

Texas Historical Commission staff (BB), 11/5/2008, rev 11/25/08  
27" x 42" Official Texas Historical Marker with post  
Bastrop County (Job #08BP02) Subject (Atlas) UTM: 14 000000E 0000000N  
Location: Bastrop

### **MT. OLIVE BAPTIST CHURCH**

AFRICAN AMERICAN CITIZENS OF BASTROP ESTABLISHED MT. OLIVE BAPTIST CHURCH IN 1874, FIRST MEETING IN A BRUSH ARBOR. AFTER A SHORT TIME, MARY FRANCIS HANDLY DONATED LAND AND A SMALL SANCTUARY WAS BUILT, WITH A SPLIT CEDAR LOG PEW FOR THE CONGREGATION. THIS HOUSE OF WORSHIP SERVED THE COMMUNITY UNTIL 1895, WHEN A SMALL FRAME SANCTUARY WAS BUILT. ELM GROVE SCHOOL WAS ESTABLISHED IN 1897, WITH BEN CLAYTON, F.W.R. THORNE AND ABE YANCEY AS TRUSTEES. THE RURAL SCHOOL ENUMERATED 89 PUPILS AND SHARED THE SAME FRAME BUILDING AS MT. OLIVE. SOON THE FRAME SANCTUARY ALSO PROVED TOO SMALL FOR THE GROWING CHURCH.

UNDER THE LEADERSHIP OF REVEREND H.W. LUCKETT (1874-1924), MT. OLIVE PURCHASED THREE ACRES AT THIS SITE FROM JIM FRANKLIN IN 1909 FOR A NEW CHURCH PROPERTY. TRUSTEES GEORGE BROOKS, SAMUEL FRANKLIN THORNE AND HENRY BARNETT BOUGHT THE ACREAGE FOR THIRTY DOLLARS. MOUNT OLIVE EVERGREEN CEMETERY WAS ALSO ESTABLISHED ON THE LAND, JUST NORTHEAST OF THE CHURCH BUILDING. IN 1912, TRUSTEES ABE YANCEY, TOM ANDERSON AND F.W.R. THORNE BOUGHT AN ADDITIONAL ACRE FROM SAMUEL FRANKLIN THORNE AND BUILT AN ADDITION PERPENDICULAR TO THE SANCTUARY AS A DEDICATED CLASSROOM. CLASSES CONTINUED AT ELM GROVE UNTIL 1957, WHEN THE SCHOOL CONSOLIDATED WITH BASTROP.

THE 1909 SANCTUARY IS A FRONT GABLED RECTANGULAR PLAN BUILDING WITH AN OFFSET ENTRANCE AND SPIRE, SHIPLAP SIDING AND PEAKED WINDOWS. THE 1912 ADDITION, BUILT PERPENDICULAR TO THE CHANCEL, IS SIDE GABLED WITH BANKS OF DOUBLE-HUNG WINDOWS AND BOARD AND BATTEN SIDING. THE CHURCH HAS CONTINUED TO SERVE THE COMMUNITY AS A CORNERSTONE OF WORSHIP AND SOCIAL ACTIVITIES.

RECORDED TEXAS HISTORIC LANDMARK – 2008

MARKER IS PROPERTY OF THE STATE OF TEXAS

**RECORDED TEXAS HISTORIC LANDMARK MARKERS:  
2008 Official Texas Historical Marker  
Sponsorship Application Form**

Valid November 1, 2007 to January 15, 2008 only

This form constitutes a public request for the Texas Historical Commission (THC) to consider approval of an Official Texas Historical Marker for the topic noted in this application. The THC will review the request and make its determination based on rules and procedures of the program. Filing of the application for sponsorship is for the purpose of providing basic information to be used in the evaluation process. The final determination of eligibility and therefore approval for a state marker will be made by the THC. This form is to be used for Recorded Texas Historic Landmark (building marker) requests only. Please see separate forms for either Historic Texas Cemeteries or subject markers.

