



## Historic Mount Zion Community

Mount Zion is one of several African American communities established in the Old Arlington area around the end of the American Civil War. Prior to the war in 1854, the area where the church and cemetery are now located was owned by plantation owner John Sammis, a white man married to Mary Kingsley, the mixed-race daughter of Zephaniah Kingsley and his African-born wife Anna. Located just east of Mill Creek Road near Lone Star Road, early residents used foot paths to reach the other African American communities of Fulton, Cosmo, Arlington, Chaseville and the southern part of Gilmore.

Residents of the community are a close knit group with strong family values. The heart of the community, the church was originally founded in May 1866 as Mount Zion Episcopal Church with the first services held in wooden buildings. A new structure was built in the 1950s. Now the Mount Zion United Methodist Church, the church remains the religious and social hub of the area, and everyone is treated as family.


Humphries Gold Mine, located east of Mount Zion, provided much needed employment for local residents from 1944 to around 1965. Despite the name, the land was never mined for gold but for other minerals found in the soil.

The two acre Harvey White Family Cemetery, located adjacent to the church and also referred to as the Lone Star Cemetery, has been in use since 1862. Many founding families of the Mount Zion community and at least two American Civil War veterans are interred there. Family names like Anderson, Bartley, Blake, Brooks, Brown, Demps, Dukes, Graham, Johnson, McQueen, Polke, Royal, Smith, Straks, Wayman and White are represented in the cemetery. Descendants of these same families still reside in the community.

## 1918 Arlington Map



For more historic marker locations, visit [www.OldArlington.org](http://www.OldArlington.org)

This marker erected in 2009 with a grant from  Comcast through Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority.