

LOCAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES NOMINATION

Please note: Form should be completed by property owner with assistance from Historic Preservation Board members and Manager of Historical Resources

Date application is submitted to Historic Preservation Board:

Section I – Application Information

1. Proposed Resource Name: Union Missionary Baptist Church
2. Resource Address: 404 Warfield Avenue North
3. Subdivision: Edgewood Block: _____ Lot: _____
4. Legal Description: COM AT THE NW COR OF BLK 205 EDGEWOOD SEC OF VENICE TH W 10 FT TH N 178 FT FOR POB TH CONT N 100 FT TH E 100 FT TH S 100 FT TH W 100 FT TO POB

Obtain legal description of property from Sarasota County Appraiser’s Office.

Click on link to obtain information: <http://www.sc-pa.com/propertysearch>

5. Type of Resource to Be Nominated (circle one):

Building
 Site
 Object

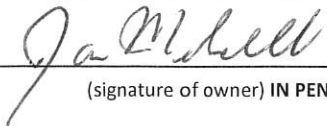
Owner(s) information:

Name(s): Union Missionary Baptist Church of Venice, Inc. c/o Rev. J C Sims

Address(es): 404 Warfield Avenue North, Venice Florida 34285

Telephone Number(s): 941-480-9753

E-mail: _____



 (signature of owner) IN PEN

 (signature of owner) IN PEN



City of Venice
Historic Preservation Board



Section II – Nominating Criteria

Check nomination criteria with Manager of Historical Resources against Venice Code of Ordinances Section 86-28 – Historic Preservation – Part C -2 “Local Register of Historical Resources- Criteria for listing on local register” Link to Venice Code of Ordinances:

https://library.municode.com/fl/venice/codes/code_of_ordinances?nodeId=SPBLADERE_CH86LADEC_O_ARTIADREAU_S86-28HIPR

1. To qualify for the Local Register of Historic Places, the resource must possess an integrity of location, design, materials, workmanship or association, and must meet at least one of the following criteria (mark all that apply):

- Are associated with distinctive elements of cultural, social, political, economic, scientific, religious, prehistoric and architectural history that have contributed to the pattern of history in the community, the city, the state or the nation;
- Are associated with the lives of persons significant in past history;
- Embody the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, style or method of construction or work of a master; or possess high artistic value; or represent a distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction;
- Have yielded or are likely to yield information in history or prehistory;
- Are listed individually in the National Register of Historic Places;
- Are characterized as a geographically definable area possessing a significant concentration, linkage or continuity of historically, architecturally or culturally significant sites, buildings, objects or structures united by past events or aesthetically by plan or physical development; or
- Are characterized as an established and geographically definable neighborhood, united by culture, architectural style or physical plan and development.

2. Supporting documentation:

You can research your property and search for appropriate supporting documentation by making an appointment at the Julia Cousins Laning and Dale Laning Archives & Research Center -phone them at (941) 716-7255 or email at archives@venicefl.gov. Also obtain assistance from the Historical Resources Manager or Historic Preservation Board members as needed.

Attach as many pages as necessary to discuss significant aspects of the criteria selected above. The information presented should make a convincing argument for listing the resource on the local register. To obtain supporting information begin with the paperwork provided by the bank, mortgage company, title company and previous owner from the most recent sale of the resource. Researching the chain of title through county transfer documents can provide a list of



Section III – Historical and Architectural Information

This information is important to qualify a structure as representing characteristics of a particular architectural style or period. Attach additional sheets if necessary.

1. Architect (if known): John Modifer
2. Builder (if known): Rev. Joseph Doughrty
3. Construction date: 1955
4. Restoration date(s): 2005
5. Overall style of the structure: Gothic Vernacular
6. Structural system: Masonry or poured concrete load-bearing walls.
7. Roof (type and surfacing): Hip roof with asphalt shingles
8. Exterior material: Stucco
9. Foundation (type and material): Concrete slab
10. Window type(s): 1 over 1 double-hung windows
(double or single hung, casement, awning, jalousie, fixed, etc.)
11. Modification date(s): 1961, 2005

a. If altered, briefly describe the type and degree of major alterations (new doors, modern windows, aluminum siding, etc.). Please be as specific and objective as possible. Attach additional sheets if necessary.

