

**CITY COUNCIL RESEARCH DIVISION
LEGISLATIVE SUMMARY**



JEFFREY R. CLEMENTS
Chief of Research
(904) 255-5137

117 West Duval Street
City Hall, Suite 425
Jacksonville, FL 32202
FAX (904) 255-5229

Bill Type and Number: Ordinance 2023-375

Introducer/Sponsor(s): Council President at the request of the Jacksonville Historic Preservation Commission

Date of Introduction: June 13, 2023

Committee(s) of Reference: LUZ

Date of Analysis: June 15, 2023

Bill Summary: This bill would designate 841 Franklin Street, the site of Mount Olive A.M.E. Church, as a local historic landmark. Recognized as a contributing property within the Downtown Jacksonville National Historic District, the church meets three of the necessary criteria for landmark designation. The Chief of Legislative Services will be directed to notify the applicant, the property owner, and the Property Appraiser about the landmark designation and to record the ordinance in the county's official records. The Zoning Administrator will be directed to incorporate the local landmark designation into the Zoning Atlas.

Background Information: The Mount Olive AME Church is a historical affiliate of the African Methodist Episcopal (AME) Church, established in 1787 by former slave Richard Allen in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Pastor Henry Floyd initiated the establishment of Mount Olive AME in the spring of 1868. The congregation relocated to its current location in 1887 due to a burgeoning membership, occupying a wood-frame building designed and constructed by Richard Lewis Brown, Jacksonville's first black architect. The property stands as an exemplary representation of the monumental Neoclassical Revival style.

The Planning and Development Department's report on the application finds that the building qualifies for historical designation, as it fulfills three relevant criteria: it serves as a significant reminder of the city's cultural, historical, architectural, and archaeological heritage; it possesses distinct characteristics of the Neoclassical Revival style, valuable for the study of a particular period, construction method, or usage of local materials; and it is suitable for preservation or restoration. The building is owned by the trustees of the Mount Olive A.M.E. Church, who are in favor of the application.

Policy Impact Area: Historic landmark designation

Fiscal Impact: None to the City

Analyst: Armstrong