) _____
16. Disturbances (describe): none apparent
17. Cemetery Size and Orientation (please give dimensions in feet, and indicate compass direction for long and short axis): _____
18. Historical Background (use continuation sheet if necessary):

The cemetery serving the historically African-American community of Johnsontown. Gravestones incorporate a variety of different tombstone forms, including the block, the tablet, and the obelisk. The cemetery contains the remains of members of the Johnson family and others who lived in the settlement over the decades. Johnsontown was established by free African Americans who were brought to Jefferson County as slaves in the 1720s by German Quakers homesteading with Joist Hite but were immediately released upon their arrival. They went on to be servants for Hite and his companions and founded Johnsontown, the only free African-American community in Virginia prior to the Civil War. The settlement grew from a 14-acre grant given to George W. Johnson and his wife, Betsy, from Thomas Hite. A school operated in the village from 1876-1933 and the Zion Baptist Church was erected in 1898 immediately west of the cemetery. Johnsontown appears eligible for the National Register as a historic district under Criterion A for its association with *ethnic heritage* and this site would be a contributing element in such a district; it may also meet Criterion Consideration D for cemeteries.

Site Number: _____ Cemetery Name: _____

19. Gravestones (Please list the number of gravestones that fit in the categories below. If this is a guess or an approximation, put "circa" before the number. Include photographs and/or sketches of representative decorative carvings.):

Number of headstones c. Number of burials _____ Footstones? Yes ___ No _____

Number of gravestones with burial dates from the 18th century _____ 19th century _____
20th century _____

Please list the earliest headstone date: c. 1760 Most recent date _____

Number of gravestones of each material: Slate _____ Marble ___ Granite ___
Sandstone _____ Fieldstone ___
Other _____

Number of gravestones with decorative carvings of: Skulls/Deathsheads _____
Faces _____ Urns/willows _____ Other (explain) _____

Number of gravestones that are: Readable _____ Eroded _____ Badly tilted _____
Cracked/broken ___ Broken but standing _____ Broken, no longer standing ___
Location of stones no longer standing _____

Restoration efforts, if any: _____

20. Please attach: 1) a copy of the topographic quadrangle map indicating the cemetery's location, and 2) general photograph(s) of the cemetery showing its setting and/or location. If you have any reference information about the cemetery (books, personal communication, etc.) please include a list.

Recorder: David L. Taylor, Principal Date: July, 2006

Address: Taylor & Taylor Associates, Inc. Telephone Number: 814-849-4900
9 Walnut Street
Brookville, PA 15825

Please return form to:

Historic Preservation Office
The Cultural Center
1900 Kanawha Boulevard East
Charleston, West Virginia 25305-0300

Thank you for your interest in the West Virginia
Cemetery Survey.