

State of California — The Resources Agency
 DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION
PRIMARY RECORD

Primary # _____
 HRI # _____
 Trinomial _____
 NRHP Status Code _____

Other Listings _____
 Review Code _____ Reviewer _____ Date _____

P1. Resource Name(s): Mt. Pleasant Missionary Baptist Church

***P2. Location:** *a. County: Fresno

*b. USGS 7.5' Quad: Fresno South 2021

c. Address: 207 E. San Joaquin, Fresno 93706

d. Assessor's Parcel Number:

***P3a. Description:** The Mount Pleasant Missionary Baptist Church is a 5,156 sf one story building, (with partial basement), and is located on the Northeast corner of San Joaquin and Modoc Streets in West Fresno. The building has a rectangular plan and is constructed of concrete masonry units (CMUs) with stucco cladding. A row of cmu pilasters is located on both east and west elevations. Stylistically the building is a charming eccentric mix of Mid-Century Modernism with Art Deco Retro details as evident on the principle elevation which faces south on San Joaquin. Rectangular towers flank both sides of the facade. Most notable are the inset panels on each tower with piercings (southeast tower) and Chinoiserie style infill of concrete wedges on the southwest tower. A window on the center of the church forms a cross which creates a striking detail when viewed on the interior (see Continuation sheet). Nine small square windows are located on each side of this cross. Major entrances are located through each tower and are facilitated by wrought iron railings. Windows on each side elevation have been replaced and are mostly vinyl vertical sliders.

***P3b. Resource Attributes:** HP16 (Church)

***P4. Resources Present:** ●Building



P5b Photo date: 2 March 2026

***P6. Date Constructed/Age and Sources:** 1955, Certificate of Occupancy 7.25 1955 City of Fresno; Souvenir Program, Mt. Pleasant Missionary Baptist Church December 1980.

***P7. Owner and Address:** Mt. Pleasant Missionary Baptist Church, 207 E. San Joaquin, Fresno 93706

***P8. Recorded by:** Karana Hattersley-Drayton, M.A. 4110 N. Maroa Avenue Fresno 93704

***P9. Date Recorded:** 2 March 2026

***P10. Survey Type:** Intensive

***P11. Report Citation:** "Evaluation of the Mt. Pleasant Missionary Baptist Church 207 San Joaquin, Fresno, California, for Fresno's Local Register of Historic Resources"

***Attachments:** ● Building, Structure and Object Report; ● Continuation Sheet



Facade, Looking Northeast 2 March 2026



Interior 2 March 2026

BUILDING, STRUCTURE, AND OBJECT RECORD

*NRHP Status Code: 5S3

*Resource Name: Mount Pleasant Missionary Baptist Church

B3. Original Use: Church

B4. Present Use: Church

***B5. Architectural Style:** Idiosyncratic: Mid-Century Modern with Art Deco Retro details

***B6. Construction History:** A building permit from the City was issued November 10th, 1954 and a Certificate of Occupancy was issued July 25th 1955.

***B7. Moved?** No

***B8. Related Features:** The church is located in a mixed ethnic residential neighborhood of West Fresno.

B9a. Architect: George Neal (?)

B9b. Builder: Naaman Hayes/L.M.T. Building Co.

***B10. Significance: Theme:** African-American Community History

Area: West Fresno, California

Period of Significance: 1955

Property Type: Church

Applicable Criteria: i/iii

The Mount Pleasant Missionary Baptist Church was founded in 1926 by Reverend W.A. Watkins. The new congregation met initially at the AME Zion Methodist Church at F and Stanislaus, but soon after constructed a building valued at \$3,000 at D and El Dorado Streets ("Souvenir Program" December 1980:9). The church was incorporated on December 23rd, 1926 and is currently planning its 100th anniversary. In 1947 a "new Mount Pleasant Baptist Church," a one story 48x75 foot building was constructed adjacent to the former church on D and El Dorado. It was designed and built by church members, with George Neal preparing the design and Naaman Hayes supplying the brick work ("Souvenir Program": 12). Unfortunately the property was condemned shortly thereafter by the State of California in order to construct a new alignment of State Route 99. The church adopted new Bylaws, purchased the lot on San Joaquin and constructed a new building in 1955. It is assumed—both from oral history and from the design--- that this church was also designed and constructed by members of the congregation. In 1966 the church initiated its first annual All Saints Day Carnival which has become an important community event. Mount Pleasant Missionary Baptist Church appears to be eligible to Fresno's Local Register of Historic Resources both for its unique design (Criterion iii) and for the role this church has played in Fresno's African-American community over the past 100 years (Criterion i)

***B12. References:** Interview with Desiree Haynes and LaShell Aldredge, 2 March 2026; Building permits, City of Fresno; Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps 1918-1948, 1963; "Souvenir Program 54th Anniversary...December 1980; Fresno County Assessor photo (Heritage Center, Fresno County Library); Legends and Legacies IV.