**Proposed marker topic** (official title will be determined by the THC): **Mt Olive Baptist Church**

**County:** **Bastrop**

**Town** (nearest county town on current state highway map): **Bastrop**

**Street address of marker site or directions from town noted above:** **250 Mt. Olive Rd., Bastrop**

**NOTE:** Recorded Texas Historic Landmark markers must be placed at the structure being marked.

**Recorded Texas Historic Landmark markers definition:** Recorded Texas Historic Landmark (RTHL) markers are awarded to structures deemed worthy of preservation for their historical associations and architectural significance. RTHL is a legal designation and comes with a measure of protection; it is the highest honor the state can bestow on a historic structure, and the designation is required for this type of marker. The RTHL designation becomes effective upon approval by the THC. Official Texas Historical Markers signify the RTHL designation, which comes only through application to and approval by the THC and must include public display of an Official Texas Historical Marker. Owners of RTHL-designated structures must give the THC 60 days written notice before any alterations are made to the exterior of the structure. RTHL status is a permanent designation and is not to be removed from the property in the event of a transfer of ownership. Only the THC can remove the designation or recall the marker. The marker must remain with the structure and may not be removed or displayed elsewhere until or unless the THC gives express approval in writing for such action. Once designated as RTHL, properties are subject to provisions of Texas Government Code, Section 442.006(f).

**Criteria:**

1. **Age:** Structures eligible for the RTHL designation and marker must be at least 50 years old.
2. **Historical significance:** Architectural significance alone is not enough to qualify a structure for the RTHL designation. It must have an equally significant historical association, and that association can come from an event that occurred at the site; through individuals who owned or lived on the property; or, in the case of bridges, industrial plants, schoolhouses and other non-residential properties, through documented significance to the larger community.
3. **Architectural significance:** Structures deemed architecturally significant are outstanding examples of architectural history through design, materials, structural type or construction methods. In all cases, eligible architectural properties must display integrity; that is, the structure should be in a good state

of repair, maintain its appearance from its period of significance and be considered an exemplary model of preservation. Architectural significance is often best determined by the relevance of the property to broader contexts, including geography. Any changes over the years should be compatible with original design and reflect compliance with accepted preservation practices, e.g., the *Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation*.

4. **Good state of repair:** Structures not considered by the THC to be in a good state of repair are ineligible for RTHL designation. The THC reserves the sole right to make that determination relative to eligibility for RTHL markers.

**Special National Register considerations for RTHL marker applications:** If a structure has been individually listed in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) under either Criterion A or B and Criterion C (Architecture), the historical text compiled as part of the National Register nomination process may be submitted as part of the marker process, provided it includes the required reference notes and other documentation. Acceptance of the National Register information for the purposes of the marker process will be up to the sole determination of the THC. Listing in the NRHP does not guarantee approval for an RTHL marker. See the THC web site at <http://www.thc.state.tx.us/markerdesigns/madnrcrit.html> for National Register criteria.

## **APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS**

Any individual, group or county historical commission (CHC) may apply to the THC to request an Official Texas Historical Marker for what it deems a worthy topic. Only complete marker applications that contain all the required elements and are submitted online as required can be accepted or processed by the THC. For RTHL markers, the required elements are: sponsorship application form; narrative history; documentation; online map (see details below); site plan; floorplan; historic photograph; and current photographs clearly showing each side of the structure.

- Completed applications must be duly reviewed, verified and approved by the county historical commission (CHC) in the county in which the marker will be placed.
- The sponsorship application form, narrative history and documentation must be submitted as Microsoft Word or Word-compatible documents and sent via email attachments to the THC by no later than January 15, 2008.
- Required font style and type size are a Times variant and 12-point.
- Narrative histories must be typed in a double-spaced (or 1.5-spaced) format and include separate sections on context, overview, significance and documentation.
- The narrative history must include documentation in the form of reference notes, which can be either footnotes or endnotes. Documentation associated with applications should be broad-based and demonstrate a survey of all available resources, both primary and secondary.
- Applications for RTHL markers must include a current city or county map through TopoZone.com that clearly denotes the proposed marker location. Instructions for using TopoZone.com are available on the THC web site.
- Upon notification of the successful preliminary review of required elements by the THC, a non-refundable application fee of \$100 is required. The fee shall be submitted to the THC within ten working days of application receipt notification.

## **APPROVAL BY COUNTY HISTORICAL COMMISSION**

The duly appointed marker representative (chair or marker chair) noted below for the county historical commission will be the sole contact with the THC for this marker application. To ensure accuracy, consistency and efficiency, all information from and to the THC relative to the application—and throughout the review and production processes—will be via direct communication with the CHC representative. All other inquiries (calls, emails, letters) to the THC will be referred to the CHC representative for response. By filling out the information below and filing the application with the THC,

the CHC representative is providing the THC with notice that the application and documentation have been reviewed and verified by the CHC and that the material meets all current requirements of the Official Texas Historical Marker program.

**As chair or duly appointed marker chair, I certify the following:**

- Representatives of the CHC have met or talked with the potential marker sponsor and discussed the marker program policies as outlined on the THC web site. CHC members have reviewed the history and documentation for accuracy and made corrections or notes as necessary. It is the determination of the CHC that the topic, history and documentation meet criteria for eligibility.

**CHC comments or concerns about this application, if any: Since traditionally there is very little written documentation for rural black church, I am making this recommendation based on what they have. The congregation started with almost nothing a couple of years ago. What I am sending represents everything I was able to gather. I will try to get a site plan and a floor plan; however, I don't have them with this application.**

**Name of CHC contact** (chair or marker chair): Kay C. Wesson

**Mailing address:** 87 Loop 150 **City, Zip:** Bastrop, TX 78602

**Daytime phone** (with area code): 512-303-4441 **Email address** (required): kaywesson@remax-bastrop-tx.com

**PERMISSION OF PROPERTY OWNER FOR MARKER PLACEMENT**

**Property owner:** Mt Oliver Baptist Church % Church Secretary-Babbry McDonald

**Address:** 250 Mt. Olive Rd. **City, state, zip:** Bastrop, TX 78602

**Phone:** 512-321-6776 **Email address:** none

**Legal Description of the property** (metes and bounds, lot and block, etc.): 3 acres in the Nancy Blakey Abstract (described by metes & bounds in a deed dated 3/16/1909)

Upon receipt of the application, the THC will provide the owner with a letter that outlines the legal responsibility of ownership under the Recorded Texas Historic Landmark statute. The letter must be signed by the owner and returned to the THC before the evaluation can be completed.

**NOTE:** The property owner will not receive any additional copies of correspondence from the THC. [All other correspondence—notice of receipt, request for additional information, payment notice, inscription, shipping notice, etc.—will be sent via email to the CHC representative, who is encouraged to share the information with all interested parties as necessary.] Given the large volume of applications processed annually and the need for centralized communication, all inquiries about applications in process will be referred to the CHC for response. The CHC is the sole liaison to the THC on all marker application matters.

**SPONSORSHIP PAYMENT INFORMATION**

Prospective sponsors please note the following:

- Payment must be received in full within 45 days of the official approval notice and must be accompanied by the THC payment form. The THC is unable to process partial payments or to delay payment due to processing procedures of the sponsor. Applications not paid in the time frame required may, at the sole discretion of the THC, be cancelled or postponed.
- Payment does not constitute ownership of a marker; Recorded Texas Historic Landmark markers and other Official Texas Historical Markers are the property of the State of Texas.
- If, at any time during the marker process, sponsorship is withdrawn, a refund can be processed, but the THC will retain the application fee of \$100.
- The Official Texas Historical Marker Program provides no means of recognizing sponsors or property owners through marker text, incising or supplemental plaques.

**Marker sponsor** (may be individual or organization): Mt Olive Baptist Church

**Contact person** (if applicable): Kay Revetta

**Mailing address:** 120 B J Mayes Rd. **City, zip:** Bastrop, TX 78602

**Email address** (required): kay@license.state.tx.us **Phone: 512-475-2866 (Cell: 512-308-2607)**

**SHIPPING INSTRUCTIONS**

In order to facilitate delivery of the marker, neither post office box numbers nor rural route numbers can be accepted. To avoid additional shipping charges or delays, use a business street address (open 8 a.m.—5 p.m., Monday through Friday).

**Name:** Kay C. Wesson, Co. Chairman

**Street address:** 87 Loop 150 **City, zip:** Bastrop, TX 78602

**Daytime phone** (required): 512-303-4441 **Email** (required): kaywesson@remax-bastrop-tx.com

**TYPE AND SIZE OF RECORDED TEXAS HISTORIC LANDMARK MARKERS**

As part of its review process, the THC will determine the appropriate size marker and provide options, if any, for the approved topic based on its own review criteria, including, but not exclusive of, historical significance, replication of information in other THC markers, relevance to the Statewide Preservation Plan and the amount of available documented information provided in the application narrative. In making its determination, however, the THC will also take into account the preference of the CHC, as noted below.

The sponsor/CHC prefers the following size marker:

- 27" x 42" RTHL marker with post (\$1500)
- 27" X 42" RTHL marker without post\* (\$1500)
- 18" x 28" RTHL marker with post (\$1000)
- 18" x 28" RTHL marker without post\* (\$1000)
- RTHL medallion and 16" x 12" plaque with post (\$750)
- RTHL medallion and 16" x 12" plaque without post\* (\$750)

\*For an RTHL marker without post, indicate to what surface material it will be mounted:

- wood
- masonry

- metal
- other (specify)

**SUBMITTING THE APPLICATION (via email required)**

When the CHC has determined the application is complete, the history has been verified and the topic meets the requirements of the Official Texas Historical Marker Program, the materials should be forwarded to the THC via email at the following address: [markerapplication@thc.state.tx.us](mailto:markerapplication@thc.state.tx.us).

- The CHC or marker chair should send an email containing the following attachments (see attachment function under file menu or toolbox on your computer):
  - This application form
  - A TopoZone.com map of the proposed marker location
  - The narrative history (including documentation)

**RECORDS RETENTION BY CHC:** The CHC must retain hard copies of the application as well as an online version, at least for the duration of the marker process. The THC is not responsible for lost applications, for incomplete applications or for applications not properly filed according to the program requirements. For additional information about any aspect of the Official Texas Historical Marker Program, see the Markers page on the THC web site (<http://www.thc.state.tx.us/markerdesigs/madmark.html>).

MOUNT OLIVE MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH  
AND  
ELM GROVE COMMUNITY SCHOOL

## I. CONTEXT

Mount Olive Baptist Church has served the African American community as a place of worship for over 133 years and as an educational facility for the community from 1895-1957.

## II. OVERVIEW

Mount Olive Baptist Church was established in 1874<sup>1</sup> and was no more than a hut with a thatch roof. The need for a building was apparent. Due the generosity of Mary Francis Handly( mother of S.F. Thorne), a small piece of land was donated and a small church was built. The pew was constructed of split cedar logs with holes bored in each end for legs and the pulpit and rostrum were said to be poorly constructed.<sup>2</sup> However, it served the needs of the community. A second building was completed in 1895 and stood until 1909 when it too became too small to accommodate the needs of a growing community.

Under the leadership of Reverend H. W. Lockett, 3 acres were purchased that provided the present site of Mount Olive Baptist Church. The property was deeded to George Brooke, Sammie Thorne and Henry Barnett by Jim Franklin for the sum of \$30.00 cash in hand. It was originally part of 200 acres the belonged to the Nancy Blakely tract.<sup>3</sup>

## III. SIGNIFICANCE

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<sup>1</sup> Bastrop County Courthouse, Deed 45, pg 9 and 10

<sup>2</sup> Mt. Olive Centennial Yearbook, insert page

<sup>3</sup> Bastrop County Courthouse ,Deed 49, page 145,147,148

The Elm Grove School Community was established in 1895. County records show an enrollment of 89 students.<sup>4</sup> The sanctuary of the church would serve as a classroom until 1911. An addition to the building (a classroom) was completed in 1912<sup>5</sup> relieving the main sanctuary of its classroom duties and relegating them to what is the present day fellowship hall. Expansion was made possible by the purchase of an additional acre of land from S.F Thorne (son of Mary Handly Thorne) by Ab Yancy, Tom Anderson and F.W. R. Thorne Senior acting as trustees for the Elm Grove School for the sum of \$15.00.

Elm Grove School continued to serve as an educational facility until 1957 when Bastrop County mandated that rural educational facilities would be better served within the city limits. The church remained as a cornerstone of worship and community activities. Reverend L. J. Thorne is the present pastor.

In 2003, a choir room was built in memory of the late Corine Thorne (Rev. L. J Thorne's wife)<sup>6</sup>.

