
DOWNTOWN OCALA HISTORIC WALKING TOUR

MT. ZION AME CHURCH

623 S MAGNOLIA AVE, OCALA, FL 34471

After the Civil War, the Florida AME church branch was organized. With the help of circuit riding preachers, AME churches began emerging all over the state.

Ocala's Mt. Zion AME Church was originally built in 1866 as a wood frame structure. In 1891, Revered J.W. Dukes raised the largest amount of money at that time in a rally in Ocala, \$832, and began building the current Mt. Zion AME Church. The church's male members labored daily on the construction and the female members brought meals to them in lunch pails.

The current brick church featuring a historic bell replaced the former wooden structure. The auditorium style building was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1979. Mt. Zion AME Church is the only remaining brick religious structure from the 1800s in Ocala.



Mt. Zion c.1915



Mt. Zion Cornerstone

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