***B14. Evaluator:** Karana Hattersley-Drayton, M.A.
4110 N. Maroa Avenue, Fresno 93704

***Date of Evaluation:** 31 March 2026



(This space reserved for official comments.)

CONTINUATION SHEET

Primary # _____

HRI# _____

Trinomial _____

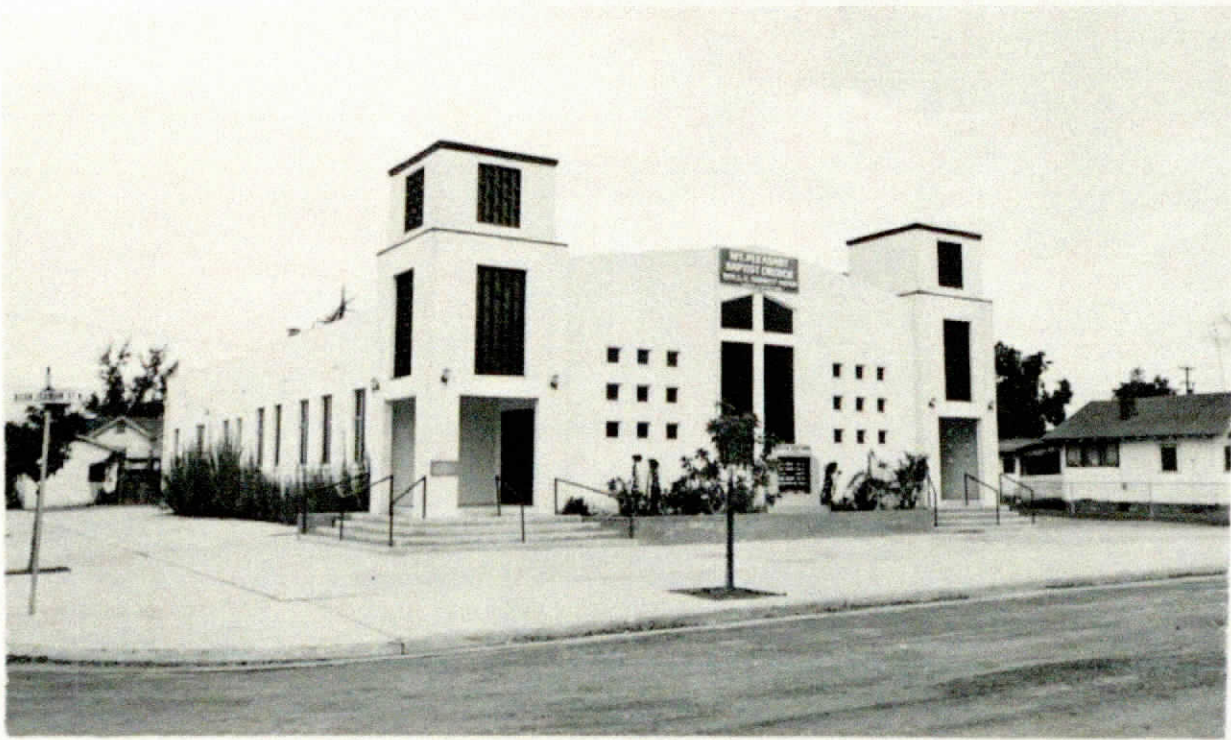
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Resource: Mt. Pleasant Missionary Baptist Church 207 San Joaquin, Fresno

*Recorded by: Karana Hattersley-Drayton, M.A.

*Date: 2 March 2026

■ Continuation



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*Fresno County Assessor Photo: November 22, 1963
(Courtesy of the Heritage Center, Fresno County Library)*

Cornerstone