1961 – Education and recreation wings added to south and east side of building.

2005 – Accessible bathrooms added to front (west) side of building.

b. Move date: _____

c. Original use: Church

Local Register of Historic Places Nomination, Sec. II, 2

404 Warfield Avenue North

The Union Missionary Baptist Church (UMBC) is the last remnant of what had been for decades the Negro or Blackburn Quarters in the City of Venice. Its significance rests in the important role this church played for the community and as its sole representation of an important, but often overlooked, piece of Venice history.

Since the building of Venice by the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers in the 1920s, the area east of the train depot housed the African-American community. The George Fuller Construction Company built barracks there for its Black labor. As early as 1934, a Baptist church supported this community. By at least the early 1950s there was a UMBC housed in a portion of one of the old barracks. However, on March 16, 1953 a devastating fire consumed a couple of buildings in the quarters, including the church.

The congregation and its pastor, the Reverend Joseph W. Daughtry were forced to move services to Laurel. A year later, Albert E. Blackburn—who owned the land called the Negro Quarters, offered to donate a parcel at the quarters for a new church. In addition, architect John Modifer of the firm Cyril and Tucker donated plans, maps, and blueprints and local builder Ed Henne donated the surveying. Daughtry and his church members elected to build the church themselves and began Thanksgiving Day of 1954. Throughout the city, businesses and organizations donated money and materials to build the church. Both the *Venice Gondolier* and the *Sarasota Herald-Tribune* held fundraising campaigns. Other churches, such as the First Baptist Church and the Venice-Nokomis Presbyterian Church also raised funds to help them. Daughtry—who along with being a reverend was also a mason and bricklayer—built most of the church himself.

The original edifice of the building measures 25 x 41 feet. It is of cinder block construction with stucco walls and a gabled, asphalt shingle roof. The original front façade included windows above the front entrance whose off-centered lites formed a cross. The building includes room for 100 parishioners, a choir stand, pastor's study and a choir changing room. The windows are all 1 over 1 double hung. Although not yet completed, the church was dedicated Easter Sunday 1955. Members of City Council and pastors from local churches all came to support the new church building. Churchgoers, both Black and White, joined in singing sacred music in honor of the occasion.

The church became part of the active social community in the quarters. From the beginning, the church held an annual woman's day program that invited women from all the churches in Venice to come and participate. Annual speakers included Ethel Blalock, wife of former Venice mayor James. UMBC also worked with the Venice-Nokomis Woman's Club to host a Christmas party for the children in the quarters. This work would eventually lead to the creation of a community center and the formation of the non-profit Venice Negro Library Center in November 1959. The church partnered with the Center and the Venice –Nokomis Woman's Club to provide a playground for the children.

After Daughtry's departure in 1959, the parishioners asked Reverend James Sims to lead them. Under his leadership, groundbreaking took place for an expansion in November 1960. At a cost of \$1,500, its purpose was to serve as a recreation, dining, and education space. Less than a year later the new

extension opened to a crowd of nearly 300 attendees. The addition included a dining, recreation, and school area measuring 15 by 36 feet on the south side and another wing on the east side for a kitchen, lounge, and restrooms measuring 12 by 20 feet. Sarasota Lodge 314 Free and Accepted Masons laid the cornerstone.

During the decade, the church performed many services for the community. Working with the Sarasota Community School program, the Church hosted basic education courses for adults in reading, writing, arithmetic, and citizenship. In 1961, the church became one of the founding organizations of the Laurel-Venice Civic Council. The Council was established to better improve conditions in the Laurel and Venice Quarters. UMBC was often the site for weddings and funerals for the African-American community in Venice, Laurel, and even Sarasota. Both its regular and youth choirs frequently performed at area concerts, including Christmas shows at the Venice-Nokomis Bank. Reverend Sims and the church often assisted in larger community campaigns, such as the World Day of Prayer, Cancer Sunday, and fundraising events for local police and firefighters. In 1967, the church began hosting an annual banquet for the Charlotte Star Chapter No. 205, Order of the Eastern Star. The annual event aided the Order in meeting its mission of making a positive difference in the world. The church ended the decade assisting Sarasota United Need (SUN) by offering the church facilities for information on job training and placement as well as housing information. This partnership would also provide summer recreation programs for youth at the Sarasota YMCA.

By the mid-1970s, there were big changes and challenges for the church and the Negro Quarters. As the City's reverse osmosis plant completed construction and subsequent operation near the church, the parishioners had to deal with regular noise, mud, odors, and flooding. A proposal to swap land and give the church property near the Grove Terrace Low-Income Housing Project failed to pan out. High costs, the inability to physically move the church, and the concern of spending taxpayer dollars on the project meant the church was staying put. Even assistance from the Venice Ministerial Association could not help. The church remained put as the Blackburn Quarters was dismantled and residents moved to the new low-income housing project of Grove Terrace.

The church continued to attempt negotiations with the City to either move the church or build a new church further away from the water treatment plant and closer to some of its flock in the low-income housing. Then in 2003, a raw sewage flood forced the church to relocate temporarily services to the Chamber of Commerce and City Hall. With repair work came the final major renovation of the church, which included the addition of accessible bathrooms in the front of the building, covering up the original façade, including the cross formation in the window. The parishioners and the City celebrated the reopening of UMBC with a service at City Hall followed by a march down Venice Avenue to the church.



Union Missionary Baptist Church front façade showing 1961 addition (right) and 2005 addition (front).



Detail of steeple where cross lites have been covered by addition.



Architectural rendering of church from October 28, 1954 Venice Gondolier,

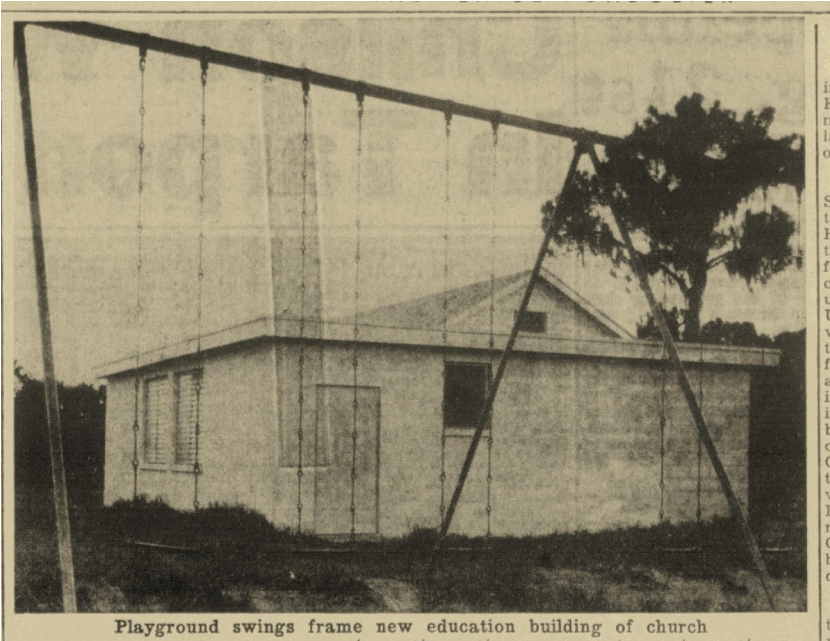
Cornerstone laying dedication plaque for 1961 addition.



Laying of the cornerstone for the education addition by Sarasota Lodge 314 Free and Accepted Masons. Rev. J.C. Sims stands left of the marble stone.

IMPRESSIVE ceremonies mark the laying of the cornerstone for the new educational building of the Union Missionary Baptist Church in Venice last Sunday afternoon. In this photograph, the Rev. J. C. Sims, of Laurel, pastor of the church, poses proudly at left of the marble stone while members of Sarasota Lodge No. 314, Free and Accepted Masons, help consecrate it. The others, left to right, are W. N. Tarpley, of Tampa; L. W. Williams, of Sarasota; Deacon Raymond Brown Jr., chaplain of the lodge; Deacon Alexander Lanier, of Sarasota, and Preston Rainey, of St. Petersburg. (ALL GONDOLIER PHOTOS)

Rear view of church showing 1961 addition.



Playground swings frame new education building of church

Education addition shown in August 10, 1961 Venice Gondolier.