



HOOD CHAPEL, AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL ZION CHURCH CAMERON

This church, named for Bishop J. W. Hood, was the first church for blacks in the area, and was affiliated with the African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church. It is, in fact, the oldest church in Cameron except the Presbyterian Church. Records kept by Maj. J. W. Scott, who sold many of the building lots in early Cameron, include the following for lot #44: "To Col'd. A.M.E. Church - \$35. Pd. - \$35." So the congregation had come together and raised what was, for the time, a substantial sum of money. That showed devotion and commitment to their church.

The first edifice was built on their lot in 1884, and served as both a sanctuary and a school, showing their dedication to education as well as to their religion. The church was rebuilt in 1965 and was extensively renovated in 1990. It is an attractive brick structure with a white steeple, educational facilities and modern conveniences.

Family names of early organizers include Harringtons, McDonalds, Jenkins, Vestals, Camerons, Williamses, and Hookers. Their descendants are members of Hood today, standing ready to move forward with their church into the next century.