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<sup>4</sup> Bastrop County Courthouse webpage <http://www.rootsweb.com/~txbastro/schools1895.htm>

<sup>5</sup> Bastrop County Courthouse, Deed 49, pg 147

<sup>6</sup> Mt. Olive Missionary Baptist Church yearbook "130 years anniversary" pg 5

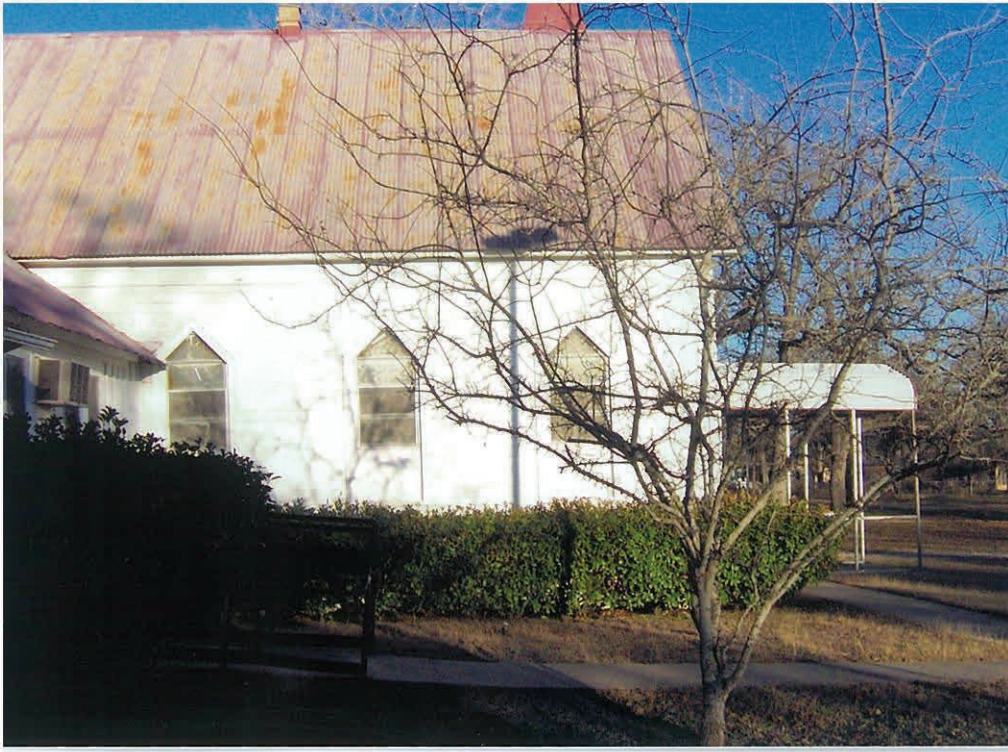




FRONT VIEW OF THE CHURCH—2007  
Mt Olive Baptist Church



Right side of the sanctuary showing the Choir room that was added in 2003

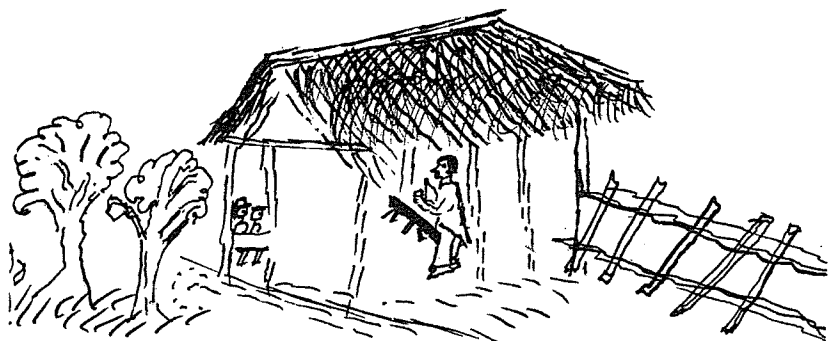


Mt. Olive Baptist Church—2007  
Side of the Sanctuary



Back Side of the Church

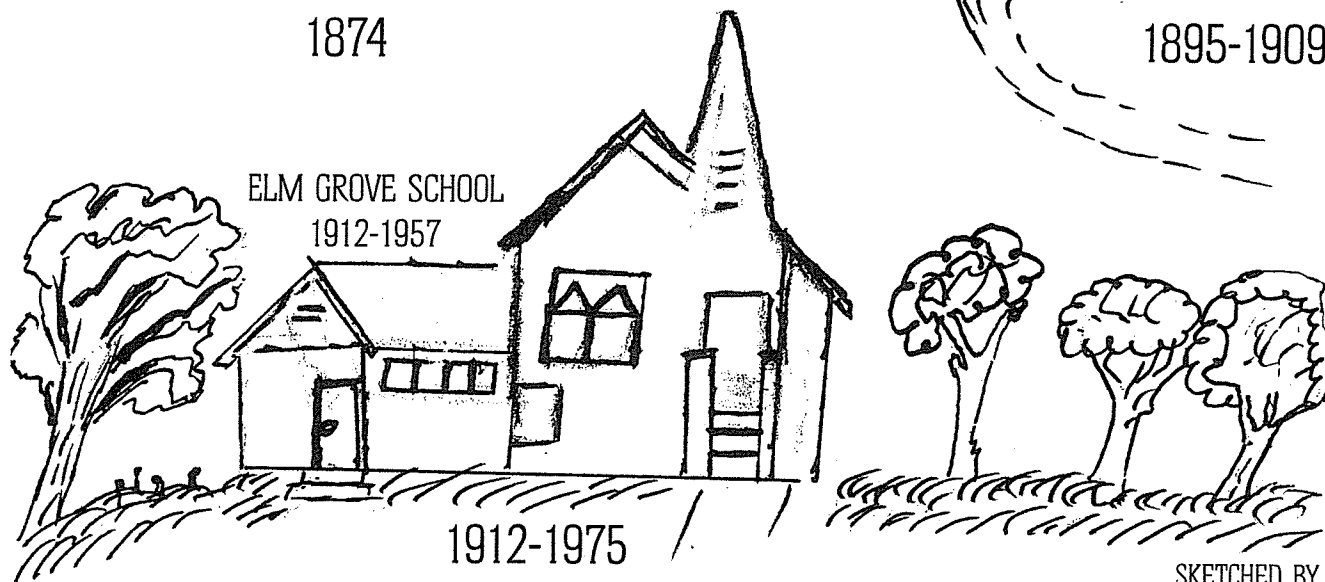
# PAST CHURCHES OF MT. OLIVE MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH



1874



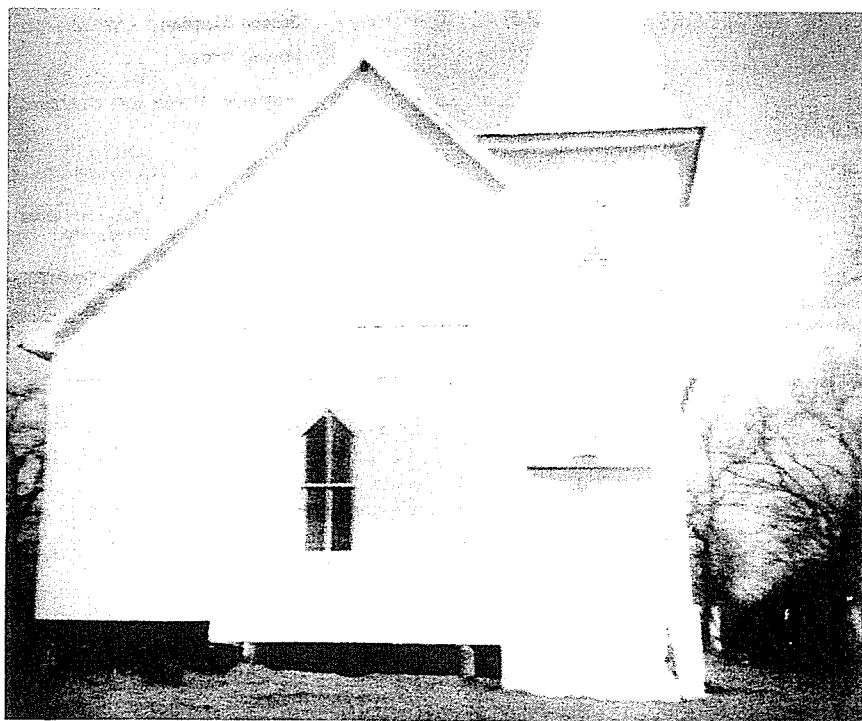
1895-1909



ELM GROVE SCHOOL  
1912-1957

1912-1975

SKETCHED BY  
RICHARD REVETTA SR.



1909

# MT. OLIVE MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH



130 Years Anniversary

1874 - 2004

Reverend L. J. Thorne, Pastor

September 12, 2004